Franklin County
Where Government Works

2013 Franklin County Water Quality Report

District 4 | pwsid#2501003

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Franklin County

Department of Sanitary Engineering

Franklin County Board of Commissioners
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Franklin County's Commitment to Service

The Franklin County Department of Sanitary Engineering is committed to making necessary investments to ensure safe, clean drinking water while providing the most efficient, cost-effective, and sustainable service to Franklin County's residents and businesses.

The continuing modernization of Franklin County's water and sewer service is a top priority, as these investments both improve the quality of life for our residents and position Franklin County to compete for jobs and economic development.

Sanitary District #4 | pwsid#2501003

The Franklin County Department of Sanitary Engineering is responsible for providing a safe and dependable supply of drinking water to your community. This report covers January 1 through December 31st, 2013. The County Sanitary Engineer's District #4 drinking water supply surpasses the strict regulations of both the State of Ohio and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which require all water suppliers to prepare reports like this annually. Franklin County maintains a current, unconditional license to operate our water system.

In 2013, Franklin County Sanitary Engineering distributed nearly 337 million gallons of water to customers. Our water source is purchased pretreated water from the City of Columbus. Water from the city's Dublin Road plant services customers who live in downtown Columbus, western Franklin County, and southwestern Franklin County. The Dublin Road Water Plant relies on surface water from the Griggs and O'Shaughnessy Reservoirs on the Scioto River. Columbus treats your water using disinfection and filtration to remove or reduce harmful contaminants that may come from the source water.

If you have questions about this report or your water utility service, please contact us by calling 614-525-3940 or by writing to 280 East Broad Street, 2nd Floor, Room 201, Columbus, OH 43215-4562.

Franklin County
Department of Sanitary Engineering

Franklin County Sanitary Engineers—Sanitary District #4
2013 Monitoring Results for Contaminants in Drinking Water

Contaminant	Unit	MCLG Health Goal	MCL EPA Limits	High Levels	Range Detected	Violation (Yes-No)	Year Sampled	Potential Source of Contamination
The following results are from tests completed by Dublin Road Water Plant								
Microbiological Contaminants								
Total Organic Carbon	ppm	TT (removal ratio >1)	NA	2.46	2.01-3.04	NO	2013	Naturally present in environment
Turbidity	NTU	TT (>1 NTU) TT (% meeting Std.)	NA	0.24 100%	0.03-0.24 100-100%	NO	2013	Soil Runoff
Inorganic Contaminants								
Fluoride	ppm	4	4	1.1	0.8-1	NO	2013	Water additive. Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate	ppm	10	10	8.8	<0.5-8.8	NO	2013	Runoff from fertilizer use. Leaching from septic tanks. Erosion of natural deposits.
Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue-baby syndrome.								
Synthetic Organic Compounds								
Alachlor	ppb	2	0	ND	ND	NO	2013	Agricultural herbicide runoff
Atrazine	ppb	3	3	0.22	<0.10-.93	NO	2013	
Simazine	ppb	4	4	<0.10	<0.10-0.17	NO	2013	
Disinfectants								
Total Chlorine	ppm	4 (MRDLG)	4(MRDL)	1.98	0.34-1.98	NO	2013	Water additive to control microbes
Volatile Organic Compounds and Disinfection Byproducts								
Haloacetic Acids	ppb	NA	60	50.4	9.6-50.4	NO	2013	Byproduct or drinking water dechlorination
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	0	80	128	21.3-128	YES	2013	Byproduct or drinking water dechlorination

Lead & Copper Monitoring Performed at Home Tap

Contaminant	Unit	MCLG Health Goal	MCL EPA Limits	Level Detected	Violation (Yes-No)	Year Sampled	Potential Source of Contamination
Lead	ppm	0	15=AL	0.063 (90th percentile) 30 Sites Sampled All sites below action level	NO	2011	Corrosion of household plumbing. Erosion of natural deposits
Copper	ppm	1.3	1.3=AL	0.0 (90th percentile) 30 Sties Sampled All sites below action level	NO	2011	Corrosion of household plumbing. Erosion of natural deposits

How to Read this Report

The goal of the Franklin County Department of Sanitary Engineering is to ensure that any contaminants in your drinking water are restricted below a level at which there is no known health risk.

This report shows the types and amounts of key elements in your water supply, their likely sources, and the maximum contaminant level (MCL) that the EPA considers safe. The water delivered to your home meets ALL of the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). If for any reason the standards are not met, the public will be notified.

Un-Regulated Substances:
Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps the EPA determine where certain contaminants may occur and whether regulation is needed.

Substance	Unit	Level Detected	Range	Year
Bromodichloro-methane	ppb	5.9	NA	2013
Chloroform	ppb	34	NA	2013
Dibromochloro-	ppb	0.5	NA	2013
Metolachor	ppb	<0.2	<.2-.25	2013
Metribuzin	ppb	ND	ND	2013
Bromoform	ppb	<0.5	NA	2013

Who Needs to Take Special Precautions ?

