



2015

Annual Water Quality Report

Pontiac District
PWS ID: IL1055030



A Message from Illinois American Water President

To Our Valued Customer:

Illinois American Water is proud to be your local water service provider, and I am pleased to share with you good news about the quality of your drinking water. Each year, we provide you with our Annual Water Quality Report - and like so many years prior - we continue to supply water that meets or surpasses all state and federal water quality regulations.

This is no small task. Our employees, many of whom are also your neighbors, work hard every day to provide services critical for public health, safety and economic development.

Your drinking water is monitored around the clock and tested at every stage of the treatment process. Our team is proud of this commitment to you. They are also proud of our commitment to the community in which they not only work, but live.

We know first-hand how precious our water is, so we work hard to not only protect it, but to educate about the value of water and wise water use. You may see us at local community events or hear about our mobile education center visiting your child's classroom to offer hands-on water lessons. We also provide information through our online learning center. Please visit it at www.illinoisamwater.com/learning-center.

Our team has also continued our commitment to infrastructure investments - investments that keep water pipes, fire hydrants, and water treatment facilities in good condition. Annually, we invest over \$80 million to ensure quality water service delivered right to your tap.

At Illinois American Water, our customers are our top priority. We are committed to providing you with the highest quality drinking water and service possible. Please take time to review this water quality report as it provides details about the source and quality of the drinking water delivered to you in 2015. If you have suggestions or comments, please contact me at ilaw.president@amwater.com.

Thanks for allowing us to serve you.

Sincerely,

Bruce Hauk
President



Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

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What is a Water Quality Report?

Illinois American Water issues a report annually describing the quality of your drinking water in compliance with state and United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) regulations. The purpose of this report is to increase understanding of drinking water standards and raise awareness of the need to protect your drinking water sources.

At our state-of-the-art research laboratory in Belleville, Illinois, we conduct over 57,000 tests per year, checking drinking water quality at every stage of the water treatment and delivery process. In 2015, we conducted tests for hundreds of contaminants, including those with federal and state maximum allowable levels. This report provides an overview of last year's (2015) water quality results. It includes details about your water and what it contains.

Partnership for Safe Drinking Water Program

Illinois American Water's Pontiac District is a volunteer participant in the USEPA's Partnership for Safe Water, a National program designed to achieve operational excellence in water treatment. In 2010 Illinois American Water's Pontiac District was awarded the prestigious "Ten-Year Director's Award" under the Partnership for Safe Water Program. The award honors water utilities for achieving operational excellence, by voluntarily optimizing their treatment facility operations and adopting more stringent performance goals than those required by federal and state drinking water standards. We are proud to report that we have maintained those standards throughout 2015.



Source Water Information

Illinois EPA considers all surface water sources of community water supply to be susceptible to potential pollution problems, hence, the reason for mandatory treatment for all surface water supplies in Illinois. Mandatory treatment includes coagulation, sedimentation, filtration, and disinfection. The Pontiac Water Treatment Facility withdraws water for treatment from an intake located on the Vermilion River. Water is also alternately stored and withdrawn from a nearby reservoir. The Vermilion River is subject to a variety of influences including agricultural, municipal, and industrial activities. Farm chemicals including nitrates may be seasonally elevated in the river. Extensive monitoring and treatment ensure high-quality water service regardless of variations in the source water. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) has completed a source water assessment for the Pontiac system and a copy is available.

Environmental Stewardship

Water is one of the earth's most precious natural resources. Protecting the environment helps to ensure adequate water supply for generations. Our efforts include student education, community events, environmental partnerships and internal initiatives.

Student Education: Illinois American Water reaches thousands of students each year through educational efforts. Our water quality team visits local schools to demonstrate the water treatment process. Our Mobile Education Center (MEC), an 18-foot learning center, offers hands-on water testing and fun lesson plans. These lesson plans can also be found at our website – www.illinoisamwater.com – in the learning center. We partner with Illinois leaders on Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) education efforts. Students participate in annual community events like the Clean Water Celebration held in Peoria and the Water Festival in Godfrey.

Community Events: We participate in the "It's Our River Day" celebrations each September across the state. These events promote education, recreation and conservation within Illinois watersheds. Illinois American Water employees volunteer at the Mississippi Earthtones Festival in Alton. We also contribute to river cleanup efforts with the Illinois River Sweep, Vermillion River Clean Up, Living Lands and Waters Great Mississippi River Clean Up, and more.

Environmental Partnerships: As a part of our Environmental Grant Program we presented over \$15,000 in 2015 for six environmental projects focused on the improvement, restoration and protection of water sources in our communities. We are continuing our multi-year agreement with Great Rivers Land Trust to reduce sedimentation of the Piasa Creek and Mississippi River. The agreement has been highlighted as a model by the USEPA. Our Champaign County team partners on the Mahomet Aquifer Consortium to protect our precious resources.

Pharmaceutical Disposal Programs: Illinois American Water has collaborated with communities to implement over 35 pharmaceutical disposal programs across the state. These efforts have led to the prevention of flushing medications and the proper disposal of hundreds of thousands pounds of unwanted medications. To learn more or to find a disposal location near you, please visit www.illinoisamwater.com under Water Quality & Stewardship.

