

## 2009 Water-Quality Report

For Lowell Water Department. Facility ID: IN5245029

Dear Customer: We are pleased to present a summary of the quality of the water provided to you during the past year. The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires that utilities issue an annual "Consumer Confidence" report to customers in addition to other notices that may be required by law. This report details where our water comes from, what it contains, and the risks our water testing and treatment are designed to prevent. The Town of Lowell Water Utility is committed to providing you with the safest and most reliable water supply. Informed consumers are our best allies in maintaining safe drinking water. All sampling and testing was performed as per the requirements set forth in our permit and the chemical analysis was performed by a State Certified Laboratory.

### **The Bottom line: Is the water safe to drink? Absolutely.**

We encourage public interest and participation in our community's decisions affecting drinking water. Regular Town Council meetings occur on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month, at 7:00pm located at the Town Hall. The public is welcome. Find out more about The Town of Lowell Water Utility on the Internet at [www.lowell.net](http://www.lowell.net)

### **Overview**

In 2009, your water department treated 309.2 million gallons of water. A pumping station was installed in the northwest part of town to help increase and maintain pressure in this area as the town grows.

### **Water Source**

The Town of Lowell Water Utility is supplied by groundwater pumped from seven wells located 1.5 miles south of the town limits. The water is pumped from the wells into our water treatment plant for treatment before being pumped into town.

### **Required Additional Health Information**

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes limits on the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water.

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.

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 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:

- (A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- (B) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- (C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- (D) Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organics, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.
- (E) 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 which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. We are required to treat our water according to EPA's regulations. Moreover, FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same level of health protection for public health. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than is the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people 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 has set guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800)426-4791.

## Water Quality Data

The table below lists all the contaminants that we detected during the 2009 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 1 and December 31, 2009. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) requires us to monitor for certain contaminants at a frequency less than once per year because the concentrations 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.

### What Does This Table Mean?

It's easy! Our water is tested to ensure that it is safe and healthy. The column marked Maximum Detected shows the highest test results during the year. Sources of Contaminant shows where the substance usually originates. Footnotes explain important details. Columns headed MCL and MCLG and AL refer to:

**Maximum Contaminant Level or 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 or 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.

**Action Level :** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**Treatment Technique or TT:** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level or MRDL:** The Maximum level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal or MRDLG:** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there are no known or expected risk to health.

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit or NTU:** A measure of the clarity (or cloudiness) of water.

**Parts Per Million or ppm:** A measure for concentration equivalent to milligrams per liter.

**Parts Per Billion or ppb:** A measure for concentration equivalent to micrograms per liter.

**Picocuries Per Liter or pCi/l:** 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.

### Key To Table

AL = Action Level      MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level      MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal  
 NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units  
 pCi/L= picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)      ppm = parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/l)  
 ppb = parts per billion or micrograms per liter (ug/L)      TT = Treatment Technique  
 MRDL = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level      MRDLG = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal  
 P\* = Potential Violation      n/a = not available or not applicable      ND = Not Detected

#### Contaminants Detected:

| Date        | Contaminant     | MCL      | MCLG | Units | Result | Min/Max | Violation | Likely Sources  |
|-------------|-----------------|----------|------|-------|--------|---------|-----------|---|
| 05/12/2009  | Barium          | 2        | 2    | mg/l  | 0.0040 | n/a     | No        | Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits                                |
| 05/12/2009  | Nitrate-Nitrite | 1.0      | 1.0  | mg/l  | 0.22   | n/a     | No        | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leeching of septic tanks or sewers; Erosion of natural deposits                               |
| 05/12/2009  | Flouride        | 4        | 4    | mg/l  | 1.1    | n/a     | No        | Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories |
| August 2008 | Lead            | AL=0.015 | 0    | mg/l  | 0.011  | 0-0.011 | No        | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits  |
| August 2008 | Copper          | AL=1.3   | 1.3  | mg/l  | 0.24   | 0-0.24  | No        | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives                    |

