

City of St. Louis Water Quality Report 2002

In compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act, the City of St. Louis Water Division is delivering this Water Quality Report to all its customers who receive water bills. **We ask that landlords, employers, and anyone else who receives the water bill for other water users share this report with them.** To obtain additional copies call (314) 771-2255 or view it online at <http://www.stlwater.com/quality.html>. The report summarizes information that your water system already collects to comply with regulations, including information on water from the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers, the levels of detected contaminants, and compliance with drinking water rules.

ST. LOUIS CITY WATER-A HISTORY OF EXCELLENCE

The Water Division is a branch of the St. Louis City government's Department of Public Utilities. Since 1835, we have been dedicated to supplying the highest quality water to our customers. We are proud to say that in 2002, our water met or exceeded the standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. In fact, we have never violated a water quality regulation in 97 years of testing.

Our scientists constantly monitor and test the water for over 150 possible contaminants. We analyze the water where it enters the plant as raw river water, throughout the treatment process, and at multiple points throughout the city. The frequency and thoroughness of these tests exceed federal regulations for water quality monitoring. Water quality monitoring of St. Louis City water in 2002 indicated that no compounds were detected above the allowable levels set by federal and state regulations.

The City of St. Louis Water Division is proud to be a charter member of the Partnership for Safe Water. In 1994, this organization was formed by 187 surface water utilities, several drinking water organizations including the American Water Works Association, and the Environmental Protection Agency. The Partnership's goal is to provide a new measure of safety to millions of Americans by improving water quality nationwide.

WHERE DOES THE WATER COME FROM?

The City of St. Louis Water Division has two water treatment plants. The Howard Bend Plant draws water from the Missouri River. The Chain of Rocks Plant is located on the Mississippi River south of the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers. The water reaching our intakes at the Chain of Rocks Plant is primarily Missouri River water because the two rivers have not fully mixed when the water reaches the plant. Together, the two plants produce an average of 150 million gallons of water each day.

READING THE TABLE

This report lists only those substances found in measurable quantities in St. Louis City's finished drinking water. While we test for 150 possible contaminants, traces of only 15 were detected in 2002. The results of the detected contaminants are listed in the table attached. All contaminants were detected in concentrations well below safe and acceptable limits.

WHAT ABOUT CONTAMINANTS?

All 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 (800-426-4791).

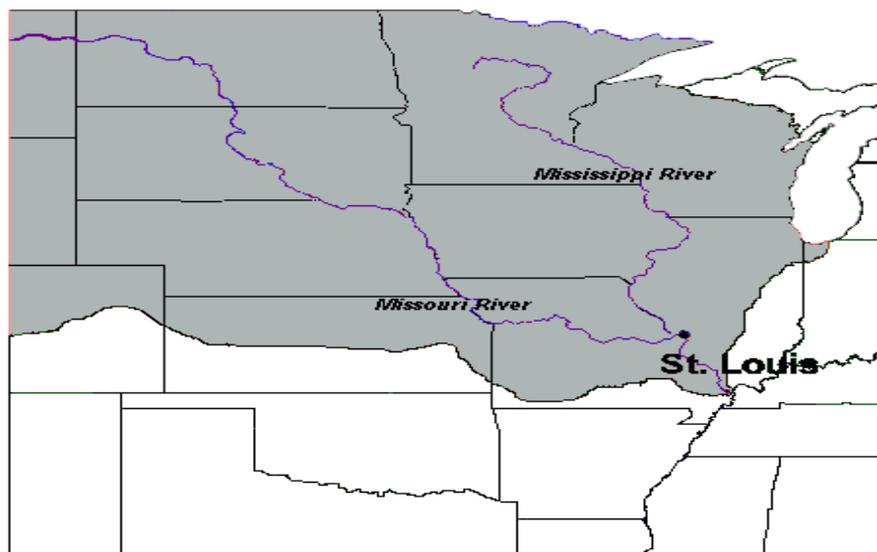
GIARDIA AND CRYPTOSPORIDIUM

Giardia and cryptosporidium are microscopic parasites that when ingested, can result in diarrhea, fever, and other gastrointestinal complications. These organisms are found in all rivers and streams and come from animal wastes in the watershed. They are eliminated by effective treatment including deactivation with chlorine and precipitative softening, sedimentation, flocculation and filtration. No cysts or oocysts have been detected in our finished water.

