

City of Wayland

"Committed to Excellence"

103 South Main Street, Wayland, MI 49348
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Residents and Customers of Drinking Wayland Water
FROM: Larry Nielsen, Interim Manager
RE: Wayland Drinking Water: Safe and Tested
DATE: October 17, 2017



Wayland drinking water is safe and tests well below State/Federal Maximum Contaminate Levels.

Wayland water supply is tested regularly as required by federal and State agencies. Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), Drinking Water Division requires community and noncommunity water systems to test for more than 70 contaminants. Wayland complies with all testing requirements. Tests look to compare the level of contaminants found in a water samples – if any - with what are called Maximum Contaminate Levels (MCL's). Any community or noncommunity water system that tests above any one of the 70+ MCL's is in violation of State standards. Michigan posts all violations on the internet at http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,4561,7-135-3313_3675_3691-62960-.00.html. Reports are posted online for a number of years.

For years 2009 through 2016, Wayland had no violations.

Wayland provides all testing data to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Drinking Water Division. The DEQ oversees all public water supplies in Michigan; municipal (community) or noncommunity systems. Through the DEQ Drinking Water Programs, The DEQ has primary enforcement authority in Michigan for the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act under the legislative authority of the Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act. As such, the DEQ has regulatory oversight for all public water supplies, including approximately 1,400 community water supplies and 10,000 noncommunity water supplies. The DEQ Community Water Supply Program oversees the primary EPA program that sets forth minimum standards for safe drinking water as well as administering the requirements of Michigan's Safe Drinking Water Act. The program's primary function is regulatory oversight of approximately 1,425 community public water supplies in Michigan.

People can learn more about MDEQ Drink Water Programs online at http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,4561,7-135-3313_3675---,00.html

The non-profit organization EWG provides a data base of water systems across the country. EWG uses California guidelines which are much lower than the Michigan and Federal MCL's. A part of this nonprofit organizations (EWG) mission is the endorsing of products and promoting of products for

everything from skin creams to food products to water filters. With regard to drinking water, the EWG data base says that Wayland water exceeded their California guidelines for 6 contaminants out of the 92 they test for. A comparison of their data and Wayland's data filed with the Michigan DEQ finds this claim greatly exaggerated. Nonetheless, EWG then suggests Wayland water customers may want to purchase a water filter provided by one of their 37 endorsed companies. Should Wayland water customers want to compare the data themselves, the following report may be of interest: all levels tested as parts per billion (definition follows)

<u>Contaminate Name</u>	Wayland Tested Level	<u>EWG Reported Level for Wayland</u>	Michigan/EPA MCL Level	<u>California Guideline</u>
Bromodichloromethane	2.5ppb	.833ppb	80ppb	0.4ppb
Trihalomethane	7.9ppb	2.63ppb	80ppb	0.8ppb
Bromoform	1ppb	333ppb	80ppb	0.5ppb
Chloroform	1.4ppb	467ppb	80ppb	1ppb
Flouride	0.743ppb Avg.	0.743 ppb Avg.	4ppb	none
Nitrate	1.8ppg Avg.	1.8ppb Avg.	10ppb	5ppg

As a reader can discern, our records supplied to the MDEQ Drinking Water Division and the EWG report does not match for all contaminants. Further, one can easily discern our reported numbers are well below Michigan and EPA MCL's.

What is a Part Per Billion and what does it mean? These analogies may help you visualize the understanding.

This means that the concentration of a particular substance is very low even though the regulatory agency may consider it a significant amount. Apart per million is 1 part in a 1,000,000 parts. One part per billion is 1 part in 1,000,000,000 parts. .

So, for 1 part in 1 million parts, think of putting four drops of ink in a 55-gallon barrel of water and mixing it thoroughly. This procedure would produce an ink concentration of 1 ppm. For a 1 part per billion think of adding the same four drops to 1,000 55 gallon drums of water. Would that be safe to drink? Well, that depends on what the ink is made of, and what was in the barrel before the water.

Other analogies:

- This is equivalent to about three seconds out of a century
- 1 ppb Analogies 1 silver dollar in a roll stretching from Detroit to Salt Lake City
- 1 sheet in a roll of toilet paper stretching from New York to London
- 1 second in nearly 32 years
- 1 pound/120 million gallons of water

Wayland water customers can always find our annual testing report online our website and in our annual Consumer Confidence Reports required by the MDEQ.

Bottom Line: Wayland Water is Safe!