

2011 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
Diamondhead Water and Sewer District
PWS#:230005
May 2012

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Quality Water Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water source is from wells drawing from the Miocene Series Aquifer.

The source water assessment has been completed for our public water system to determine the overall susceptibility of its drinking water supply to identified potential sources of contamination. A report containing detailed information on how the susceptibility determinations were made has been furnished to our public water system and is available for viewing upon request. The wells for the Diamondhead Water and Sewer District have received a moderate susceptibility ranking to contamination.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Michael Collard, General Manager at 228-255-5813. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 2:00 PM at 4425 Park Ten Drive.

We routinely monitor for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2011. In cases where monitoring wasn't required in 2011, the table reflects the most recent results. As water travels over the surface of land or underground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive materials and can pick up substances or contaminants from the presence of animals or from human activity; microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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 and septic systems; 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 that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. It's important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

In this table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

Action Level - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) -The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is 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.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) -The "Goal"(MCLG) is 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 Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) -The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) -The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk of health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) -one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter -one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

TEST RESULTS

| Contaminant | Violation Y/N | Date Collected | Level Detected | Range of Detects or # of Samples Exceeding MCL/ACL | Unit Measure-ment | MCLG | MCL | Likely Source of Contamination |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|--|-------------------|------|--|---|
| Microbiological Contaminants | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Total Coliform Bacteria | Y | October | Monitoring | | NA | 0 | presence of coliform bacteria in 5% of monthly samples | Naturally present in the environment |
| Radioactive Contaminants | | | | | | | | |
| 6. Radium 226 | N | 2011 | .55 | .35 - .55 | pCi/l | 0 | 5 | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Inorganic Contaminants | | | | | | | | |
| 10. Barium | N | 2011 | .015 | .007 - .015 | ppm | 2 | 2 | Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits |
| 13. Chromium | N | 2011 | .6 | .5 - .6 | ppb | 100 | 100 | Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits |
| 14. Copper | N | 2010* | .1 | 0 | ppm | 1.3 | AL=1.3 | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives |
| 15. Cyanide | N | 2011 | 29.75 | No Range | ppb | 200 | 200 | Discharge from steel/metal factories; discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories |
| 16. Fluoride | N | 2011 | .231 | .185 - .231 | ppm | 4 | 4 | Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories |
| 17. Lead | N | 2010* | 1 | 0 | ppb | 0 | AL=15 | Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits |
| Volatile Organic Contaminants | | | | | | | | |
| 64. Dichloromethane | N | 2011 | .583 | No Range | ppb | 0 | 5 | Discharge from pharmaceutical and chemical factories |
| Disinfection By-Products | | | | | | | | |
| 82. TTHM [Total trihalomethanes] | N | 2008* | 22.63 | No Range | ppb | 0 | 80 | By-product of drinking water chlorination. |
| Chlorine | N | 2011 | .8 | .63 - .92 | ppm | 0 | MDRL = 4 | Water additive used to control microbes |

* Most recent sample. No sample required/or 2011.

Microbiological Contaminants:

(1) Total Coliform. Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.

We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected however the EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific constituents on a monthly basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. In an effort to ensure systems complete all monitoring requirements, MSDH now notifies systems of any missing samples prior to the end of the compliance period.

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. Our Water Association 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 or

at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>. The Mississippi State Department of Health Public Health Laboratory offers lead testing. Please contact us at 601.576.7582 if you wish to have your water tested.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. 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 the 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.

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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791.

*******A MESSAGE FROM MSDH CONCERNING RADIOLOGICAL SAMPLING*******

In accordance with the Radionuclides Rule, all community public water suppliers were required to sample quarterly for radionuclides beginning January 2007 -December 2007. Your public water supply completed sampling by the scheduled deadline; however, during an audit of the Mississippi State Department of Health Radiological health laboratory, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) suspended analyses and reporting of radiological compliance samples and results until further notice. Although this was not the result of inaction by the public water supply, MSDH was required to issue a violation. This is to notify you that as of this date, your water system has not completed the monitoring requirements. The Bureau of Public Water Supply has taken action to ensure that your water system be returned to compliance by March 31, 2013. If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Parker, Deputy Director, Bureau of Public Water Supply, at 601.576.7518.

The Diamondhead Water and Sewer District works around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

Please note: a copy of this CCR will NOT be mailed to our customers. However, a copy of the report is available in person at our administrative offices at 4425 Park Ten Drive, Diamondhead. The report is also available on our website at: www.dwsd.us.



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

March 22, 2012

MICHAEL COLLARD
DIAMONDHEAD UTILITIES-NORTH
4425 PARK TEN DR
DIAMONDHEAD, MISSISSIPPI 39525

Re: FACT SHEET - RADIONUCLIDES RULE NON-COMPLIANCE
DIAMONDHEAD UTILITIES-NORTH
PWS-ID No. MS0230005

Dear MICHAEL COLLARD:

The purpose of this letter is to transmit the enclosed Fact Sheet regarding steps that need to be taken to complete initial radionuclides monitoring for community water systems in Mississippi.

The Mississippi State Department of Health's (MSDH) Bureau of Public Water Supply has been working with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to develop a plan to ensure all community water systems are in compliance with initial monitoring for the Radionuclides Rule by March 31, 2013.

