



IN5264013  
Kouts Water Works  
2015 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

***Is our water safe?***

This brochure is a snapshot of the quality of the drinking water that we provided last year. Included as part of this report are details about where the water that you drink comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Indiana standards. We are committed to provide you with all the information that you need to know about the quality of the water that you drink.

***Do I need to take special precautions?***

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-compromised people, such as people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people who have undergone organ transplant, people with HIV/AIDS, or other kind of 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 has set guidelines with appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants which are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

***Where does our water come from?***

Our water source is from three wells. Well #1 is an eight-inch well, is part of the original water system installed in 1938 which draws from the Devonian Ellsworth Shale Aquifer. Well #2 was abandoned in the 1970's. Well #3 was installed in 1969, draws its water from the Kankakee Sand/Gravel Aquifer. Well #4 is located in the same aquifer as well #3. Currently, well #1 is not being used due to petroleum contamination near the well site.

***Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?***

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

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, or can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in the raw, untreated water may 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 that result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, and mining or farming operations.
- ***Pesticides and Herbicides***, which may come from a variety of sources, such as agriculture, stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- ***Organic Chemical Contaminants***, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production operations, and can also result from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- ***Radioactive Contaminants***, which can be naturally-occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants that may be present in the water provided by public drinking water systems. We are required to treat our water according to EPA's regulations. Moreover, FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants that may be present in bottle water, which must provide the same level of health protection for public health.

**Water Quality Data**

The table below lists all the contaminants that we detected during the 2015 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise indicated, the data presented in this table is from testing done between January and December 31, 2015. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management

(IDEM) requires us to monitor for certain contaminants at a frequency less than once per year because the concentration of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from one year to another. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, may however be more than one year old.

Some of the terms and abbreviations used in this report are:

- MCL:** Maximum Contaminant Level, the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.
- MCLG:** Maximum Contaminant Level Goal, the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.
- MRDL:** Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level, the highest level of disinfection allowed in drinking water.
- MRDLG:** Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal, the level of drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health.
- AL:** Action Level, the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements or action which a system must follow.
- ALG:** Action Level Goal – The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALG allow for a measure of safety.
- TT:** Treatment Technique, a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- NTU:** Nephelometric Turbidity Unit, a measure of the clarity (or cloudiness) of water.
- ppm:** parts per million, a measure for concentration equivalent to milligrams per liter.
- ppb:** parts per billion, a measure for concentration equivalent to micrograms per liter.
- pCi/L:** picocuries per liter, a measure for radiation.
- P\*:** Potential violation, one that is likely to occur in the near future once the system has sampled for four quarters.
- n/a:** either not available or not applicable.
- ND:** Not Detected, the result was not detected at or above the analytical method detection level.

### Section I – Contaminants Detected

Inorganic Contaminants										
Date	Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Units	Result	Min	Max.	Above AL # Repeats	Violates	Likely Sources
8/26/14	Arsenic	10	0	mg/l	1.5	1.5	1.5		No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronic production waste
8/26/14	Barium	2	2	mg/l	0.04	0.04	0.04		No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Sep./Oct. 2015	Copper (90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile)	1.3 (AL)	1.3	mg/l	0.22				No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
8/27/15	Fluoride	4	4	mg/l	<0.1				No	Erosion of natural deposits;
2014	After Fluoridation	4	4	mg/l		0.08	1.7		No	Water additive for strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Sep./Oct. 2015	Lead (90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile)*	15 (AL)	0	mg/l	1.2				No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
8/27/15	Nitrate (as N)	10	10	mg/l	<0.1				No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tank, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

Disinfection Byproducts & Precursors										
Date	Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Units	Result	Min	Max.	Above AL # Repeats	Violates	Likely Sources
8/27/15	Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	60		ug/l	3.0	1.2	3.8		No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
8/27/15	Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	80		ug/l	6	63	63		No	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Residual Disinfectant										
Date	Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Units	Result	Min	Max.	Above AI # Repeats	Violates	Likely Sources
2015	Chlorine Residual	4 MRDL	4 MRDLG	mg/l		0.41	1.8		No	Water additive (disinfectant) used to control microbiological organisms
Special Note on Lead:		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. Our system 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 <a href="http://www.gov/safewater/lead">http://www.gov/safewater/lead</a> .								

Radioactive Contaminants										
Date	Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Units	Result	Min	Max.	Above AI # Repeats	Violates	Likely Sources
2/8/2010	Uranium	30	0	mg/l	1.6	1.6	1.6		No	Erosion of natural deposits.

**Availability of a Source Water Assessment (SWA)**

A Source Water Assessment (SWA) has been prepared for our system. According to this assessment, our system has been categorized with a high (detection) susceptibility risk. More information of this assessment can be obtained by contacting Mr. Nathan Howell at 219-766-3097 at your earliest convenience. You can also obtain additional information by contacting Alex Riddle of IDEM’s Drinking Water Branch at (317) 234-5025.

**Our Watershed Protection Efforts**

Our water system is working with the community to increase awareness of better waste disposal practices to further protect the source of our drinking water. We are also working with other agencies and with local watershed groups to educate the community on ways to keep our water safe. The Town is also in the process of installing a new well to replace well #1. This would provide an additional source of water and would also be in an area which would be easier to protect.

**Public Involvement Opportunities**

The water in the Town of Kouts contains some iron. This may periodically cause some discoloration to the water. We are currently treating the water with a chemical called polyphosphate to decrease the amount of discoloration and staining caused by the iron. The treatment reduces the problems associated with the iron in the water but does not eliminate them. We make every effort to reduce these problems with main flushing.

If you have any questions about the contents of this report, please contact Mr. Nathan Howell or Mr. Cory Clarke at 219-766-3097. Or you can join us at our Town Council meetings, which are regularly held every third Monday in the Town Hall at 6:30 pm. We encourage you to participate and to give us your feedback.

**Please Share This Information**

Large water volume customers (like apartment complexes, hospitals, schools and/or industries) are encouraged to post extra copies of this report in conspicuous locations or to distribute them to your tenants, residents, patients, students, and/or employees. This “good faith” effort will allow non-billed customers to learn more about the quality of the water that they consume.