



# CITY NEWS

www.delawarecity.delaware.gov

June 18, 2010

## DELAWARE CITY WATER QUALITY REPORT

407 Clinton Street, Delaware City, DE 19706

PWSID – DE0000566 Report Written April, 2010

We are very pleased to provide you with this annual water quality report for 2009. We're also pleased to report that Delaware City drinking water meets or exceeds all the standards for reportable substances. You will see that substances such as iron, chloride, and sodium are commonly found in drinking water. They occur naturally and, at trace levels, are not harmful to drink. The report shows at what levels any substances were found during tests conducted from Jan. 1, 2009 - Dec. 31, 2009, unless otherwise specified. If you have any questions about this report and the quality of your water, please contact Dan Tjaden, City Manager at (302) 834-4573. If you wish to learn more, please attend any of the regularly scheduled meetings of Mayor & Council held the third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall, located at the address above.

The water serving your home comes from the Potomac aquifer via 2 wells at depths of 720 and 737 feet. This aquifer is confined and protected from the influence of past farming activities and saltwater intrusion. The Division of Public Health in conjunction with the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control has conducted source water assessments for nearly all community water systems in the state. For a copy of the assessment, contact Dan Tjaden at the Delaware City Town Hall (302) 834-4573.

All sources of drinking water (whether a river, lake, spring, well, or pond) are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. As water travels through the ground or over the surface of the land, it can dissolve naturally occurring substances, including radioactive substances. Additionally, some substances result from the presence of animals or human activity. These substances (both natural and man-made) can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals, pesticides/herbicides and radioactive substances. All 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 1-800-426-4791. 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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline mentioned above.

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. Food and Drug Administration regulations established limits for contaminants in bottle water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

In the table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

**90<sup>th</sup> PERCENTILE** - A calculation based upon averaging the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> highest lead/copper readings, used to determine compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule.

**ACTION LEVEL** - The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL** - the "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is 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** - the "Goal" (MCLG) is 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.

**MAXIMUM DISINFECTION RESIDUAL LEVEL (MRDL)** - the highest level of a disinfectant in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for the control of microbial contaminants.

**MAXIMUM DISINFECTION RESIDUAL LEVEL GOAL (MRDLG)** - the level of a 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.

**NON-DETECTS (ND)** - laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

**NOT REGULATED (N/R)** - no MCL identified because this substance is unregulated.

**PARTS PER BILLION (PPB)** - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

**PARTS PER MILLION (PPM)** - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000

**City of Delaware City**  
**407 Clinton Street**  
**P. O. Box 4159**  
**Delaware City, DE**



PRST STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
NEWARK, DE  
PERMIT NO. 20



## **BOXHOLDER**

### **DELAWARE CITY, DE**

### **19706**

#### **Important information pertaining to** **Radon:**

Radon is a radioactive gas that is found in nearly all soils. It typically moves up through the ground to the air and into homes through the foundation. Drinking water from a ground water source can also add radon to the home air. The EPA indicates that, compared to radon entering the home through soil, radon entering the home through water will in most cases be a small source of risk. The EPA and the State of Delaware have not yet set standards for monitoring radon in drinking water, although we do expect sampling to become mandatory in the near future. Artesian Water Company is keeping a close eye on the situation and will be sure to comply with any new regulations as required.

#### **Important Information Pertaining To** **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. Artesian Water 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. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.