



2016 Annual

# Water Quality Report

Sterling District  
PWS ID: IL1955040



## 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 at [www.illinoisamwater.com](http://www.illinoisamwater.com).

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 approximately \$70 - \$100 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 2016.

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 thousands of tests per year, checking drinking water quality at every stage of the water treatment and delivery process. In 2016, 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 (2016) water quality results. It includes details about your water and what it contains.

## Source Water Information

The source of supply for Illinois American Water's Sterling District is groundwater. Two water treatment facilities are served by seven wells, which are drilled into local aquifers. An aquifer is a porous underground formation (such as sand and gravel or sandstone) that is saturated with water. The East Facility has a capacity of 2.5 million gallons per day (MGD) and is supplied by four wells. The West Facility is supplied by the remaining three wells and has a capacity of 2.1 MGD.

The deep sandstone aquifer that provides water for several of the Sterling wells is subject to naturally occurring radium. In 2002, Illinois American Water installed radium removal treatment to keep radium below levels of concern. The Illinois EPA has determined that the IAWC-Sterling Community Water Supply's source water for wells #6 and #7 is susceptible to IOC, VOC, and SOC contamination. The land use within the recharge areas of the wells was analyzed as part of this susceptibility determination. This land use includes municipal, commercial, and industrial properties. However, as a result of monitoring conducted at the wells and entry point to the distribution system and the land use activities, IAWC-Sterling's source water for wells #1, #2, #3, #4, and #8 is not susceptible to IOC, VOC, or SOC contamination. Furthermore, based on the U.S. EPA's Ground Water Rule regulations, the Illinois EPA has determined that IAWC-Sterling's community water supply wells #1, #2, #3, #4 and #8 are not vulnerable. This determination is based upon the fact that the following criteria were evaluated during the Vulnerability Waiver Process: these wells are properly constructed with sound integrity and proper site conditions; all potential routes and sanitary defects have been mitigated such that the source water is adequately protected; monitoring data did not indicate a history of disease outbreak; and the sanitary survey of the wells did not indicate a viral contamination threat. However, having stated this, the "[U.S.] EPA is proposing to require States to identify systems in karst, gravel and fractured rock aquifer systems as sensitive and these systems must perform routine source water monitoring". Because the facility's wells are constructed in both confined and unconfined aquifer systems, the Illinois EPA evaluated the well hydraulics associated with IAWC-Sterling's well fields. Wells #1, #2, #3, #4, and #8 have a confining layer above the portion of the aquifer contributing a significant quantity of groundwater to the screened interval. This should provide an adequate degree of protection to prevent the movement of pathogens into the wells. Based on the degree of protection, the facility's VOC, SOC, and IOC Vulnerability Waiver for the treatment application point (TAP01) #1 was renewed in 2011.

Due to a favorable monitoring history, aquifer characteristics and inventory for potential sources of contamination, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) has granted Sterling a monitoring waiver that reduces the frequency of required monitoring for cyanide as well as volatile and synthetic organic chemicals.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) has completed a source water assessment for the Sterling system and a copy is available upon request by calling Laura Marcasciano, Water Quality Specialist, at 630-739-8846. To view a summary version of the completed Source Water Assessments, including: Importance of Source Water; Susceptibility to Contamination Determination; and documentation / recommendation of Source Water Protection Efforts, you may access the Illinois EPA website at <http://www.epa.state.il.us/cgi-bin/wp/swap-fact-sheets.pl>.

## 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. 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 and 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 over \$175,000 has been awarded to over 45 Illinois water source protection projects since 2009. In 2016, we presented over \$15,000 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](http://www.illinoisamwater.com) under Water Quality.

**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 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

With a history dating back to 1886, American Water is the largest and most geographically diverse U.S. publicly-traded water and wastewater utility company. The company employs more than 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](http://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 1.3 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](http://www.illinoisamwater.com). For questions or copies, contact Laura Marcasciano, Water Quality Specialist, at 630-739-8846.

**Illinois American Water**  
[www.illinoisamwater.com](http://www.illinoisamwater.com)

**United States Environmental Protection Agency**  
[www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water](http://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water)

**Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA)**  
[www.epa.illinois.gov](http://www.epa.illinois.gov)

**Envirofacts**  
Access to U.S. environmental data  
<https://www3.epa.gov/enviro>

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**  
[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

**American Water Works Association**  
[www.drinktap.org](http://www.drinktap.org)

**Safe Drinking Water Hotline: 800-426-4791**  
<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/safe-drinking-water-hotline>

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

## 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, which 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.

## 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 2016, 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 (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- **Compliance Achieved:** Indicates that the levels found were all within the allowable levels as determined by the USEPA.
- **Highest Level 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. If multiple entry points exist, the data from the entry point with the highest value is reported.
- **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.

## 2016 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 2016. 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 Results

### 2016 Regulated Substances Detected

Lead and Copper								
	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	2014	1.3	1.3	0.916	1	ppm	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead <sup>1</sup>	2014	0	15	2	0	ppb	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.

<sup>1</sup> 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. We are 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.

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>.

Disinfectants & Disinfection Byproducts	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
HAAAs (Halolacetic Acids)	2016	6	3.2-6.1	No goal for the total	60	ppb	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes)	2016	42	31.6-42.2	No goal for the total	80	ppb	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Chlorine <sup>2</sup>	2016	1.0	0.9-1.23	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	ppm	No	Water additive used to control microbes.

<sup>2</sup> Chlorine and chloramines are disinfecting agents 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.

Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium	2015	0.1	ND-0.1	2	2	ppm	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	2015	1.19	0.99-1.19	4	4.0	ppm	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Sodium <sup>3</sup>	2015	128.6	4.5-128.6	N/A	N/A	ppm	No	Erosion from naturally occurring deposits: Used in water softener regeneration.

<sup>3</sup> There is no state or federal MCL for sodium. Monitoring is required 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.

Radiological Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Beta/photon emitters <sup>4</sup>	2015	4.67 pCi/L	4.67-4.67 pCi/L	0	4	mrem/y	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.
Combined Radium 226/228	2016	1	0.725-0.725	0	5	pCi/L	No	Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross Alpha emitters	2016	6	5.9-5.9	0	15	pCi/L	No	Erosion of natural deposits.

<sup>4</sup> The MCL for Beta/photon emitters is written as 4 millirem/year (measure of rate of radiation absorbed by the body). Laboratory results are reported in pCi/L as we have on the table above. EPA considers 50 pCi/L as the level of concern for beta emitters.

Note: The state requires monitoring of certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Therefore, some of this data may be more than one year old.

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