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The **2017 Water Quality Report** summarizes the City of St. Cloud's drinking water monitoring results during the 2017 calendar year. The purpose of this report is to advance consumers' understanding of drinking water and heighten awareness of the need to protect water resources.

## WATER SOURCE

The City of St. Cloud uses the Mississippi River as the source for drinking water. The drinking water provided to customers continues to meet or exceed drinking water quality expectations set by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). MDH has determined that our source water is potentially susceptible to contamination. In response, the City of St. Cloud developed a Source Water Protection Plan to help prevent contamination of the Mississippi River. To obtain the source water assessment, please call 1-800-818-9318 (press 5) during regular business hours. The source water assessment can be viewed online at [www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/swa](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/swa).

Please contact the Public Utilities Department or MDH if you have questions regarding drinking water or if you would like information about opportunities for public participation in decisions that may affect the quality of the water.

## LABORATORY ANALYSIS RESULTS

No contaminants were detected at levels that violated federal drinking water standards. However, some contaminants were detected in trace amounts that were below regulatory or legal limits. The table that follows shows the contaminants that were detected in trace amounts in 2017.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which 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 the 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 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, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances that may be present in river (source) water include:

- **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from wildlife, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and/or wastewater treatment facilities.
- **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater 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 residential use, agriculture and/or urban stormwater runoff.
- **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

## DEFINITIONS

MCLG - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - concentrations less than this have no known or expected risk to health.

MCL - Maximum Contaminant Level - the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.

TT - Treatment Technique - a required treatment process to reduce the contaminant level.

NTU - Nephelometric Turbidity Unit - measurement of light intensity as a beam of light passes through a water sample.

AL - Action Level - the concentration that triggers treatment or other requirement.

MRDL - Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level.

ppm - parts per million

MRDLG - Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal.

ppb - parts per billion

NA - Not Applicable.

PWSID - Public Water System Identification

**INORGANIC & ORGANIC PARAMETERS – TESTED IN DRINKING WATER**

Parameter	EPA's Limit (MCL)	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results	Meets Requirements	Typical Sources
<b>Nitrate ppm</b>	10.4	10	0.3	N/A	YES	Runoff from fertilizer; sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Fluoride ppm</b>	4.0	4.0	0.69	0.65 - 0.68	YES	Water additive to promote strong teeth.

Fluoride is nature's cavity fighter. Since studies show that optimal fluoride levels in drinking water benefit public health, municipal community water systems are required to add fluoride to the drinking water; fluoride concentration between 0.5 to 1.5 ppm is optimum.

**DISINFECTION RELATED PARAMETERS – TESTED IN DRINKING WATER**

<b>Total Trihalo-methanes (THMs) ppb</b>	80	N/A	22.1	6.20 - 30.0	YES	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
<b>Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5s) ppb</b>	60	N/A	20.5	11.0 - 25.9	YES	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
<b>Total Chlorine ppm</b>	4.0	4.0	2.47	2.25 - 2.81	YES	Water additive used to control microbes.

**DISINFECTION BYPRODUCT INDICATOR – TESTED IN SOURCE WATER AND DRINKING WATER**

Parameter	Removal Required	Range of % Removal	Average % Removal Achieved	Meets Requirements	Typical Sources
<b>Total Organic Carbon</b>	Variable >30%	55 - 62	59.2	YES	N/A

**TREATMENT INDICATOR – TESTED DURING TREATMENT**

Parameter	Removal Requirements	% of Results in Compliance	Highest Test Result	Meets Requirements	Typical Source
<b>Turbidity</b>	Treatment Technique	100%	0.20	YES	Soil Runoff

**LEAD AND COPPER – TESTED AT RESIDENTIAL TAPS**

Parameter (sample year)	EPA's Action Level	EPA's Goal	90% of Results were under	Homes With High Levels	Meets Requirements	Typical Source
<b>Copper (6/25/16) ppm</b>	90% of homes less than 1.3	0	0.08	0 out of 30	YES	Piping; plumbing
<b>Lead (6/25/16) ppb</b>	90% of homes less than 15	0	1.9	0 out of 30	YES	Piping; plumbing

If present in elevated levels, lead can cause serious health problems especially for pregnant women and children. The City provides high quality drinking water, but does not 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 the tap for two minutes before using for drinking or cooking. You can have your water tested for lead by contacting the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 800-426-4791 or <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

**TESTED IN MISSISSIPPI RIVER**

Parameter	Highest Level Allowed	Highest Level Detected	Range Detected	Average Level	Meets Requirements	Typical Source
<b>Cryptosporidium oocysts/L</b>	NA	0.167	NA	NA	YES	Animal fecal waste

**Information for Residents with Special Health Needs**

Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the U.S. Our monitoring indicates the presence of these organisms in our source water (Mississippi River) at low levels. 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. 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.