WATER DEPARTMENT
CITY OF INDEPENDENCE

2015 WATER QUALITY REPORT

MO1010399

WATER DEPARTMENT CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

We hope the information in this drinking water report is helpful to you. If you would like to observe the decision making process that affects drinking water quality, or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at (816) 325-7700 to inquire about scheduled meetings or contact persons.

**Este informe contiene información muy importante.
Tradúscalo o prequntele a laguien que lo bien.**

Important Water Customer Information

325-SERV(7378) is a 24-hour automated account information service from the City of Independence Utilities. Dial 325-SERV, and use the six-digit access code found on the upper left corner of the City Utilities Bill to access account information.

Utilities Online is a feature of the City of Independence Internet site. Use this service to access and update account information or to submit a service request.

Access Utilities Online at **www.independencemo.org**. Upon first log-in, the customers' utility account number will be required to access an account where the customer will assign a user name and password. These will be required for future access. Call Utilities Customer Service at 325-7930 for more information during regular business hours, 8am-5pm, Mon-Fri.

Other important information is available at the City of Independence Water Department Internet site. Additional water quality information, updates on current projects, and other helpful information can be found at **www.independencemo.org**

This report may be found online at **www.independencemo.org/ccr**

Substances Expected to be in Drinking Water

The sources of drinking water (both tap 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.

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 at 1-800-426-4791.

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 byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic tanks.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the results of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the MO Department of Natural Resources prescibes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. MO Department of Health regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection to the public.

Lead in Drinking Water

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. The City of Independence Water Department is 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) or at **http://water.epa.gov/drink/info/lead/index.cfm**

Consumer Confidence Report from the City of Independence Water Department

The City of Independence supplies water to about 250,000 people, including residents of Independence and 12 wholesale customers. The water is supplied from 42 wells located at the Courtney Bend Water Treatment Plant. The wells receive water from the Missouri River Alluvial Aquifer, classified as a groundwater source. The well water is softened and disinfected at the treatment plant, and meets or exceeds all federal and state quality regulations.

The City of Independence Water Department has violated no maximum contaminant levels, monitoring requirements, or treatment techniques for the 2015 year. The following information shows chemicals we find in detectable limits in our drinking water.

Regulated Chemicals

Parameter	Possible Source	Units	Value Range	Independence Average	MCL	MCLG
Inorganic Compounds						
Barium	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries	ppm	0.0476 - 0.051	**0.0493**	2	2
Chloramine	Water additive used to control microbes	ppm	1.32 - 2.47	**2.15**	4	4
Chromium	Discharge from steel and pump mills; Erosion of natural deposits	ppb	1.25	**1.25**	100	100
Fluoride	Erosion of natural deposits	ppm	0.21 - 0.24	**0.23**	4	4
Nitrate - Nitrite	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits	ppm	0.18 - 0.39	**0.29**	10	10
Radiological						
Gross Alpha	Erosion of natural deposits	pCi/L	4	**4**	15	0
Gross Beta	Decay of natural and man-made deposits	pCi/L	3.8	**3.8**	50	0
Disinfection By-Products Testing						
Total Trihalomethanes	By-product of drinking water disinfection	ppb	0 - 8.61	**3.09**	80	None established
Haloacetic Acids	By-product of drinking water disinfection	ppb	0	**0**	60	None established
Microbiological Quality						
Total Organic Carbon	Naturally present in the environment	ppm	1.9	**1.9**	TT	N/A
Total Coliform Bacteria	Naturally present in the environment	No detected results in 2015			<5 %	0
Lead and Copper Testing						
Lead	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits	ppb	90% of samples < 0.4	**No samples exceeded action level**	AL = 15	0
Copper	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits	ppb	90% of samples < 2.0	**No samples exceeded action level**	AL = 1300	1300

Important Definitions:

- **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** - The highest level of a compound that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLG as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- **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.
- **Action Level (AL)** - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **Parts per Million (ppm) or milligrams per liter (mg/L)** - equal to one teaspoon in 1,300 gallons.
- **Parts per Billion (ppb) or micrograms per liter (mg/L)** - equal to one teaspoon in 1,300,000 gallons.
- **Treatment Technique** - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- **Haloacetic Acids** - Mono-, di-, and tri-chloracetic acid, and mono-, and di-bromacetic acid, as a group.
- **Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)** - Chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane, and bromoform, as a group.

Additional Parameters

Optional Monitoring (not required by EPA)	
Compound	**Average Result**
Alkalinity Total (mg/L)	65
Calcium (mg/L)	14
Hardness Total (mg/L as Calcium Carbonate)	120 or 7 grains/gallon
Magnesium (mg/L)	18
pH (S.U.)	9.3 - 10.1
Potassium (mg/L)	6.1
Sodium (mg/L)	49

City of Independence Water took home the bronze medal at the 26th annual Berkeley Springs International Water Tasting contest held February 25– 28, 2016 in Berkeley Springs, WV. It is the world's largest and longest-running water tasting contest.

Source Water Assessment

The Department of Natural Resources conducted a source water assessment to determine the susceptibility of our water source to potential contaminants. This process involved the establishment of water area delineations for each well or surface water intake and then a contaminant inventory was performed within those delineated areas to assess potential threats to each source.

Assessment maps and summary information sheets are available on the internet at
http://maproom.missouri.edu/swipmaps/pwssid.htm
To access the maps for your water system you will need the state-assigned identification code, which is printed at the top of this report. The Source Water Inventory Project maps and information sheets provide a foundation upon which a more comprehensive source water protection plan can be developed.

Note to People with Special Health Concerns

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 EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).