HEALTH RISKS

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 are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Watershed for the City of St. Louis



2002 WATER QUALITY REPORT
City of St. Louis Water Division

Detected Contaminants (units)	MCL	MCLG	Average Level Detected	Range	Major Sources of Contaminants
--------------------------------------	------------	-------------	-------------------------------	--------------	--------------------------------------

Inorganic Compounds

Barium (mg/L)	2	2	0.0159	0.0092-0.025.2	Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (µg/L)	100	100	1.03	0.73-1.32	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (mg/L)	4	4	1.01	0.76-1.34	Water additive for dental health
Nitrate (mg/L)	10	10	1.12	1.01-1.16	Natural Deposits; Fertilizer runoff
Nitrite (mg/L)	1	1	0.0123	0.009-0.015	Natural Deposits; Fertilizer runoff
Lead (µg/L)*	AL = 15	0	90 th Percentile=2.30	Number of samples above AL=0	Corrosion of household plumbing
Copper (mg/L)*	AL = 1.3	1.3	90 th Percentile=0.031	Number of samples above AL=0	Corrosion of household plumbing

Organic Compounds

Atrazine (µg/L)	3	3	0.336	ND-2.25	Herbicide runoff from row crops
-----------------	---	---	-------	---------	---------------------------------

Disinfectant/Disinfection Byproducts

Chloramine (mg/L)	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	2.56	1.99-3.36	Disinfectant used to treat water
Total Trihalomethanes (µg/L)	80	N/A	19.5	6-26	By-product of disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (µg/L)	60	N/A	16.5	6-21	By-product of disinfection

Microbiological Data

Total Coliform Bacteria	5%	0	Highest Month=0.53% Annual Average=0.21%		Naturally present in the environment
Total Organic Carbon (mg/L)	TT = 25% raw water TOC removal	N/A	2.22	Percent removal of TOC in finished water=33%	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity (NTU)**	TT (1NTU)**	N/A	Highest level = 0.12		Soil runoff
	TT=95% of monthly samples<0.3NTU		Percentage of samples below 0.3 NTU = 100%		

Radioactive Contaminants

Gross Alpha Particles (pCi/L)	15	0	3.3 †	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits
-------------------------------	----	---	-------	-----	-----------------------------

Reading the Table

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a compound that triggers a treatment technique or other requirement that a water system must follow.

Detection Limit (DL): The smallest amount of a compound that can accurately be measured by the test method used.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a compound allowed in drinking water.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known risk to health.

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

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

Microgram per Liter (g/L): One part per billion or 1 cent in \$10,000,000.

Milligram per Liter (mg/L): One part per million or 1 cent in \$10,000.

None Detected (ND): The concentration of a compound is less than the smallest amount that can be measured by the test method used.

Not Applicable (NA): This heading is not needed for this contaminant.

Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU): The measurement of the amount of light scattered when a beam of light is directed through a water sample.

Picocuries per Liter (pCi/L): A measure of radioactivity.

Range: The highest and lowest results detected for the contaminant.

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

***The State of Missouri** has reduced monitoring requirements for certain contaminants to less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. These results are the 90th percentile of the Lead and Copper Survey samples tested in 2002 for the Lead and Copper Rule. The 90th percentile means 90 percent of the samples had levels less than the values shown.

****Turbidity:** Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants. The maximum turbidity allowable is 1 NTU for a single sample and 0.3 NTU at the 95th percentile.

†**Gross Alpha** radioactivity monitored once every three years. Results represent compliance monitoring completed in 2000.