

The **Total Coliform** Rule requires water systems to meet a stricter limit for coliform bacteria. Coliform bacteria are usually harmless, but their presence in water can be an indication of disease-causing bacteria. When coliform bacteria are found, special follow-up tests are performed to determine if harmful bacteria are also present in the water supply. If this limit is exceeded, the water supplier must notify the public by newspaper, television or radio. DPW treats the water with chlorine as a disinfectant. We are not required to add chlorine, but do so as a precautionary measure.

MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of developing the described health effect.



Drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. It's important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk. More information about contaminants and

potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's safe drinking water hot line (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 microbial contaminants are available from the Environmental Protection Agency's safe drinking water hotline (1-800-426-4791) or from their web site at [www.epa.gov/safewater/hfacts.html](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/hfacts.html).

As you can see by the table, **our system has no violations**. We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State Requirements

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by constituents that are naturally occurring or man made. Constituents can be microbes, organic or inorganic chemicals, or radioactive materials.

The fact that our system is based on deep well water reduces the risk of certain contaminants associated with surface water systems, such as cryptosporidium.

The total cost to our customers in 2008 for monitoring and testing the water system in order to maintain the level of quality as shown above was just over \$20,000.

## What's New for 2009?

Water and sewer responsibilities were transferred to the Department of Public Works in October of 2008. The DPW has three DNR certified operators to run the water system. The operators must attend at least 18 hours of training every three years to remain certified. Our certified operators are Jim Flaig, Dave Nelson and Patrick Bergner. The department has additional employees in the process of becoming certified. These individuals bring us the quality water we drink every day.

Water main replacements that are coordinated with 2009 street reconstruction projects are in the following areas: Lafayette Street from Division Street to Eagle Street, Fourth Street from Franklin Street to Main Street, Bartlett Street from Fourth Street to Third Street, and School Court south of Ridlington Street.

In the newly annexed area of River Heights water mains are being replaced along with sanitary sewer, lift stations, storm sewer and streets .



During the winter we completed the reconditioning of well number 5. The well was pulled for normal maintenance and a variable frequency drive was installed to make the well more energy efficient.

Last fall the interior of the 500,000 gallon water tower and 2 million gallon reservoir were inspected and a maintenance schedule and report was prepared.

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