



## Michigan City Department of Water Works

### Water Quality Report 2024

### PWSID IN5246020

#### **Message from the Superintendent**

We're pleased to once again present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets federal and state requirements. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, you may contact the Main Office at (219) 874-3228, and speak to Christopher Johnsen, Superintendent. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more you may attend the Water Board meetings. They are scheduled twice monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Office, 532 Franklin Street.

#### **Water Source and Treatment**

The greater area of Michigan City receives its drinking water directly from Lake Michigan, a surface water source. It is treated through a conventional treatment process that includes Flocculation-Sedimentation (the mixing of Alum into the water to create "Floc" which allows large particulate matter to settle out of the water) and Filtration (to remove fine particulate matter and micro-organisms from the water). Chemical additions are also required which includes Chlorine (for bacteriological removal), Alum (to remove large particulate matter), Fluoride (to prevent dental decay), and Chloramines (the mixture of chlorine and ammonia which allows for longer disinfectant levels in the water distribution system and remove chlorine odor from the water). Polyphosphate is added to inhibit internal corrosion of water mains and water services.

#### **Monitoring & Measuring Contaminants**

The Department of Water Works of Michigan City, IN routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The Table on the back shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. 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.

It is important to know that 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 systems disorders, some elderly, and infants can particularly be at risk and 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 are also available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791.

Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. The Department of Water Works is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in private 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 (800) 426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

#### **Other Related Data**

The sources of drinking water (both tap 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 human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water are:

1. **Microbial Contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural, livestock operations and wildlife.
2. **Inorganic Chemical 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.
3. **Pesticides and Herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, stormwater runoff and residential uses.
4. **Organic Chemical Contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can, also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
5. **Radioactive Contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas productions and mining activities.

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

## Water Quality Analysis

The chart that follows the list of abbreviations shows the highest recorded level in Michigan City in 2024 or the last time the contaminant was tested and the highest allowed by the USEPA. Michigan City water has met all EPA requirements.

**MCL:** Maximum Contaminant Level, the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water, if applicable.

**MCLG:** Maximum Contaminant Level Goal, the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health, if applicable.

**MRDL:** Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level, the highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water.

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

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

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

**NTU:** Nephelometric Turbidity Unit, is the measure of clarity of the water

**mg/l:** milligrams per liter, a measurement for concentration equivalent to ppm = one part per million

**ug/l:** micrograms per liter, measurement for concentration equivalent to ppb = one part per billion

**pCi/l:** picocuries per liter, a measurement of radiation

**P\*:** Potential violation, one that is likely to occur in the near future, subject to other applicable requirements.

**ND:** Not detected, the result was not detected at or below the analytical method detection level.

**TT\*\*:** **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 any time.

Date	Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Unit	Result	Range or Mas	Sites over AL	Violation	Likely Sources
4/1/2024	Barium	2	2	mg/L	0.02	0.02		No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
4/1/2024	Fluoride	4	4	mg/L	0.63	0.63		No	Water additive that promotes strong teeth; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharges from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
4/1/2024	Nitrate-Nitrite (as N)	10	10	mg/L	0.38	0.38		No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from fertilizers; Leaching from septic systems and sewers.
4/1/2024	Chromium	100	100	ug/L	1	1		No	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
2023-2024	Total Trihalomethanes	80	0	ug/L	21.9	13.1-34.1		No	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
2023-2024	Total Haloacetic Acids	60	0	ug/L	13.1	ND-3.9		No	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
2024	Chloramines	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	mg/L	1	2-2.5		No	Water additive used to control microbes; At least 40 samples per month per Total Coliform Rule
3/11/2024	Total Organic Carbon	TT	TT	mg/L	2.26	1.45-2.26		No	Naturally present in the environment
2024	Turbidity (lowest percentage)	TT**	TT**	%	98.0	1		No	Soil runoff
2024	Turbidity (Maximum level)	1	1	NTU	0.19	0.02-0.19		No	Soil runoff
2023	Lead (90th percentile)	15 (AL)	0	ug/L	1.9	ND-21	1	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
2023	Copper (90th percentile)	1.3 (AL)	1.3	mg/L	0.24	0.0018-0.86	0	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Leaching from wood preservatives

## Violations:

During the period covered by this report, the Department had one violation. Per the Consumer Confidence rule, the Department is required to submit a copy of the CCR to the State by July 1. Due to an oversight, the Department did not submit the CCR for the year 2023 to IDEM until July 15, 2024. This violation in no way jeopardized the safety of the water supplied by the Department.

## UCMR-5: Forever Chemicals – PFAS and PFOS

In the year 2023, the USEPA required the Department to monitor for these contaminants quarterly beginning in May of 2023. The contaminants of concern included Perfluorinated and Polyfluorinated Alkyl Substances and Perfluorinated Alkyl Acids, commonly known as PFAS or PFOS. These chemicals have been used in many everyday items, such as Teflon, fire-retardant clothing, and fire-fighting foam. These chemicals have been discovered to not break down over time like many other chemicals do. Therefore, these chemicals have been called “Forever Chemicals”. There were a total of 29 variations of these chemicals included. In addition to these chemicals, lithium was tested, due, in part, to the sharp increase in the use of lithium battery technology. We are happy to announce that in all samples of finished water, these contaminants were not detected.

## Lead Service Lines

The EPA required water utilities to conduct an inventory of the individual service lines to identify lead lines. The Department has been able to determine that there are only two lead service lines in the system, and they are only on the customer side. Those customers have been notified directly. The inventory and additional information can be found at: <https://pws-ptd.120wateraudit.com/MichiganCity-IN>.