Disinfection Byproducts & Precursors

| Date           | Contaminant                          | MCL | Units | Result | Min/Max   | Violation | Likely Sources                            |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|-----|-------|--------|-----------|-----------|---|
| 2009 Quarterly | Total Haloacetic Acids (haa5)        | 60  | ug/l  | 6.35   | 5.4-10.4  | No        | By-product of drinking water chlorination |
| 2009 Monthly   | Total Organic Carbon (Raw Water TOC) | TT  | mg/l  | 1.30   | 1.0-3.4   | No        | Naturally present in the environment      |
| 2009 Quarterly | Total Trihalomethanes (tthm)         | 80  | ug/l  | 32.75  | 30.2-60.3 | No        | By-product of drinking water chlorination |

Microbiological Contaminants

| Date       | Contaminant           | MCL  | MCLG | Units   | Result | Min/Max    | Violation | Likely Sources |
|------------|-----------------------|------|------|---------|--------|------------|-----------|----------------|
| Continuous | Turbidity (lowest %)  | TT** | n/a  | percent | 100%   | n/a        | No        | Soil runoff    |
| Continuous | Turbidity (max level) | 1    | n/a  | NTU     | 0.294  | .081-0.294 | No        | Soil runoff    |

Radiological Contaminants

| Date       | Contaminant                               | MCL | MCLG | Units | Result | Min/Max | Violation | Likely Sources                        |
|------------|---|-----|------|-------|--------|---------|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| 04/28/2009 | Gross Alpha (excluding radon and uranium) | 15  | 0    | pCi/l | 1.8    | n/a     | No        | Erosion of natural deposits           |
| 04/28/2009 | Beta/Photon Emitters                      | 50  | 0    | pCi/l | 3.3    | n/a     | No        | Decay of natural and manmade deposits |

Unregulated Contaminants

| Date       | Contaminant | MCL | MCLG | Units | Result | Min/Max | Violation | Likely Sources              |
|------------|-------------|-----|------|-------|--------|---------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| 05/12/2009 | Sodium      | n/a | n/a  | mg/l  | 110    | n/a     | No        | Erosion of natural deposits |

Residual Disinfectant

| Date       | Contaminant       | MCL    | Units | Result | Min/Max | Violation | Likely Sources  |
|------------|-------------------|--------|-------|--------|---------|-----------|---|
| 2009 Daily | Chlorine Residual | 4 MRDL | mg/l  | 1.81   | 0.5-3.3 | No        | Water additive (disinfectant) used to control microbiological organisms |

Coliform Bacteria

| Date        | Contaminant       | MCLG | Total Coliform | E Coli/Fecal Coliform | Violation | Likely Sources                       |
|-------------|-------------------|------|----------------|-----------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| 2009 Weekly | Coliform Bacteria | 0    | 1              | 0                     | No        | Naturally present in the environment |

**Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring:** Unregulated contaminants are those that don't yet have a drinking water standard set by the USEPA. The purpose of monitoring for these contaminants is to help the EPA decide whether the contaminants should have a standard.

**Special Note on Turbidity:** \*\*The turbidity treatment technique (TT) requires that at least 95% of the total combined effluent turbidity samples shall not exceed 0.3 NTU (1.0 NTU for slow sand and diatomaceous earth filtration systems). At least 95% is required to be in compliance. In addition, the maximum turbidity level cannot exceed 1.0 NTU at anytime.

**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 <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

**Our Watershed Protection Efforts:** Our water system is working with the community to increase awareness of better waste disposal practices to further protect the sources of our drinking water. A copy of our Wellhead Protection Plan can be reviewed at the Lowell Public Library.

### **Water Quality Table Footnotes**

Although we ran many tests, only the listed substances were found. They are all below the MCL required.

**For More Information Contact:** Town of Lowell Water Utility  
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