

2009

# Drinking Water Quality Report

## KEEPING YOU INFORMED!

The Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority (YCUA) provides your drinking water and is pleased to present you with this twelfth annual water quality report. This report follows the guidelines set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (MDNRE). Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable water supply. This report will illustrate that we are achieving our goal.

## SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT

YCUA obtains your drinking water from the Detroit water system. Your source water comes from the Detroit River, situated within Lake St. Clair, the Clinton River, Detroit River, Rouge River, and Ecorse River in the U.S. and parts of the Thames River, Little River, Turkey Creek, and Sydenham watersheds in Canada.

MDNRE, in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey, the Detroit Water & Sewerage Department (DWSD), and the Michigan Public Health Institute, performed a source water assessment in 2004 to determine susceptibility to potential contamination.

The susceptibility rating is on a seven-tiered scale from "very low" to "very high" based primarily on geologic sensitivity, water chemistry, and contaminant sources. The susceptibility of our Detroit River source water intakes were determined to be highly susceptible to potential contamination. However, all four Detroit water treatment plants that use source water from the Detroit River have historically provided satisfactory treatment of this source water to meet drinking water standards.

DWSD has initiated source-water protection activities that include chemical containment, spill response, and a mercury reduction program. DWSD participates in a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit discharge program and has an emergency response management plan. If you would like more information about this Source Water Assessment report or to receive a complete copy of the report, please contact the Water Quality Division Manager at 313.926.8102 or [semegen@dwsd.org](mailto:semegen@dwsd.org).

## 2009 WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

All communities performed hydrant flushing and valve exercising to ensure system reliability according to their own schedules.

### Charter Township of Ypsilanti and City of Ypsilanti

Water Main Improvements with Approximate Project Costs:

- Hewitt Road Water Main - This project consisted of replacing approximately 1,800 feet of aging and undersized water main on Hewitt Road from Packard Street to just north of Washtenaw Avenue. The work was completed in conjunction with road improvements made by the Washtenaw County Road Commission. Project cost totaled approximately \$650,000.
- Mansfield Avenue Water Main Improvements - This project consisted of replacing approximately 1,300 feet of aging and undersized water main within the Mansfield Avenue right-of-way between Washtenaw Avenue and Westmoorland Street in the City of Ypsilanti. The work was completed in conjunction with road improvements made by the City of Ypsilanti. Project cost totaled approximately \$364,000.

### Augusta Charter Township

- Water Main Improvements: The last section of a 12-inch water main along Bemis Road between Hitchingham and Whittaker Roads was completed. The construction of this final segment provides significant benefits to the Township residents and water customers.

### Pittsfield Charter Township

- New Meter Reading Technology: All residential water meters were replaced with radio frequency technology.

**Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority**

**Environmental Leaders**



**[www.ycua.org](http://www.ycua.org)**

**Dedicated to Providing Top Quality, Cost Effective, and Environmentally Safe Water and Wastewater Services to Our Customers**

## HEALTH and SAFETY INFORMATION

Drinking water, including bottled water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk.

The sources of both tap and bottled drinking water include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive materials, and can also pick up substances resulting from animal or human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- *Microbial contaminants*, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife
- *Inorganic contaminants*, such as salts and metals, which can occur naturally, or result from urban stormwater runoff and residential uses
- *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, septic systems, and urban stormwater or agricultural runoff and residential uses (i.e., pesticides and herbicides)
- *Radioactive contaminants*, which can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities

Based on testing results during 2009 (see table, right), all of these contaminants were below the level of concern for safe drinking water standards set by EPA. To ensure that tap water is safe, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration is in the process of establishing limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same level of protection for public health.

## INFORMATION FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CONCERNS

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons 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.

Federal guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbiological contaminants are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline, 800.426.4791.

## LEAD IN DRINKING WATER

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. YCUA 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

## DEFINITIONS

*Parts per million (ppm) and parts per billion (ppb)* - One ppm can be equated to one gallon in 1,000,000 gallons (an Olympic-sized pool.) One ppb is like one gallon in 1,000 olympic-sized pools combined.

*Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)* - The MCLG is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk. MCLGs provide for a margin of safety.

*Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)* - The MCL is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in the drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible, using the best available treatment technology. MCLs are set at very stringent levels by the State and Federal governments. To understand the possible health effects, a person would have to drink about two quarts of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the associated health effect.

*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.

*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.

*Action Level (AL)* - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other required actions a water system must follow.

*Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (ntu)* - Measures the cloudiness of water.

*Treatment Technique (TT)* - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

*TTHMs* - Total Trihalomethanes.

*na* - Not applicable.

## 2009 SPECIAL MONITORING

Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. Monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants. Beginning in July of 2008 - April 2009, DWSD began monitoring quarterly for unregulated contaminants under the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 2 (UCMR2). All the UCMR2 contaminants monitored on List 1 and List 2 in 2008-2009 were undetected.

# YCUA Water Quality Test Results For 2009

Your drinking water is continuously monitored above and beyond Federal and State laws. The table below lists all of the contaminants detected in your drinking water during calendar year 2009. Lead, copper, and bacteriological monitoring is performed by each individual community, except as noted. **THERE WERE NO BACTERIOLOGICAL DETECTS DURING 2009.**

All other results are for the entire YCUA service area. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate a health risk. This table does not show the hundreds of other contaminants tested for, but not found in your drinking water. The test results confirm that **ALL DETECTED CONTAMINANTS ARE BELOW ALLOWED LEVELS. THERE WERE NO VIOLATIONS.**

## Regulated Inorganic Parameters (annual monitoring at plant finished water taps)

contaminant	test date	unit	level detected	MCLG	MCL	likely sources
Fluoride	2009	ppm	0.97	4	4	Water additive to promote strong teeth; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate	2009	ppm	0.55	10	10	Fertilizer runoff; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Barium	2009	ppm	0.01	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium	2009	ppb	1	50	50	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines

## Regulated Disinfectant Residuals and Disinfection By-Products (sampled in the distribution system)

contaminant	test date	unit	avg	low	high	MCLG	MCL	likely sources
TTHMs	2009	ppb	23.7	8.9	46.5	na	80	By-products of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids	2009	ppb	13.2	5.9	21	na	60	By-products of drinking water chlorination
Disinfectant Chlorine	2009	ppm	0.70	0.40	0.76	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	Water additive used to control microbes

*In 2008, some of the individual communities also participated in Initial Distribution System Evaluation (IDSE) monitoring for EPA's Stage 2 Disinfection By-Products Rule. The next testing period will take place in 2012. Here are their highest and lowest detections (in ppb) for TTHM and Haloacetic Acids, respectively. These results are not subject to MCL compliance. YCUA (4.9 - 36.0 / 3 - 23); Pittsfield (7.7 - 32.0 / 6 - 22); Superior (9.9 - 40.0 / 3 - 25).*

## Regulated Microbiological Parameters (monitored every 4 hours at the plant taps)

contaminant	test date	unit	lowest %	high	MCLG	MCL	likely sources
Turbidity	2009	ntu	100%	0.28	na	TT	Soil runoff

*Turbidity measures the cloudiness of water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. The rules state that turbidity must never exceed 1.0 ntu (see "high"), and must not exceed 0.3 ntu in more than 95% of daily samples in any single month (see lowest %). We achieved these requirements and remained in compliance.*

## Individual Community Regulated Copper and Lead Testing (sampled at individual taps)

contaminant	test date	unit	90th	samples >AL	MCLG	MCL	likely sources
<i>Charter Township of Ypsilanti, City of Ypsilanti, Southwest Canton Charter Township, and York Township</i>							
Lead	2008	ppb	0	0	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing and erosion of natural deposits
Copper	2008	ppm	0.158	0	1.3	AL=1.3	
<i>Augusta Charter Township</i>							
Lead	2008	ppb	0	0	0	AL=15	
Copper	2008	ppm	0.088	0	1.3	AL=1.3	
<i>Pittsfield Charter Township</i>							
Lead	2008	ppb	0	0	0	AL=15	
Copper	2008	ppm	.04	0	1.3	AL=1.3	
<i>Superior Charter Township</i>							
Lead	2008	ppb	0	0	0	AL=15	
Copper	2008	ppm	0.027	0	1.3	AL=1.3	

*Lead and Copper compliance is based on the 90th percentile, where nine out of ten samples must be below the Action Level (AL). The State allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. All of the data is representative of the water quality, but some are more than one year old.*

**Total Organic Carbon (TOC) Removal** - The TOC removal ratio is the ratio between actual TOC removal and the TOC removal requirements. During 2009, TOC was measured each month and because the level was low, there was no requirement for TOC removal.

