

# 2011 WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR ALGONA MUNICIPAL UTILITIES PWSID 5502015

This report contains important information regarding the water quality in our water system. The source of our water is groundwater. Our groundwater is drawn from the Cretaceous (Dakota Sandstone) aquifer. Our water quality testing shows the following results:

CONTAMINANT	MCLG	MCL	DETECTED LEVEL	DATE SAMPLED	RANGE OF DETECTION	VIOLATION	SOURCE
Lead (ppb)	0	AL=15	4	8/17/10	ND - 15	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	1.3	AL=1.3	.72	8/20/10	ND - .84	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	MRDLG =4.0	MRDL=4.0	1.01	RAA 2011	.63 - 1.43	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	0	15	6.5	11/9/09	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined radium (pCi/L)	0	5	1	11/9/09	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	2.0	11/18/10	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronic production wastes
Sodium (ppm)	N/A	N/A	74	8/10/10	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Added to water during treatment process
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.16	5/27/11	.8 - 1.16	No	Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
TTHM (ppb) [Total trihalomethanes]	N/A	80	24	8/10/10	NA	No	By-products of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	N/A	60	7	8/10/10	NA	No	By-products of drinking water disinfection

Note: Contaminants with dates indicate results from the most recent testing done in accordance with regulations.

## DEFINITIONS

- Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) – The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- 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.
- ppb -- parts per billion.
- ppm -- parts per million.
- pCi/L – picocuries per liter
- N/A – Not applicable
- ND -- Not detected
- RAA – Running Annual Average
- IDSE – Initial Distribution System Evaluation
- Treatment Technique (TT) – A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- Action Level (AL) – The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) - The level of a 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.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

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 posed a health risk. More information about contaminants or potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. 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 (800-426-4791).

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. Algona Municipal Utilities 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

## SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

The source of water for the City of Algona is groundwater drawn from 4 wells from the Cretaceous (Dakota Sandstone) aquifer. The Cretaceous (Dakota Sandstone) aquifer was determined to be susceptible to contamination because the characteristics of the aquifer and overlying materials allow contaminants to move through the aquifer fairly quickly. The City of Algona wells will be susceptible to activities such as leaking underground storage tanks, industrial sites, and wastewater discharges. A detailed evaluation of your source water was completed by the IDNR, and is available from Algona Municipal Utilities at 104 West Call Street or by calling (515) 295-3584.

## OTHER INFORMATION

Algona Municipal Utilities is making every effort to protect the water system from potential security threats. You, as customers, can also help. If you see any suspicious activity near the water tower, treatment plant, wells or fire hydrants, please contact Algona Municipal Utilities at (515) 295-3584 or the local police/sheriff department. We appreciate your assistance in protecting the water system.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions regarding this information, please contact John Bilsten, General Manager at (515) 295-3584 during the following hours: Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Decisions regarding the water system are made at the Algona Municipal Utilities Board of Trustees meetings held at the Algona Municipal Utilities Business Office meeting room. For information regarding the Board of Trustees meeting times and dates, call (515) 295-3584. The meetings are open to the public at the following address:

Algona Municipal Utilities  
104 West Call Street  
Algona, Iowa 50511

*The 2011 Water Quality Report was published in the Algona Upper Des Moines on June 7, 2012. The 2011 Water Quality Report is available upon request at Algona Municipal Utilities Business Office, the City of Algona City Hall and the Algona Public Library. The 2011 Water Quality Report will not be mailed.*