



*Highland County Water Company, Inc.*

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## **Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report for 2015**

### **What's the source of your drinking water?**

The Highland County Water Company, Inc. receives its drinking water from seven wells. These wells are located at two different well fields. The Bainbridge Well Field has three wells and is located west of Bainbridge on the north side of State Route 50. The Paint Creek Well Field has four wells and is along side Paint Creek off of Deer Park Road. Both of these well fields pump raw water from an underground aquifer to the treatment plant.

The Highland County Water Company, Inc.'s well fields are at a high susceptibility for contamination because of being a shallow aquifer and having mainly sand and gravel around them. Although this is the rating for our well fields, as you will see below, the water is well below the MCL's for all contaminants. Most contaminants are not even detected.

The Highland County Water Company, Inc. also has emergency connections with the Brown County Water Company, Village of Lynchburg, City of Hillsboro, Village of New Vienna, Western Water Company and the Village of Martinsville. During 2015 we used 0 gallons from these connections over 365 days.

### **What are sources of contamination to drinking water?**

The sources of drinking water both tap water and bottled water includes rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminates that may be present in source water include: (A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plant, septic systems, agricultural livestock operation, and wildlife; (B) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; (C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses; (D) Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems; (E) radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

### **Who needs to take special precautions?**

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorder, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infection. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

**About your drinking water.**

The EPA requires regular sampling to ensure drinking water safety. The Highland County Water Company, Inc. conducted sampling for bacteria and inorganic contaminants during 2015. Samples were collected for different contaminants most of which were not detected in the Highland County Water Company, Inc. water supply. The Ohio E.P.A. requires us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentration of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though accurate, are more than one year old.

Listed below is information on those contaminants that were found in the Highland County Water Company, Inc. drinking water.

Contaminants (Units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Range of Detections	Sample Year	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminates
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Lead (ppb)	0	AL=15	<5	NA	2015	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
	Zero out of thirty samples was found to have lead levels in excess of the Action Level of 15 ppb.						
Copper (ppm)	1.3	AL=1.3	.674	NA	2015	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
	Zero out of thirty samples was found to have copper levels in excess of the Action Level of 1.3 ppm.						
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.08	.79 - 1.08	2015	NO	Water additive which promotes strong teeth; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrates (ppm)	10	10	1.55	NA	2015	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; erosion of natural deposits
<b>Residual Disinfectants</b>							
Total Chlorine (ppm)	MRDL=4	MRDLG=4	1.20	1.12 - 1.30	2015	NO	Water additive used to control microbes.
<b>Disinfection ByProducts</b>							
TTHM (Total trihalomethanes) (ppb)	0	80	17.8	16.3 – 19.3	2015	NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic acid, total (ppb)	0	60	6.7	6.0 – 7.4	2015	NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination

<b>Unregulated Contaminants</b>			
Contaminants (Units)	Average	Range	Sample Year
Chloroform (ppb)	8	7.1 – 8.8	2015
Bromoform (ppb)	.5	NA	2015
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	6.1	5.8 – 6.4	2015
Dibromochloromethane (ppb)	3.5	3.4 -3.6	2015
Dichloroacetic Acid (ppb)	3.4	3.1 – 3.6	2015
Trichloroacetic Acid (ppb)	2.1	1.7 – 2.5	2015
Dibromoacetic Acid (ppb)	4.3	1.1 – 7.4	2015

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Highland County Water Company, Inc. is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

We have a current, unconditioned license to operate our water system.

### **How do I participate in decisions concerning my drinking water?**

Public participation and comments are encouraged at regular meetings of the Highland County Water Company, Inc. Board of Directors which meets on the third Monday of every month at 8:30 A.M. For more information on your drinking water contact Dan Cutler, Plant Superintendent, at (937) 365-1141.

### **Wellhead Protection Planning Committee**

To assist with development of the Wellhead Protection Plan, HCWC formed a Planning Committee. The Committee was tasked with developing a plan to educate the general public about wellhead protection and to determine general criteria for the overall Plan. The Committee met periodically during preparation of the Plan. The written Plan was reviewed and commented on by the Committee members. Public participation and comments concerning Wellhead Protection are encouraged at regular meetings that meet on the third Monday of every month at 9:30 A.M.

### **Definitions of some terms contained within this report.**

- Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- Maximum Contaminant level (MCL): The highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- Parts per Million (ppm) or Milligrams per Liter (mg/L) are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per million corresponds to one second in a little over 11.5 days.
- Parts per Billion (ppb) or Micrograms per Liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ) are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per billion corresponds to one second in 31.7 years.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- The "<" symbol: A symbol which means less than. A result of <5 means that the lowest level that could be detected was 5 and the contaminant in that sample was not detected.
- Picocuries per liter (pCi/L): A common measure of radioactivity.