Internal Initiatives: On a daily basis, our facilities utilize technologies such as variable frequency motors and motion sensor lighting to ensure efficient energy use. Recycling programs at company facilities also help to reduce waste and protect the environment. Illinois American Water incorporates native and prairie plantings on company property whenever possible to reduce water use and mowing costs.

The company's newest water treatment plant in Champaign County earned the first LEED® certification for a water treatment facility in Illinois. LEED is the nation's leading program for the design, construction and operation of high-performance green buildings. In addition, an upgrade at the water treatment plant in Peoria includes the incorporation of ultraviolet (UV) technology to enhance water quality.

Illinois American Water's Pontiac and Streator Districts installed ultrasonic units to effectively control algae and reduce the use of treatment chemicals. Illinois American Water also implemented solar power in the Peoria and Interurban (Metro East) Districts, decreasing electricity costs and benefiting our customers.

American Water

American Water is the largest and most geographically diverse publicly traded U.S. water and wastewater utility company. Marking its 130th anniversary in 2016, the company employs 6,700 dedicated professionals who provide regulated and market-based drinking water, wastewater, and other related services to an estimated 15 million people in 47 states and Ontario, Canada. More information can be found by visiting www.amwater.com.

Illinois American Water

Illinois American Water, a subsidiary of American Water (NYSE: AWK), is the largest investor-owned water utility in the state, providing high-quality and reliable water and/or wastewater services to approximately 1.2 million people. American Water also operates a customer service center in Alton and a quality control and research laboratory in Belleville.

Questions?

To learn more about water quality, visit our website at: www.illinoisamwater.com. For questions or copies contact Elizabeth Doellman, Water Quality Supervisor, at elizabeth.doellman@amwater.com or 217-373-3273.

Water Information Sources

Illinois American Water www.illinoisamwater.com

United States Environmental Protection Agency
www.epa.gov/safewater

Safe Drinking Water Hotline: 800-426-4791
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
www.epa.state.il.us

Surf Your Watershed

Locate your watershed and a host of information
<http://cfpub.epa.gov/surf/locate/index.cfm>

Envirofacts

Access to U.S. environmental data www.epa.gov/enviro

Substances Expected to be in 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 can acquire naturally occurring minerals, in some cases, radioactive material and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Substances 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, or wildlife.

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

Pesticides and Herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.

Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, may also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive Contaminants can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To ensure that tap water is of high quality, USEPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain substances in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. Illinois American Water's advanced water treatment processes are designed to reduce any such substances to levels well below any health concern.

A Message for People with Severely Weakened Immune Systems

Cryptosporidium is a protozoan found in untreated surface waters throughout the United States (the organism is generally not present in a ground water source). Although filtration removes *Cryptosporidium*, the most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100% removal. Ingestion of *Cryptosporidium* may cause cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, people with severely weakened immune systems have a risk of developing life-threatening illness. We encourage such people to consult their doctors regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. *Cryptosporidium* must be ingested to cause disease, and it is spread through means other than drinking water.

USEPA issued a new rule in 2006 that requires systems with higher *Cryptosporidium* levels in their source water to provide additional treatment. Our monitoring of our source water (Mississippi River) indicates the presence of this organism, but it is at levels low enough that no supplemental treatment is required by USEPA.

Important Health Information

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these 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 USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline 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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. USEPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 800-426-4791.

LEAD

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. Illinois American Water 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>.

How to Read the Data Tables

Illinois American Water conducts extensive monitoring to ensure that your water meets all water quality standards. The results of our monitoring are reported in the data tables. While most monitoring was conducted in 2015, certain substances are monitored less than once per year because the levels do not change frequently. For help with interpreting these tables, see the "Table Definitions" section and footnotes.

Table Definitions and Abbreviations

- **Action Level:** The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- **Amount Detected:** In most cases this column is the highest detected level unless compliance is calculated on a Running Annual Average or Locational Running Annual Average
- **Compliance Achieved:** Indicates that the levels found were all within the allowable levels as determined by the USEPA.
- **MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- **MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal):** 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.
- **MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level):** The highest level of disinfectant routinely allowed in drinking water. Addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- **MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal):** 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 contamination.
- **NA:** Not applicable
- **ND:** Not detectable at testing limits
- **pCi/L (picocuries per liter):** Measurement of the natural rate of disintegration of radioactive contaminants in water (also beta particles).

- ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water, or milligrams per liter.
- ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water, or micrograms per liter.
- Range Of Detections: The range of individual sample results, from lowest to highest, that were collected during the sample period.
- S: Single sample

2015 Water Quality Information

We are pleased to report that during the past year, the water delivered to your home or business complied with, or was better than, all state and federal drinking water requirements.

For your information, we have compiled a table showing what substances were detected in your drinking water during 2015. Although all of the substances listed are under the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), we feel it is important that you know exactly what was detected and how much of the substance was present in your water.