The EPA is aware of the circumstances which resulted in monitoring violations for all community water systems in Mississippi and the EPA recognizes the efforts water systems have made to provide valid samples for initial monitoring to MSDH.

The Fact Sheet identifies the steps your system will need to take to comply with the applicable laws and regulations regarding monitoring and reporting requirements for radionuclides and also the public notification requirements associated with this noncompliance.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Stephanie Sessoms-Midgett, at (404) 562-9791.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Becky B. Allenbach", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Becky B. Allenbach
Chief
Safe Drinking Water Branch

Enclosure

FACT SHEET

Radionuclides Rule Monitoring for Public Water Systems

In 2000, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency promulgated its Radionuclides Rule (Rule) under the Safe Drinking Water Act, (SDWA) 42 U.S.C. §300 *et seq.* The purpose of the Rule is to reduce the exposure of customers of community water systems to radionuclides in their drinking water. The compliance monitoring requirements of the Rule can be found at 40 C.F.R. §141.26. The Rule at 40 C.F.R. §146.26(a) required that each community water system determine if radionuclides are present in their drinking water by collecting and analyzing samples during four consecutive quarters between December 8, 2003 and December 31, 2007. Depending on the amount of radionuclides detected in its water, a community water system is required to follow this initial monitoring with routine monitoring as frequently as quarterly or as infrequently as once every nine years.

The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) chose to conduct the required initial monitoring analyses for all of Mississippi's community water systems during 2007. However, MSDH's radiochemistry program did not follow the required protocols for handling and analyzing radionuclides samples. Without valid results, all of Mississippi's community water systems incurred monitoring and reporting violations because samples had not been analyzed and reported by December 31, 2007. The EPA has been working with MSDH to correct laboratory deficiencies since 2008; however, approximately 890 systems, including your system, have not yet completed the initial monitoring process. Your system will remain out of compliance with the SDWA until initial monitoring has been completed. Please note that without this monitoring you cannot be sure that you are providing your customers water that meets the radiological requirements of the SDWA. That is why the EPA is sending you this fact sheet.

MSDH has assured EPA that it is working to complete all analyses for all systems no later than March 31, 2013. The EPA expects all systems to be in full compliance with the initial monitoring requirements for radionuclides by that date. If full compliance is not met by your system, EPA reserves the right to begin a formal enforcement action to compel compliance.

The EPA recognizes that the Mississippi Safe Drinking Water Act of 1997 requires all community water systems to pay a mandatory fee to MSDH which covers the cost of all water quality analyses required by the SDWA including analyses for radionuclides. The MSDH Public Health Laboratory is currently not certified for analyzing all radionuclide contaminants and plans to utilize a contract lab to complete analyses for some radionuclides. Should it not be possible for MSDH to meet the state requirement to provide analytical services, under federal law it is the responsibility of each existing community water systems to ensure that required analyses are completed, including those for radionuclides. Failure to do so is a violation of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Is my water system in noncompliance?

Yes. If you are receiving this notice then the EPA has determined, based on data and information provided by the MSDH's Bureau of Public Water Supply (BPWS), that your water system is not in compliance with the applicable laws and regulations regarding monitoring and reporting requirements for radionuclides and the public notification requirements associated with this noncompliance.

What do I need to do?

As stated above, MSDH has assured EPA that it is working with public water systems to ensure that all of Mississippi's systems are in compliance no later than March 31, 2013. However, it is important that you understand that it is your responsibility to make sure you take the necessary steps to come into full compliance with the Radionuclides Rule. Specifically, your system must do the following:

1. Collect four consecutive quarterly samples from each entry point for analysis of gross alpha particle activity, radium-226, radium-228 and uranium. The first of these consecutive quarterly samples must be collected no later than March 31, 2012.
2. Ensure delivery of the samples to MSDH's Public Health Laboratory and/or the state contracted laboratory to obtain analysis of the radionuclide samples. As an alternative, you may contract with a private laboratory for conducting analysis of required samples and report analytical results to MSDH.
3. Notify your customers of your system's noncompliance with the Radionuclide Rule by issuing public notification. This may be accomplished via your 2011 Consumer Confidence Report, which is due to be delivered to your customers no later than July 1, 2012.

What action will be taken if I don't comply?

Section 1414(a)(1)(B) of the SDWA, 42 U.S.C. § 300g-3(a)(1)(B) allows the EPA to issue an order under Section 1414(g) if your water system remains out of compliance following this notification of violations. The EPA is considering using its enforcement authority if the MSDH's sampling and analysis schedule does not make adequate progress toward completing the initial monitoring process and against drinking water systems that do not complete the initial monitoring process by the March 2013 deadline. If the EPA does issue an order under Section 1414(g) of the SDWA, then any person or local government who violates, fails, or refuses to comply with the order shall be liable for a civil penalty of not more than \$37,500 per day of violation.

Who should I contact for further assistance regarding this situation?

You may contact the following individuals in the EPA:

Stephanie Sessoms-Midgett, Enforcement Officer
(404) 562-9791 or sessoms-midgett.stephanie@epa.gov

Wilda Cobb, Associate Regional Counsel
(404) 562-9530 or cobb.wilda@epa.gov

Dan O'Lone, Chief, Drinking Water Section
(404) 562-9434 or olone.dan@epa.gov