

City of Oil City  
Engineering Office  
21 Seneca Street  
Oil City, PA 16301

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## **2014 Drinking Water Quality Report - City of Oil City - PWSID 6610023**

This report contains important information about your drinking water.  
Have someone translate it for you, or speak with someone who understands it.

Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable.  
Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, ó hable con alguien que lo entienda.



### **For Further Information**

If you have any questions about this report or your water utility, please contact the City Engineer at 678-3020. Regular City Council meetings are normally held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. and the fourth Thursday of each month at 4:30 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers, 21 Seneca Street. We encourage our residents to attend these meetings and become more involved with City government.

**City of Oil City website [www.oilcity.org](http://www.oilcity.org)**

**EPA Drinking Water website [www.epa.gov/safewater/](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/)**

## **City of Oil City 2014 Drinking Water Quality Report**

The City of Oil City is required by law to forward this annual report to all its water customers. We routinely monitor the quality of your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The Detected Contaminants Tables included in this brochure show the results of our monitoring for the period January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014.



### **Your Drinking Water Source**

The source of Oil City's drinking water is groundwater, consisting of a series of wells at the Seneca Farm field located along the Allegheny River upstream from the Oil City business district. The Seneca Farm field has been supplying drinking water for the City since 1897.

### **Drinking Water Quality**

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. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and DEP regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

### **Sources of Contamination**

As groundwater travels through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring substances, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants can include microbes such as viruses and bacteria, organic chemicals, inorganic substances such as salts and metals, pesticides or herbicides, or radioactive materials.

Oil City's drinking water is disinfected with chlorine, which produces certain by-products. The water may also dissolve substances found in the piping network within the distribution system and in home plumbing systems.

With funding and technical assistance from DEP, a Source Water Protection Plan was completed for Oil City in 2010. The complete Plan is available for review in the City Engineer's Office.

#### **\*\* Attention Immuno - Compromised Persons \*\***

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. More information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

## **2014 DETECTED CONTAMINANTS TABLES**

<b>Chemical Contaminants</b>					
Contaminant, unit of measurement	MCL	MCLG	Level Detected	Violation, Yes/No	Likely Source of Contamination
Radium-228, pCi/L	5	0	1.09*	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine, ppm	4	4	0.77**	No	Water additive used to control microbes

\*Most recent test result from 2011.

\*\*Highest monthly average of samples taken. Monthly averages ranged from 0.54 to 0.77 ppm.

<b>Disinfection Byproducts</b>						
Contaminant, unit of measurement	MCL	MCLG	Frequency	Level Detected	Violation, Yes/No	Likely Source of Contamination
TTHM (Total Trihalomethanes), ppb	80	N/A	Quarterly	13.3*	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA (Haloacetic Acids), ppb	60	N/A	Quarterly	2.37**	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination

\*Highest locational running annual average of four sites. Results ranged from 5.3 to 27.0 ppb.

\*\*Highest locational running annual average of four sites. Results ranged from 0 to 3.47 ppb.

<b>Entry Point Disinfectant Residual</b>					
Contaminant, Units	MinRDL	Lowest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Violation, Yes/No	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine, ppm	0.40	0.60	0.60 - 1.35	No	Water additive used to control microbes

<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>						
Contaminant, unit of measurement	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	90 <sup>th</sup> percentile value	# of Sites Above AL of Total Sites	Violation, Yes/no	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper, ppm	1.3	1.3	0.462*	0 out of 30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Lead, ppb	15	0	2.9*	1 out of 30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits

\*Most recent results from 2013.

<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>						
Contaminant, unit of measurement	MCL	MCLG	Number of positive samples	Number of positive check samples	Violation, Yes/no	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria	1 positive sample	0 positive samples	1 in June	0 in June	No	Naturally present in the environment
			1 in October	2 in October	Yes	

## **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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) - The highest level of a disinfectant that is allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

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.

Minimum Residual Disinfectant Level (MinRDL) - The minimum level of residual disinfectant required at the entry point to the distribution system.

Action Level (AL) - The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

ppm - parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

ppb - parts per billion, or micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ )

pCi/L - picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

## **Information on Coliform Violations**

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful bacteria may be present. Total Coliform was found in more samples than allowed during the month of October 2014, and this was a warning of potential problems. The City issued a public notice at the time the violation occurred, which provided additional information. Chlorine residual samples taken at the same sites all indicated a sufficient presence of chlorine needed to adequately disinfect the water. All other monthly samples tested negative for Total Coliform. We were unable to determine a cause for the positive samples.

## **Lead in Drinking Water**



The City adds a corrosion control product to its water supply in order to reduce the levels of lead that may be in your tap water. Monitoring has shown that lead levels overall have decreased since the addition of this product beginning in 1998; however, it is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing system.

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. The City of Oil City is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the types of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has not been used for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap water for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested.

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.

Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

## **About Water Service Disruptions**

If there is a disruption in your water service for an unknown reason, please call the Public Works Department (or the Police Department during off-hours).

When a water line break occurs, the rust present in the pipes can become upset and cause discoloration of the water. If your water service is disrupted due to a water main break, the City recommends that you not use your water until your full water pressure has been restored. The City then recommends using only your cold water to flush your line, in order to avoid getting discolored water into your hot water tank. Flushing of your water line may take several minutes until the water clears. If discoloration persists, you should call the Public Works Department (or the Police Department during off-hours) for assistance.

## **Contacting City Hall**



City Hall offices are open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday, except holidays. The Police Department is always open. Water emergencies during City Hall office hours may be reported to the Public Works Department at 678-3022. Water emergencies during off-hours may be reported to the Police Department at 678-3080, or for TTY use only, 678-3070.

Water quality inquiries or other inquiries about the water system should be directed to the City Engineer's Office at 678-3020 during City Hall office hours. Billing inquiries should be directed to the Utility Office at 678-3002 during City Hall office hours.

**Water Conservation Goal Statement:** The City of Oil City seeks the most efficient use of its water system, thereby optimizing the use of natural resources and revenues while providing reliable and excellent quality water to our customers.