Water Quality Data (Detected regulated substances leaving the treatment plant)

Substance (units)	Year Sampled	MCLG	MCL	Amount Detected	Range of Detections	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L)*	2010	0	15	2.0	S	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits
Atrazine (ppb) ¹	2015	3	3	0.3	0 - 0.3	Yes	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Fluoride (ppm) ³	2015	4	4	0.9	0.8 - 1.0	Yes	Erosion of Natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (ppm) ⁴	2015	10	10	7	0.2 - 7.2	Yes	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Total Organic Carbon (ppm, removal factor) ⁵	2015	NA	$TT \geq 1.0$	1.2	0 - 2.6	Yes	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity (NTU) ⁶	2015	NA	$TT \leq 1.0$	0.7	NA	Yes	Soil Runoff
Turbidity (NTU) ⁶	2015	NA	$TT \geq 95\%$	99%	NA	Yes	Soil runoff

*The state of Illinois requires monitoring for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though accurate, is more than one year old.

¹Some people who drink water containing atrazine well in excess of the MCL over many years could experience problems with their cardiovascular system or have an increased risk of getting cancer.

²The MCL for Beta/photon emitters is written as 4 millirem/year (a measure of the rate of radioactive decay). The EPA considers 50 pCi/L as the level of concern for beta emitters.

³Fluoride is added to the water supply to help promote strong teeth. The Illinois Department of Public Health recommends an optimal fluoride level of 0.9 mg/L to 1.2 mg/L.

⁴The value in the "amount detected" column is the maximum detected for the year. Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants less than 6 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.

⁵Total organic carbon (TOC) has no health effects. However, TOC provides a means for the formation of disinfection by-products. One way to minimize disinfection by-product formation is to remove a specific percentage of the TOC present in the source water. The numbers in the Amount Detected and Range columns are the TOC removal factors, where the removal factor is defined as the actual percent TOC removal divided by the required percent removal. A value of 1.00 or greater in the Amount Detected column indicates that compliance with the removal requirement was achieved.

⁶Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. The treatment technique requires that at least 95% of routine samples are less than or equal to 0.3 NTU, and no sample exceeds 1 NTU. We are reporting the lowest monthly percentage of all readings meeting the standard of 0.3 NTU, plus the single highest reading for the year.

Water Quality Data (Detected regulated substances in the distribution system)

Substance (Units)	Year Sampled	MCLG/MRDLG	MCL/MRDL	Amount Detected	Range of Detections	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb) ⁷	2015	NA	80	15.6	5.4 – 22.7	Yes	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (ppb) ⁷	2015	NA	60	18.2	7.3 – 26.2	Yes	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chloramines (ppm) ⁸	2015	4	4	2.5	2 – 3	Yes	Water additive used to control microbes
Total Coliform Bacteria ⁹	2015	0	5%	1	0 – 1	Yes	Naturally Present in the Environment

⁷Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids, also known as Disinfection By-Products (DBPs), are formed by the reaction of the chlorine disinfectant with naturally occurring organics found in the source water. Some people who drink water containing DBPs in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their livers, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Not all sample results may have been used for calculating the Highest Level Detected because some results may be part of an evaluation to determine where compliance sampling should occur in the future.

⁸Chlorine and chloramines are a disinfecting agent added to control microbes that otherwise could cause waterborne diseases or other water quality concerns. Most water systems in Illinois are required by law to add either chlorine or chloramines. Levels well in excess of the MRDL could cause irritation of the eyes or nose in some people. The values reported reflect multiple locations in the service area.

⁹Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present. If coliforms were found in more samples than allowed then it could be an indication of potential problems.

Lead and Copper (Collected at customers' taps)

Substance (Units)	Year Sampled	MCLG	MCL	90 th Percentile	Number of Samples Collected	Number of Samples Above Action Level	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source
Copper (ppm) ^{*10}	2014	1.3	AL = 1.3	0.223	30	0	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb) ^{*10}	2014	0	AL = 15	3	30	1	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

*The state of Illinois requires monitoring for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though accurate, is more than one year old.

¹⁰Compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) is determined by the levels of lead and copper found in samples taken from customers' taps. LCR requirements are met if the 90th percentile of all samples taken does not exceed the action level of 15 ppb for lead or 1.300 ppm for copper.

State Regulated Substances

Substance (Units)	Year Sampled	MCL	Amount Detected	Range of Detections	Typical Source
Sodium (ppm) ¹¹	2015	NA	13.8	S	Erosion of naturally occurring deposits; Byproduct of home water softening.
Manganese (ppb) ¹²	2015	150	16	S	Erosion of naturally occurring deposits.

¹¹An MCL for this contaminant has not been established by either state or federal regulations, nor has mandatory health effects language been set. The purpose of this monitoring is to provide information to consumers and health officials that are concerned about sodium intake due to dietary precautions. If you are on a sodium-restricted diet, you should consult a physician about this level of sodium in the water

¹²Excessive manganese in the water may cause staining of plumbing fixtures and laundry. It may also produce an unpleasant taste in beverages, including coffee and tea.

*The state of Illinois requires monitoring for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though accurate, is more than one year old.