



*Highland County Water Co., Inc.*

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**2003 Drinking Water  
Consumer Confidence Report:**

## **Highland County Water Company, Inc.**

### **Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report for 2003**

#### **What's the source of your drinking water?**

The Highland County Water Company, Inc. receives its drinking water from six wells. These wells are located at two different well fields. The Bainbridge Well Field has three wells and is located west of Bainbridge on the north side of State Route 50. The Paint Creek Well Field has three wells and is along side Paint Creek off of Deer Park Road. Both of these well fields pump raw water from an underground aquifer to the treatment plant.

The Highland County Water Company, Inc.'s well fields are at a high susceptibility for contamination because of being a shallow aquifer and having mainly sand and gravel around them. Although this is the rating for our well fields, as you will see below, the water is well below the MCL's for all contaminants. Most contaminants are not even detected.

The Highland County Water Company, Inc. also has emergency connections with the Brown County Water Company, Village of Lynchburg, City of Hillsboro, Village of New Vienna, Western Water Company and the Village of Martinsville. During 2003 we used 0 gallons from these connections over 365 days.

#### **What are sources of contamination to drinking water?**

The sources of drinking water both tap water and bottled water includes 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.

Contaminates that may be present in source water include: (A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plant, septic systems, agricultural livestock operation, 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 water runoff, and residential uses; (D) 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; (E) radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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.

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).

#### **Who needs to take special precautions?**

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 disorder, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infection. 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 (1-800-426-4791).

#### **About your drinking water.**

The EPA requires regular sampling to ensure drinking water safety. The Highland County Water Company, Inc. conducted sampling for bacteria and inorganic contaminants during 2003. Samples were collected for different

contaminates most of which were not detected in the Highland County Water Company, Inc. water supply. The Ohio E.P.A. requires us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentration of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though accurate, are more than one year old.

Listed below is information on those contaminants that were found in the Highland County Water Company, Inc. drinking water.

Contaminants (Units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Range of Detections	Sample Year	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminates
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Copper (ug/l)	1300	AL=1300	540	nd to 668	2003	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
	Zero out of thirty samples were found to have copper levels in excess of the Action Level of 1300 ug/l.						
Fluoride (mg/l)	4	4	1.01	.93 to 1.11	2003	NO	Water additive which promotes strong teeth; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrates (mg/l)	10	10	1.30	1.30	2003	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
<b>Volatile Organic Contaminates</b>							
Bromodichloromethane (ug/l)	na	na	4.77	2.90 to 6.16	2003	NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chloroform (ug/l)	na	na	5.97	3.27 to 8.82			
bromoform (ug/l)	na	na	0.56	nd to 0.56			
Dibromochloromethane (ug/l)	na	na	3.95	2.85 to 5.67			
TTHM (Total trihalomethanes) (ug/l)	na	100	16.3	12.6 to 21.9			

**How do I participate in decisions concerning my drinking water?**

Public participation and comments are encouraged at regular meetings of the Highland County Water Company, Inc. Board of Directors which meets on the third Monday of every month at 8:30 A.M.

For more information on your drinking water contact Dan Cutler, Plant Superintendent, at (937) 365-1141.

**Definitions of some terms contained within this report.**

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): 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.

Maximum Contaminant level (MCL): The highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

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

nd : non-detectable

milligrams per liter (mg/l): a unit of measure equivalent to parts per million

micrograms per liter (ug/l): a unit of measure equivalent to parts per billion

na: not applicable