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 infection. 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) wants you to know:

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

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provide by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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 storm water 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 storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Sanitary District #4 had a Total Trihalomethane MCL exceedance for 2013. Some people who drink water containing total trihalomethanes (TTHMs) in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. TTHMs were found in samples in higher levels than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems. The system immediately took the following steps to correct this violation and prevent future violations: Sample procedures were verified and sampling sites were evaluated to ensure a representative sample. Quarterly samples are being taken to monitor the levels. The Franklin County Sanitary Engineering distribution system is being evaluated to identify system improvements that will improve flow and eliminate stagnant water, which is a cause of Trihalomethane contamination.

Understanding the Dangers of Lead in Water

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 Franklin County Department of Sanitary Engineering 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 on the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or online at www.epa.gov/safewater.**

A Word About Arsenic

While your drinking water meets EPA standards for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the cost of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

Understanding Important Abbreviations, Terms, and Definitions	
Action Level (AL)	The concentration of a contaminant, which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)	The level of a contaminant in drinking water, below which there is no known or expected health risk. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)	The highest level of contaminant allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLG as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
N/A	Not Applicable
ND	No Detect
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (measure of particles held in suspension in water)
Parts per Billion (ppb) or Micrograms per Liter (ug/L)	Units of measurement for concentration of a contaminant. A part per billion corresponds to one second in roughly 31.7 years.
Parts per Million (ppm) or Milligrams per Liter (mg/L)	Units of measurement for concentration of a contaminant. A part per million corresponds to one second in roughly 11.5 days.
MRDL	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level: highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. Addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
MRDLG	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal: level of 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.
Treatment Technique (TT)	Required process intended to reduce the level of contaminant in drinking water. For Total Organic Carbon (TOC) the level must be above 1. For turbidity the level must be under 0.3 NTU 95% of the time, and always < 1 NTU.
< symbol	This symbol means "less than". A result of <5 means that the lowest level that could be detected was 5 and that the contaminant was not detected in that sample.

Water Conservation: When you start saving water, you start saving money

Being water and energy efficient provides a wide range of benefits, for consumers, businesses and the community as a whole. Using less water means moving and treating less water, which helps reduce the strain on our drinking water supplies and wastewater infrastructure.

Delivering water and wastewater services is also an energy-intensive effort, as the water is treated, pumped to homes and businesses, then pumped to wastewater facilities to be treated again. Pursuing energy efficiency in our water systems can significantly reduce operating costs, while mitigating the effects of climate change.

Whether through simple daily tasks or the installation of water-efficient products, there are many ways to decrease water and energy use in our homes. You can cut your water usage by changing a few habits. Consider following some of these steps throughout your house:

Make sure your home is leak-free

Check your water meter over a period of time when you are certain that no water is being used. If the meter reading changes, you have a leak. And repair leaks as soon as they are discovered. A seemingly small leak can waste 70-100 gallons of water per day.

Check your toilet tank

Lower the rise of toilet tank water by adjusting the tank float. Another option is to put a small plastic jug filled with water and some weights into the tank to displace water. You could save up to half a gallon with every flush. If you are remodeling your bathroom, replace your old inefficient 3-5 gallon-per-flush toilet with a new low volume 1.6 gallon-per-flush model.

Leaks may be difficult to see, so check your toilet tank by adding a few drops of food coloring into the tank. Wait 20 minutes and then look in the bowl for traces of the dye. If you see the dye in the bowl, you have a leak. If the color in the tank is lighter or you don't see the dye any longer, this is another indication that you have a leak. Call a plumber if you can't fix the problem yourself.

Install low-flow devices

Installing a low-flow showerhead or fitting a flow restrictor into your current showerhead can reduce water use by 50%. A low flow sink faucet aerator can save up to 280 gallons per year. These devices also save on hot water costs and increase water pressure.

Cut down on marathon showers

A shower almost always uses less water than a bath. Even a five-minute shower can use about 35 gallons of water, so keep it short! Shorter showers save hot water costs and air conditioning bills.

Turn off the water while brushing teeth or shaving

Only turning on the water to rinse can save up to 10 gallons of water per day.

Defrost food in the refrigerator

Don't use running water to thaw food; it wastes water. Defrosting in the refrigerator also helps prevent bacterial contamination.

Don't over-wash clothes

By eliminating the pre-soak and second rinse cycles when you use your washing machine, you can save as much as 19 gallons of water per load.

Put the hose away

Washing your car with a bucket and sponge instead of a hose saves a lot of water. A hose can waste 6 gallons per minute if you leave it running, but using a bucket and sponge only uses a few gallons. Where possible, consider putting your car in the grass to allow the water to soak back into the ground instead of the sewer.

Beat the heat

The best time to water your yard is in the early morning or late evening when it's cool outside. Watering when it's hot and sunny is wasteful because most of the water evaporates before the plants have time to drink it. Also, when watering the yard, make sure not to water the plants too much. Remember that a little sprinkle goes a long way.

Remember, water can be recycled

Don't pour water down the drain when there may be another use for it. For example, when meals are prepared and vegetables or other fresh produce are washed, collect that water and use it to water the plants.

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