

City of Abbotsford

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2009 Water Quality Report

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Quality Water Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect the water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of the water.

Our water source is 14 city-owned wells. These wells produce about 400,000 gallons per day. That raw water is pumped into the old water tower and is stored there until it is delivered to the water treatment plant. At that point, we disinfect or treat the water with an ozone gas, before it is pumped into the distribution system and to the new water tower. This process provides you with a consistent quality of water.

We are pleased to report your drinking water is safe and meets State and Federal requirements.

The City of Abbotsford continually monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to State and Federal Laws. The following table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. It's important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not pose a health risk, as determined by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and State and Federal Agencies.

Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	MCL	MCLG	Ave. Level Found	Range	Violation	Typical Source of Contamination
Arsenic (ppb)	10	n/a	1	nd-1	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2	2	.068	.040-.068	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Beryllium (ppb)	4	4	.15	.15	No	Discharge from metal refineries and coal burning factories; Discharge from electrical aerospace and defense industries
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	4	nd-4	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills, Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	AL=1.3	1.3	.715	1 of 10 were above action level	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	.9	.3-.9	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead (ppb)	AL=15	0	2.83	0 of 10 were above action level	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Nickel (ppb)	100		2.2200	.4400-2.2200	No	Nickel occurs naturally in soils, groundwater and surface waters and is often used in electroplating, stainless steel and alloy products
Nitrate (NO ₃ -N) (ppm)	10	10	3.78	1.90-3.78	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks & sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	n/a	n/a	14.20	7.69-14.20	No	n/a

Radioactive Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	MCL	MCLG	Ave. Level Found	Range	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Gross Alpha excl. R & U (pCi/l)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Erosion of natural deposits

Unregulated Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	MCL	MCLG	Ave. Level Found	Range	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Bromoform (ppb)	n/a	n/a	13.10	9.39-13.10	No	n/a
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	n/a	n/a	4.05	2.46-4.05	No	n/a
Chloroform (ppb)	n/a	n/a	3.53	.69-3.53	No	n/a
Dibromochloromethane	n/a	n/a	8.75	7.70-8.75	No	n/a

Volatile Organic Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	MCL	MCLG	Ave. Level Found	Range	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
1,1,1 Trichloroethane (ppb)	200	200	.1	nd-.3	No	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
1, 2-Dichloroethane (ppb)	5	0	.2	nd-.4	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Benzene	5	0	.1	nd-.2	No	Discharge from factories; Leaching from gas storage tanks and landfills
Tetrachloroethylene	5	0	.2	nd-.9	No	Leaching from PVC pipes Discharge from factories and dry cleaners
Trichloroethylene (ppb)	5	0	.2	nd-.5	No	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
Xylenes (ppb)	10	10	.0005	nd-.0020	No	Discharge from petroleum factories; Discharge from chemical factories

Disinfection Byproducts

Contaminant (units)	MCL	MCLG	Ave. Level Found	Range	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Bromate (ppb)	10	10	9	nd-18	No	n/a
HAA5 (ppb)	60	60	5	2-5	No	n/a
TTHM (ppb)	80	0	25.7	24.0-25.7	No	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination

Definition of Terms

Term	Definition
AL	Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
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.
PCi/l	Picocuries per liter (a measure of radiocativity)
ppm	Parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)
ppb	Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l)

What does this mean? We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all State and Federal requirements. Radioactive contaminant testing was missed in 2009. The EPA has determined that your drinking water is safe at these levels.

You will notice that in some of the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) and Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLG) columns (n/a). That means the EPA has not given a level for that particular contaminant yet, but we still test for it. Using Trichloroethylene for an example, the MCLG is 0 ppb, but we are allowed a MCL of 5 ppb. Now, looking at the range you will see the 14 wells ranged from no detects (nd) in some wells to .5 ppb in one well, but remembering that all our raw well water is stored or blended in the raw water tower, thus establishing an average of .2 ppb before treatment.

MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects for a regulated contaminant, 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 a health effect.

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 transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants are particularly at risk. These people should seek advice from their health care providers. More information can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

The City of Abbotsford works to provide top quality water at every tap. We ask that all of our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life, and our children's future.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please feel free to contact us at 223-3444. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our scheduled water and sewer meetings. Please call the City Hall at 223-3444 for a listing of scheduled water and sewer meetings. Thank you.