

**2020 Consumer Confidence  
Annual Drinking Water Quality Report  
The Water We Drink  
City of Tomah Water Utility**

We are pleased to provide you with this year's Annual Quality Water Report. We want to keep you informed about the excellent water and services we have delivered to you over the past year. Our goal is and always has been, to provide to you a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. Our water source is groundwater wells. We have five wells that supply the City of Tomah.

We have a well-head protection plan available from our office that provides more information such as potential sources of contamination.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact **Mark Rezin at (608) 374-7433**. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on **4th Wednesday of each month at 5:30 PM in the Public Works Conference Room in City Hall**.

**The City of Tomah Water Utility** routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, **2020**. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It is important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk.

**Health 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 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 (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 systems 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 Environmental Protection Agency's safe drinking water hotline (800-426-4791).

**Source(s) of Water**

Source ID	Source	Depth (in feet)	Status
6	Groundwater	325	Active
9	Groundwater	175	Perm. Abandoned as of 08/08/18
10	Groundwater	251	Active
11	Groundwater	240	Active
12	Groundwater	240	Active
14	Groundwater	240	Active

To obtain a summary of the source water assessment please contact, Mark Rezin at (608) 374-7433.

## Educational Information

The sources of drinking water, both tap water and bottled water, include 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.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally- occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff and residential uses.
- 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 stormwater runoff and septic systems.
- 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 that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which shall provide the same protection for public health.

## Definitions

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
AL	Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Level 1 Assessment	A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine, if possible, why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.
Level 2 Assessment	A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine, if possible, why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system, or both, on multiple occasions.
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level: 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.
MCLG	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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.
MFL	million fibers per liter
MRDL	Maximum residual disinfectant level: 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.
MRDLG	Maximum residual disinfectant level goal: 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.
mrem/year	millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units
pCi/l	picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
ppm	parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
ppb	parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l)
ppt	parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter
ppq	parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter
TCR	Total Coliform Rule
TT	Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

### Detected Contaminants

Your water was tested for many contaminants last year. We are allowed to monitor for some contaminants less frequently than once a year. The following tables list only those contaminants which were detected in your water. If a contaminant was detected last year, it will appear in the following tables without a sample date. If the contaminant was not monitored last year, but was detected within the last 5 years, it will appear in the tables below along with the sample date.

### Disinfection Byproducts

<b>Contaminant (units)</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>MCL</b>	<b>MCLG</b>	<b>Level Found</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Sample Date (if prior to 2020)</b>	<b>Violation</b>	<b>Typical Source of Contaminant</b>
HAA5 (ppb)	D-30	60	60	8	8		No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHM (ppb)	D-31	80	0	1.1	1.1		No	By-product of drinking water chlorination

### Inorganic Contaminants

<b>Contaminant (units)</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>MCL</b>	<b>MCLG</b>	<b>Level Found</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Sample Date (if prior to 2020)</b>	<b>Violation</b>	<b>Typical Source of Contaminant</b>
BARIUM (ppm)		2	2	0.038	0.000 - 0.038		No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
BERYLLIUM TOTAL (ppb)		4	4	0.28	0.00 - 0.28		No	Discharge from metal refineries and coal-burning factories; Discharge from electrical, aerospace, and defense industries
CHROMIUM (ppb)		100	100	5	0 - 5		No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
FLUORIDE (ppm)		4	4	0.1	0.0 - 0.1		No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
NITRATE (N03-N) (ppm)		10	10	8.18	1.00 - 9.00		No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

Contaminant (units)	Site	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2020)	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
NITRITE (NO2-N) (ppm)		1	1	0.004	0.000 - 0.004		No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
SELENIUM (ppb)		50	50	1	0 - 1		No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines
SODIUM (ppm)		n/a	n/a	32.50	1.98 - 32.50		No	n/a

Contaminant (units)	Action Level	MCLG	90th Percentile Level Found	# of Results	Sample Date (if prior to 2020)	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
COPPER (ppm)	AL=1.3	1.3	0.7360	0 of 20 results were above the action level.		No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
LEAD (ppb)	AL=15	0	0.00	0 of 20 results were above the action level.		No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

### Radioactive Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	Site	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2020)	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
GROSS ALPHA, EXCL. R & U (pCi/l)		15	0	2.1	0.3 - 2.1		No	Erosion of natural deposits
RADIUM, (226 + 228) (pCi/l)		5	0	1.8	0.5 - 1.8		No	Erosion of natural deposits
GROSS ALPHA, INCL. R & U (n/a)		n/a	n/a	2.1	0.3 - 2.1		No	Erosion of natural deposits

### Health effects for any contaminants with MCL violations/Action Level Exceedances

#### Contaminant Health Effects

**COPPER** Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilsons Disease should consult their personal doctor.

## **Additional Health Information**

*The state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of our data, though representative is more than one year old.*

*Possible Health Effects of detected contaminants:*

### ***Nitrates:***

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than 6 months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant you should ask advice from your health care provider. Females who are or may become pregnant should not consume water with nitrate concentrations that exceed 10 ppm. There is some evidence of an association between exposure to high nitrate levels in drinking water during the first weeks of pregnancy and certain birth defects. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services recommends people of all ages avoid long-term consumption of water that has nitrate level greater than 10 milligrams per liter (mg/L).

### ***Lead:***

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community because of materials used in your home's plumbing. 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 [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

Lead in drinking water is rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning, but it can add to a person's total lead exposure. All potential sources of lead in the household should be identified and removed, replaced or reduced.

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. Tomah Waterworks is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components.

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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

### ***Radon:***

We constantly monitor the water supply for various constituents. We have detected radon in the finished water. There is no federal regulation for radon levels in drinking water. Exposure to air transmitted radon over a long period of time may cause adverse health effects.

We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected. The EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels.

“All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by constituents that are naturally occurring or is manmade. Those constituents can be microbes, organic or inorganic chemicals, or radioactive materials.”

All 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 the 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 at 1-800-426-4791.

MCL’s are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

**Total Coliform:** The Total Coliform Rule requires water systems to meet a stricter limit for coliform bacteria. Coliform bacteria are usually harmless, but their presence in water can be an indication of disease-causing bacteria. When coliform bacteria are found, special follow-up tests are done to determine if harmful bacteria are present in the water supply. If this limit is exceeded, the water supplier must notify the public by newspaper, television or radio. To comply with the stricter regulation, we have increased the average amount of chlorine in the distribution system.

“The City of Tomah Water Utility works around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap”, said Kirk Arity, Director of Public Works & Utilities, “We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children’s future”.

Please call our office if you have questions.

*Kirk Arity*

Kirk Arity  
Director  
Tomah Public Works & Utilities