

# ***2007 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report***

For

City of Torrington

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We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Quality Water Report. This report is designed 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 committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water source consists of six ground water wells of which three are coupled with Reverse Osmosis. On February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2007 we started to send water from the new water treatment plant which still consists of reverse osmosis treatment.

We have a source water protection plan available from our office that provides more information such as potential sources of contamination.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact **Tom Troxel at (307) 532-2012**. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on **the first and third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM located at 2042 East A.**

**City of Torrington** routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, **2007**. As water travels over the land or underground it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably 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 Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

In this 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:

*Non-Detects (ND)* - laboratory analysis indicates that the laboratory does not detect the constituent.

*Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)* - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

*Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter* - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

*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. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's 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. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

<b>TEST RESULTS</b>						
<b>Contaminant</b>	<b>Violation Y/N</b>	<b>Level Detected</b>	<b>Unit Measurement</b>	<b>MCLG</b>	<b>MCL</b>	<b>Likely Source of Contamination</b>
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>						
<b>Alpha emitters</b> Year 2007 SP09 Average Range SP05 Average Range SP08 Average Range SP01A Average Range	N	13.6 10.0–16.8 14.0 13.2-15.0 12.7 11.0-14.0 13.8 10.1-19.4	pCi/1	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Uranium</b> Year 2007 SP09 Average Range SP05 Average Range SP08 Average Range SP01A Average Range	N	6.3 ND-19 13.7 ND-23 10.3 ND-22 23.5 22-25	ug/L	0	30	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>						
<b>Arsenic</b> Jan. 19, 2007 SP01A Feb. 27, 2007 SP08 April 19, 2007 SP05 SP09	N	ND 6 ND ND	ppb	N/A	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
<b>Barium</b> Jan. 19, 2007 SP01A Feb. 27, 2007 SP08 April 19, 2007 SP05 SP09	N	ND 0.1 0.1 ND	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits

TEST RESULTS						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Copper (Pb&amp;Cu Rule/Tap Monitoring)</b> September 2007 October 2007	N	0.62 0.71	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
<b>Fluoride</b> Jan. 19, 2007 SP01A Feb. 27, 2007 SP08 April 19, 2007 SP05 SP09	N	0.2 0.5 0.5 0.4	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
<b>Lead (Pb&amp;Cu Rule/Tap Monitoring)</b> September 2007 October 2007	N	9 11	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
<b>Nitrate (as Nitrogen) Year 2007</b> SP01A Average Range SP02 Jan 2, 2007 SP05 Average Range SP06 Average Range SP08 Average Range SP09 Average Range SP10 Average Range	N	4.8 3.8-6.1 6.9 6.6 5.3-8 7.7 6.7-8.6 5.3 4.5-6.3 5.2 3.9-9 6.9 6.4-7.4	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
<b>Selenium</b> Jan. 19, 2007 SP01A Feb. 27, 2007 SP08 April 19, 2007 SP05 SP09	N	ND 6 ND ND	ppb	50	50	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines
<b>Sodium</b> Jan. 19, 2007 SP01A Feb. 27, 2007 SP08 April 19, 2007 SP05 SP09	N	56 72 69 63	ppm	None	None	Natural occurring
<b>Volatile Organic Contaminants</b>						

TEST RESULTS						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>TTHM</b> [Total trihalomethanes] Jan. 19, 2007 SP01A Feb. 27, 2007 SP08 April 19, 2007 SP05 SP09	N	ND ND ND 3.1	ppb	0	100	By-product of drinking water chlorination
<b>Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts</b>						
<b>TTHM</b> (Total trihalomethanes) July 24, 2007	N	4.36	ppb	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
<b>HAA5</b> (Haloacetic Acids) July 24, 2007	N	ND	ppb	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination

What does this mean?

As you can see by the table, our system had no violations. We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected. The EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels.

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant you should ask advice from your health care provider. As a precaution we always notify physicians and health care providers in this area if there is ever a higher than normal level of nitrates in the water supply.

While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the cost of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

In 1995, EPA issued state-wide monitoring waivers indefinitely for the following four SOCs and no monitoring is required: diquat, endothall, glyphosate, and 2,3,7,8-TCDD (dioxin). EPA also issued a state-wide monitoring waiver for asbestos except for systems whose distribution system may contain asbestos-cement pipe.

We test for a total of 76 contaminants. Those of which were undetected, are not included in the table. A list is available upon request.

Some of our data in the tables are more than one year old, since certain chemical contaminants are monitored less than once a year. Our sampling frequency complies with EPA drinking water regulations.

The sources of drinking water include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it can dissolve naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive materials. The water can also pick up substances such as:

- 1) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural operations and wildlife.

- 2) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic waste water discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- 3) Pesticides and Herbicides, which may come from agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- 4) Organic chemical contaminants, which can come from industrial processes, gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.
- 5) Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to insure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA establishes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration establishes limits for contaminants in bottled water.

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 a half gallon of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

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 (800-426-4791) or EPA (800-227-8917).

If you would like to learn more about the City of Torrington's water and Reverse Osmosis, please visit our webpage <http://www.city-of-torrington.org/water.htm>. We at the City of Torrington work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap.

The Torrington Municipal Water System has increased preventative security measures to protect the water supply from vandalism and can use everyone's help to ensure the success of these measures. Please help keep our water safe by reporting any suspicious activities near any City Buildings, Water Tanks, Fire Hydrants, etc. to the Torrington Dispatch at 532-7001 24 hours/day. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.