

2008 Annual Water Quality Report



Beechcrest

PWS ID: OH6705212

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

A Message from the President

Dear Ohio American Water Customer,

As a trusted leader in the industry, Ohio American Water places a strong emphasis on sharing information with our customers about the quality of the water service we provide.

One way we do this is by reporting to you annually the results of various tests that we conduct. Please review this Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), which outlines information applicable to your local water system for testing completed through December 2008. You'll find that we provide water service that surpasses or meets all federal and state water quality regulations. In fact, we often address regulations well before they go into effect.

Just as important, Ohio American Water makes the necessary investments to maintain and upgrade its facilities so that we can provide quality water service to your home 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Our customers are our top priority. We are committed to providing the highest quality drinking water service possible now and in the years to come. In addition to this written report, you can view information about Ohio American Water and your water system on the website <http://www.oawc.com>. For more information or for any questions about this report relating to your drinking water service, please contact us at (800) 673-5999.

Sincerely,

David K. Little

President, Ohio American Water

About Ohio American Water

Ohio American Water is one of the state's largest investor-owned water resource companies, serving more than 200,000 residents in more than 59 communities. Ohio American Water has nearly a century of experience in the state and takes pride in being caretakers of this precious natural resource. We work tirelessly to ensure your water meets all standards of purity and safety. At Ohio American Water our goal is to provide our customers the highest quality of water and service so that they may enjoy and use with confidence.

About American Water

Founded in 1886, American Water is the largest investor-owned U.S. water and wastewater utility company. With headquarters in Voorhees, N.J., the company employs more than 7,000 dedicated professionals who provide drinking water, wastewater and other related services to approximately 15 million people in 32 states and Ontario, Canada. More information can be found by visiting www.amwater.com.

Investing in Beechcrest's Future

Ohio American Water continually invests in improvements to the Beechcrest Water System. Ohio American Water believes in its role of good citizenship and proudly contributes a substantial amount in local taxes annually and is a valuable source of revenue to the local community and its services.

What is a Water Quality Report?

To comply with state and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations, Ohio American Water issues a report annually describing the quality of your drinking water. The purpose of this report is to raise your understanding of drinking water and awareness of the need to protect your drinking water sources. This report provides an overview of last year's (2008) water quality. It includes details about where your water comes from and what it contains.

If you have any questions about this report or your drinking water, please call our Customer Service Center at (800) 673-5999.

Source Water Information

Beechcrest Water System (Brimfield Township)

The water system is connected to the Brimfield Water Treatment Plant, which is part of the Portage County water system. The Brimfield Plant also obtains ground water from an underground aquifer. The plant produced 122.9 million gallons of water in 2008.

Protecting Your Water Source

Beechcrest Water System (Brimfield Township)

The sources of drinking water, for 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 can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. The aquifer that supplies drinking water to the Brimfield area has a high susceptibility to contamination, due to the sensitive nature of the aquifer in which the drinking water wells are located and existing potential contamination sources identified. Portage County Water Resources vigilantly safeguards its ground water supplies. Future contamination may be avoided by implementing protective measures, and once again we are able to report that the department has never had a violation of a contaminant level or of any other water quality standard. 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 Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791). Contaminants which may become present in source water include:

- (A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural or 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 runoff, and residential uses;
- (D) Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which can come from industry, 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. Portage County Water Resources has actively monitored the area around its well field for twenty-six (26) years to protect it from potential pollution. Ohio EPA has approved the Brimfield "Wellhead Protection Area Delineation" and has prepared a "Drinking Water Source Assessment" on the Brimfield well field area. This document can be found on our web site at www.portageco.com/waterresources.htm. There are presently no known sources of pollution affecting our ground water and we intend to use public education and constant monitoring to continually improve our protection program. We need the cooperation of everyone living and working in the area where our water originates to prevent contamination.

How to Contact Us

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Michael Perriguet at (740) 383-0926. You can also contact Mr. Perriguet by e-mail at michael.perriguet@amwater.com.

For questions about your water bill or service issues, please call our Customer Service Center at (800) 673-5999.

To learn more about Ohio American Water, please visit our web site at www.oawc.com.