## UNREGULATED PARAMETERS (No established EPA drinking water standards)

contaminant	test date	unit	level found	likely sources
Sodium	2009	ppm	5.62	Erosion of natural deposits

*For those concerned with sodium in their diet, 5.21 ppm equates to about 1.23 milligrams of sodium per 8-ounce glass of water.*

## GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT YCUA


YCUA staff works around the clock to provide you with a reliable supply of water. If you have questions about the YCUA water system, please contact Jeff Castro, Director of Service Operations, at [jcastro@ycua.org](mailto:jcastro@ycua.org) or 734.484.4600 extension 305.


Additional information about YCUA is available on our web site at [www.ycua.org](http://www.ycua.org). Click on the tab "DWSD Lab Reports" for more detailed water quality data. This report is also published on our web site and additional copies may be obtained by calling YCUA Customer Service at 734.484.4600 extension 107.

## GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT DWSD

If you wish to learn more about the plants that treat our water or obtain information regarding Detroit Board of Water Commissioner meetings, please visit [www.dwsd.org](http://www.dwsd.org).

## DID YOU KNOW...

 YCUA water is an incredible bargain? You can refill an eight ounce glass with YCUA water more than 5,000 times for the same cost as one container of bottled water!

 YOU are our partner in protecting the environment? You can help us by following these tips for reducing your use of water and keeping chemicals out of the wastewater collection system:

- Conserve water by using a bucket and sponge to wash your car, putting a nozzle on your water hose, watering your lawn and garden only when needed, and using a broom instead of a hose to clean patios, driveways, and sidewalks.
- Keep chemicals, pet wastes, and debris out of storm drains.
- Take unwanted chemicals to the Washtenaw County Home Toxics Reduction Program (734.222.3950 or 734.222.6874).
- Wrap out-of-date medications in plastic and dispose of them in the trash, rather than flush them down the toilet.
- Use chemical fertilizers, weed killers, and fungicides only as directed, and don't apply them near water or if rain is expected.

## QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?

If you have questions specific to your community's water distribution system, please contact the following individuals, or attend your local board meeting:

**Augusta Charter Township:** John Linville, Utilities Manager, 734.439.7715, 800.884.2860, or 734.817.2326 (pager). The Township Board meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at the Township Hall, 8021 Talladay Road. Dates and times are posted on the Augusta Charter Township web site [www.augustatownship.org](http://www.augustatownship.org) or call 734.461.6117.

**Pittsfield Charter Township:** Michael Luptowski, Utilities Director: 734.822.2110; Utilities Customer Service: 734.822.3105; Water and Sewer Field Office and 24-hour Emergency Line: 734.822.2110. The Township Board meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 6:30pm at the Township Hall, 6201 W. Michigan Avenue. For more information call 734.822.3120.

**Superior Charter Township:** Rick Church, Utilities Director, 734.480.5500. The Township Board meets on the third Monday of the month at 7:30pm at the Township Hall, 3040 North Prospect Road.

**York Township:** Joe Zurawski, Township Supervisor, 734.439.8842, [jzurawski@twp-york.org](mailto:jzurawski@twp-york.org). The York Township Board meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm at the Township Hall at 11560 Stony Creek Road.

**Charter Township of Ypsilanti, City of Ypsilanti, and Southwest Canton Charter Township:** Jeff Castro, Director of Service Operations, [jcastro@ycua.org](mailto:jcastro@ycua.org) or 734.484.4600 extension 305. YCUA's Board meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at 9:00am at the YCUA Eldon P. Ahles Administration Building located at the corner of State and McGregor Roads.

EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline: 800.426.4791

EPA Web Site: [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater)

MDNRE Web Site: [www.michigan.gov/dnre](http://www.michigan.gov/dnre)

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