



## City of Aurora

### Annual Water Quality Report For January 1 to December 31, 2017

This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the City of Aurora water system to provide safe drinking water.

**Para Clientes Que Hablan Español:** Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre el agua que usted bebe. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

For more information regarding this report, or to request a hard copy, contact:

**ADAM C DARBRO**  
402-694-6992

If you would like to observe the decision-making processes that affect drinking water quality, please attend the regularly scheduled meeting of the City Council. If you would like to participate in the process, please contact the City Clerk to arrange to be placed on the agenda of the meeting of the City Council.

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's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

#### **Source Water Assessment Availability:**

The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) has completed the Source Water Assessment. Included in the assessment are a Wellhead Protection Area map, potential contaminant source inventory, vulnerability rating, and source water protection information. To view the Source Water Assessment or for more information please contact the person named above on this report or the NDEQ at (402) 471-6988 or go to [www.deq.state.ne.us](http://www.deq.state.ne.us).

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

#### **Sources of Drinking Water:**

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and groundwater 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.

The source of water used by City of Aurora is ground water.

#### **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 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, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- \* Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

#### **Drinking Water Health Notes:**

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 microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, Office of Drinking Water at 402-471-2541.

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. All Community water systems 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. 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 (800-426-4791), at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead> or at the DHHS/DPH/Office of Drinking Water (402-471-2541).

The City of Aurora is required to test for the following contaminants: Coliform Bacteria, Antimony, Arsenic, Asbestos, Barium, Beryllium, Cadmium, Chromium, Copper, Cyanide, Fluoride, Lead, Mercury, Nickel, Nitrate, Nitrite, Selenium, Sodium, Thallium, Alachlor, Atrazine, Benzo(a)pyrene, Carbofuran, Chlordane, Dalapon, Di(2-ethylhexyl)adipate, Dibromochloropropane, Dinoseb, Di(2-ethylhexyl)- phthalate, Diquat, 2,4-D, Endothall, Endrin, Ethylene dibromide, Glyphosate, Heptachlor, Heptachlor epoxide, Hexachlorobenzene, Hexachlorocyclopentadiene,

Lindane, Methoxychlor, Oxamyl (Vydate), Pentachlorophenol, Picloram, Polychlorinated biphenyls, Simazine, Toxaphene, Dioxin, Silvex, Benzene, Carbon Tetrachloride, o-Dichloro- benzene, Para-Dichlorobenzene, 1,2-Dichloroethane, 1,1-Dichloroethylene, Cis-1,2,-Dichloroethylene, Trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene, Dichloromethane, 1,2-Dichloropropane, Ethylbenzene, Monochlorobenzene, 1,2,4-Trichloro- benzene, 1,1,1-Trichloroethane, 1,1,2-Trichloroethane, Trichloroethylene, Vinyl Chloride, Styrene, Tetrachloroethylene, Toluene, Xylenes (total), Gross Alpha (minus Uranium & Radium 226), Radium 226 plus Radium 228, Sulfate, Chloroform, Bromodichloromethane, Chlorodibromomethane, Bromoform, Chlorobenzene, m-Dichlorobenzene, 1,1-Dichloropropene, 1,1-Dichloroethane, 1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane, 1,2-Dichloropropane, Chloromethane, Bromomethane, 1,2,3-Trichloropropane, 1,1,1,2-Tetrachloroethane, Chloroethane, 2,2-Dichloropropane, o-Chlorotoluene, p-Chlorotoluene, Bromobenzene, 1,3-Dichloropropene, Aldrin, Butachlor, Carbaryl, Dicamba, Dieldrin, 3-Hydroxycarbofuran, Methomyl, Metolachlor, Metribuzin, Propachlor.

#### **How to Read the Water Quality Data Table:**

The EPA and State Drinking Water Program establish the safe drinking water regulations that limit the amount of contaminants allowed in drinking water. The table shows the concentrations of detected substances in comparison to the regulatory limits. Substances not detected are not included in the table. 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 older than one year.

**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.

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

**MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level)** – The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water.

**N/A** – Not applicable.

#### **Units in the Table:**

**ND** – Not detectable.

**ppm (parts per million) = mg/L (milligrams per liter)** – One ppm or one mg/L corresponds to 1 gallon of water in 1,000,000 gallons of water.

**ppb (parts per billion) = ug/L ( micrograms per liter)** – One ppb corresponds to 1 gallon of water in 1,000,000,000 gallons of water.