Water Information Sources

- **Ohio American Water**
www.oawc.com
- **Ohio Environmental Protection Agency**
www.epa.state.oh.us
- **United States Environmental Protection Agency**
www.epa.gov/safewater
- **Safe Drinking Water Hotline:** (800) 426-4791
- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**
www.cdc.gov
- **American Water Works Association**
www.awwa.org
- **Water Quality Association**
www.wqa.org
- **National Library of Medicine/
National Institute of Health**
www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus

How to Read This Table

Portage County Water Resources and Ohio American Water conduct extensive monitoring to ensure that your water meets all water quality standards. The results of our monitoring are reported in the accompanying tables. While most monitoring was conducted in 2008, certain substances are monitored less than once per year because the levels do not change frequently. For help with interpreting this table, see the "Table Definitions" section.

Begin by reading across the table starting with the **Substance** column heading. The **Year Sampled** is usually in 2008 or the prior year. **MCLG** is the goal level for that substance (this may be lower than what is allowed). **MCL** shows the highest level of substance (contaminant) allowed. **Level Found** represents the measured amount (less is better). **Range of Detections** tells the highest and lowest amounts measured. A **Yes** under **Compliance Achieved** means the amount of the substance met government requirements. **Typical Source** tells where the substance usually originates.

Unregulated substances are measured, but maximum contaminant levels have not been established by the government.

Definitions of Terms Used in This Report

- **AL (Action Level):** The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements, which a water system must follow.
- **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 allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that 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
- **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.

Water Quality Statement

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 list in the table below indicating what substances were detected in your drinking water during 2008. Although all of the substances listed below are under the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) set by the EPA, we feel it is important that you know exactly what was detected and how much of the substance was present in the water.

Water Quality Results

Portage County Resources (Brimfield Plant) Serving Beechcrest

Regulated Substances (Measured on the Water Leaving the Treatment Facility)							
Substance (units)	Year Sampled	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Range of Detections (Low-High)	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source
Fluoride (ppm)	2008	4	4	1.00	0.96 - 1.03	YES	Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (ppm)	2007	2	2	0.068	NA	YES	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries
Chromium (ppb)	2007	100	100	11	NA	YES	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (ppm)	2008	10	10	0.59	NA	YES	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Unregulated Substances (Measured on the Water Leaving the Treatment Facility)							
Substance (units)	Year Sampled	Level Found		Range of Detections (Low-High)		Typical Source	
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	2007	4.2		NA		By-product of drinking water disinfection	
Chloroform (ppb)	2007	3.5		NA		By-product of drinking water disinfection	
Dibromochloromethane (ppb)	2007	2.6		NA		By-product of drinking water disinfection	

Beechcrest System

Compounds (Measured in the Distribution System)							
Substance (units)	Year Sampled	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Range of Detections (Low-High)	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source
Total trihalomethanes - TTHM (ppb)	2008	NA	80	50.4	NA	YES	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids - HAA5 (ppb)	2008	NA	60	14.7	NA	YES	By-product of drinking water chlorination
IDSE - Total Trihalomethanes - TTHM (ppb) ¹	2008	NA	80	NA	34.4 - 43.0	YES	By-product of drinking water chlorination
IDSE - Haloacetic Acids - HAA5 (ppb) ¹	2008	NA	60	NA	9.0 - 11.3	YES	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Substance (units)	Year Sampled	MRDLG	MRDL	Level Found	Range of Detections (Low-High)	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source
Chlorine (ppm)	2008	4	4	1.08	0.34 - 1.49	YES	Water additive used to control microbes
Tap Water Samples: Lead and Copper Result							
Substance (units)	Year Sampled	MCLG	Action Level	90th Percentile	Number of Samples Above Action Level	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source
Copper (ppm)	2006	1.3	1.3	0.308	0	YES	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2006	0	15	4	0	YES	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

¹ Under the Stage 2 Disinfectants/Disinfection By-products rule (D/DBPR), our public water system was required by USEPA to conduct an evaluation of our distribution system. This is known as an Initial Distribution System Evaluation (IDSE), and is intended to identify locations in our distribution system with elevated disinfection by-product concentrations. The locations selected for the IDSE may be used for compliance monitoring under Stage 2 DBPR, beginning in 2012. Disinfection by-products are the result of providing continuous disinfection of your drinking water and form when disinfectants combine with organic matter naturally occurring in the source water. Disinfection by-products are grouped into two categories, Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) and Haloacetic Acid (HAA5). USEPA sets standards for controlling the levels of disinfectants and disinfection by-products in drinking water, including both TTHMs and HAA5.

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 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:

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 be naturally occurring or may result from urban stormwater 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 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 may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

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

Special Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791. For additional information regarding cryptosporidiosis (a gastrointestinal disease caused by Cryptosporidium) and how it may impact those with weakened immune systems, please contact our Customer Service Center at (800) 673-5999.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drinking, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (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 EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.