

Northwestern Water & Sewer District – Waterline #200 Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report For 2020

Together, the Northwestern Water & Sewer District – Waterline #200 and the City of Oregon have prepared the following report to provide information to you, the consumer, on the quality of our drinking water. Included within this report is general health information, water quality test results, how to participate in decisions concerning your drinking water and water system contacts.

Source Water Information

The Northwestern Water & Sewer District – Waterline #200 purchases water from the City of Oregon.

The City of Oregon Public Water System uses surface water drawn from an intake located in Lake Erie near Reno Beach. For the purposes of source water assessments, all surface waters are considered to be susceptible to contamination. By their nature surface waters are accessible and can be readily contaminated by chemicals and pathogens with relatively short travel times from the source to the intake. The Oregon Public Water System is susceptible to contamination from accidental spills or releases associated with commercial shipping and recreational boating, sediments from river dredging disposal operations, air contaminant deposition, point and nonpoint source discharges from industrial and agricultural operations along the shore and along streams that empty into the lake, contamination from oil & gas production and mining operations, natural processes such as erosion, contaminated storm water runoff from urban areas, municipal sewage treatment system and home sewage disposal system discharges, and combined sewer overflows (CSOs).

The City of Oregon Public Water System treats water to meet drinking water quality standards, but no single treatment protocol can address all potential contaminants. The potential for water quality impacts can be further decreased by implementing measures to protect Lake Erie. More detailed information is provided in the City of Oregon Public Water System's Drinking Water Source Water Assessment report. Copies of the source water assessment report prepared for the City of Oregon are available by contacting the City of Oregon water treatment plant at 419-698-7123.

The City of Oregon also has an emergency connection with the City of Toledo. During 2020 we used no water from this connection over the entire year. On average, this connection is used for approximately 0 days each year. This report does not contain information on the water quality received from the City of Toledo but a copy of their consumer confidence report can be obtained by contacting them at 419-936-3021.

What are sources of contamination to drinking water?

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.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include: (A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife; (B) 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; (C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses; (D) 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 storm water runoff, and septic systems; (E) Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, USEPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA 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 water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Federal Environmental Protection Agency’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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).

About your drinking water.

The EPA requires regular sampling to ensure drinking water safety.

- The Northwestern Water & Sewer District – Waterline #200 conducted sampling for bacteria; disinfection byproducts; lead and copper during 2020. Samples were collected for a total of 15 different contaminants most of which were not detected in the Northwestern Water & Sewer District – Waterline #200 water supply.
- The City of Oregon conducted sampling for bacteria; inorganics; synthetic organics; and volatile organics during 2020. Samples were collected for a total of 76 different contaminants most of which were not detected in the City of Oregon water supply.

The Ohio EPA requires us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though accurate, are more than one year old.

Listed below is information on those contaminants that were found in the Northwestern Water & Sewer District – Waterline #200 and the City of Oregon drinking water.

TABLE OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS: Northwestern Water & Sewer District - Waterline #200

Contaminants (Units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Range of Detections	Violation	Sample Year	Typical Source of Contaminants
Disinfectant and Disinfectant By-Products							
Total Chlorine (ppm)	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	0.78	0.5 - 0.9	No	2020	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	14.38	4.4 - 20.6	No	2020	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	NA	80	60.28	24.3 - 57.7	No	2020	By-product of drinking water disinfection

TABLE OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS: Northwestern Water & Sewer District - Waterline #200

Contaminants (Units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Range of Detections	Violation	Sample Year	Typical Source of Contaminants
Lead and Copper							
Contaminants (units)	Action Level (AL)	Individual Results over the AL	90% of test levels were	Violation	Year Sampled	Typical source of Contaminants	
Lead (ppb)	15 ppb	0	0 ppb	No	2020	Corosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits	
	0 out of 20 samples were found to have lead levels in excess of the lead action level of 15 ppb.						
Copper (ppm)	1.3 ppm	0	0.023 ppm	No	2020	Erosions of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosions of household plumbing systems	
	0 out of 20 samples were found to have copper levels in excess of the copper action level of 1.3 ppm.						

TABLE OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS: City of Oregon

Contaminants (Units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Range of Detections	Violation	Sample Year	Typical Source of Contaminants
Microbiological Contaminants							
Turbidity (NTU)	NA	TT	0.19	0.05 - 0.19	No	2020	Soil runoff.
Turbidity (% meeting standard)	NA	TT	100%	0 - 100%	No	2020	
Total Organic Carbon	NA	TT	2.81	2.50 - 4.00	No	2020	Naturally present in the environment.
Inorganic Contaminants							
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.01	NA	No	2020	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.07	0.21 - 1.07	No	2020	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	2.82	ND - 2.82	No	2020	Run off from fertilizer use, Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

Turbidity

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water and is an indication of the effectiveness of our filtration system. The turbidity limit set by the EPA is 0.3 NTU in 95% of the samples analyzed each month and shall not exceed 1 NTU at any time. As reported above, the City of Oregon’s highest recorded turbidity result for 2020 was 0.19 NTU and lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting the turbidity limits was 100%.

Lead Educational Information

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. Northwestern Water & Sewer District – Waterline #200 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 from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

In 2020 we had an unconditioned license to operate our water system.

How do I participate in decisions concerning my drinking water?

Public participation and comment are encouraged at regular meetings of the Board of Trustees which meets at 7:30 am every 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. Meetings are held at the District's Operations facility located at 12560 Middleton Pike, Bowling Green, OH 43402. For more information on your drinking water contact customer service at 419-354-9090.

Additionally, public participation and comment are encouraged at regular meetings of City Council which meets on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 8:00 pm. For more information on your drinking water contact Doug Wagner, Superintendent of the City of Oregon's Water Treatment at 419-698-7123.

Definitions of some terms contained within this report.

- Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): 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 Contaminant level (MCL): The highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The 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.
- Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- Contact Time (CT) means the mathematical product of a "residual disinfectant concentration" (C), which is determined before or at the first customer, and the corresponding "disinfectant contact time" (T).
- Microcystins: Liver toxins produced by a number of cyanobacteria. Total microcystins are the sum of all the variants/congeners (forms) of the cyanotoxin microcystin.
- Cyanobacteria: Photosynthesizing bacteria, also called blue-green algae, which naturally occur in marine and freshwater ecosystems, and may produce cyanotoxins, which at sufficiently high concentrations can pose a risk to public health.
- Cyanotoxin: Toxin produced by cyanobacteria. These toxins include liver toxins, nerve toxins, and skin toxins. Also sometimes referred to as "algal toxin".
- Parts per Million (ppm) or Milligrams per Liter (mg/L) are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per million corresponds to one second in a little over 11.5 days.
- Parts per Billion (ppb) or Micrograms per Liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$) are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per billion corresponds to one second in 31.7 years.
- The "<" symbol: A symbol which means less than. A result of <5 means that the lowest level that could be detected was 5 and the contaminant in that sample was not detected.

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