**pCi/L (Picocuries per liter)** – Radioactivity concentration unit.

**ug/L ( micrograms per liter)** – Measurement of radioactivity.

**RAA (Running Annual Average)** – An ongoing annual average calculation of data from the most recent four quarters.

**LRAA (Locational Running Annual Average)** – An ongoing annual average calculation of data from the most recent four quarters at each sampling location.

**90<sup>th</sup> Percentile** – Represents the highest value found out of 90% of the samples taken in a representative group. If the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile is greater than the action level, it will trigger a treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

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

This report will be published only. The City of Aurora will not make individual mailings of the 2017 Annual Water Quality Report but will have it available to the public at 905 13th Street, Aurora, Nebraska upon request.

Microbiological	Highest No. of Positive Samples	MCL	MCLG	Likely Source Of Contamination	Violations Present
COLIFORM (TCR)	In the month of November, 4 sample(s) were positive	MCL: Systems that Collect Less Than 40 Samples per Month - No more than 1 positive monthly sample	0	Naturally present in the environment	No

Lead and Copper	Monitoring Period	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	Range	Unit	AL	Sites Over AL	Likely Source Of Contamination
COPPER, FREE	2016 - 2018	1.27	0.189 - 1.56	ppm	1.3	2	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing.
LEAD	2016 - 2018	2.21	0.524 - 3.32	ppb	15	0	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing.

Regulated Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Likely Source Of Contamination
ARSENIC	12/15/2015	8.19	5.41 - 8.19	ppb	10	0	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
BARIUM	7/5/2016	0.172	0.172	ppm	2	2	Discharge from drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
CHROMIUM	7/5/2016	0.603	0.603	ppb	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits.
FLUORIDE	7/5/2016	0.383	0.383	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; Fertilizer discharge.
NITRATE-NITRITE	7/25/2017	11.4	1.52 - 11.4	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
SELENIUM	7/5/2016	6.64	6.64	ppb	50	50	Erosion of natural deposits

Radiological Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Likely Source Of Contamination
COMBINED RADIUM (-226 & -228)	7/25/2017	1.14	1.14	pCi/L	5	0	Erosion of natural deposits
COMBINED URANIUM	1/12/2015	7.59	7.59	pCi/l		0	Erosion of natural deposits
GROSS ALPHA, EXCL. RADON & U	1/12/2015	2.7	2.7	pCi/L	15	0	Erosion of natural deposits
GROSS ALPHA, INCL. RADON & U	7/25/2017	11.6	4.78 - 11.6	pCi/L	15	0	Erosion of natural deposits
RADIUM-228	7/25/2017	1.14	1.14	pCi/L		0	Erosion of natural deposits

Unregulated Water Quality Data	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	Secondary MCL
METOLACHLOR	7/11/2017	0.716	0.693 - 0.716	ppb	
SULFATE	5/9/2017	54	54	mg/L	250

During the 2017 calendar year, we had the below noted violation(s) of drinking water regulations.

Type	Category	Analyte	Compliance Period
MCL, AVERAGE	MCL	NITRATE-NITRITE	07/01/2017 - 09/30/2017

**The City of Aurora has taken the following actions to return to compliance with the Nebraska Safe Drinking Water Act:**

- Upon notification of the Acute Nitrate Violation for Well G-028310R, the City isolated the well from the distribution system. The well was reinstated to the distribution system after receiving the 4th quarter nitrate sample results proving it to be in compliance with DHHS regulations for governing public water systems.
- There are no additional required health effects violation notices.
- During the past year one Level 1 assessment(s) was required to be completed for our water system. One Level 1 assessment(s) was completed. In addition, we were required to take one corrective action and we completed one action.
- During the past year one Level 2 assessment(s) was required to be completed for our water system. One Level 2 assessment(s) was completed. In addition, we were required to take one corrective action and we completed one action.
- Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogen may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems within the distribution system. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessment(s) to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments. The City conducted a total of sixteen (16) repeat confirmation samples. These samples were taken from each of the original sites that had indicated the presence of coliform, also within five service connections upstream from the original site and five service connections downstream of the original site. The groundwater sources (wells) were also sampled. All sixteen (16) repeat sample results were negative for coliform.
- **Additional Required Health Effects Language:**  
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 costs 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. Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue baby syndrome.