

**Public Water System  
Consumer Confidence Report  
Template**



**Ohio Environmental Protection Agency  
Division of Drinking and Ground Waters**

**MARCH 2004**

# Lima Water Treatment Plant

## Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report

For 2004

The Lima Water Treatment Plant has prepared the following report to provide information to you, the consumer, on the quality of our drinking water. Included within this report is general health information, water quality test results, how to participate in decisions concerning your drinking water, and water system contacts.

The City of Lima's public water system uses surface water drawn from intakes on the Ottawa and Auglaize Rivers. For the purposes of source water assessments, in Ohio all surface waters are considered to be susceptible to contamination. By their nature, surface waters are readily accessible and can be contaminated by chemicals and pathogens which may rapidly arrive at the public drinking water intake with little warning or time to prepare. The City of Lima's drinking water source protection area contains potential contaminant sources such as agriculture, industrial storm water, home construction, machine metal workshops, landfills, junk yards, septic systems, wastewater treatment discharges, roadways and railways

The City of Lima's public water system treats the water to meet drinking water quality standards, but no single treatment technique can address all potential contaminants. The potential for water quality impacts can be further decreased by implementing measures to protect the Ottawa and Auglaize Rivers. More detailed information is provided in the City of Lima's Drinking Water Source Assessment report, which can be obtained by calling Michael Caprella at 419-221-5294.

The sources of drinking water, both tap water and bottled water, include 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.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include: (A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations 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).

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 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).

The EPA requires regular sampling to ensure drinking water safety. The Lima Water Treatment Plant conducted sampling for bacteria, inorganic, radiological, synthetic organic, and volatile organic contaminants during 2004. Samples were collected for many different contaminants most of which were not detected in the Lima Water Treatment Plant water supply. We did not monitor for Alachlor, Atrazine, and Simazine in July, 2004, and lead and copper in 2002. During the July 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2004, time period we did not monitor for total trihalomethanes (TTHM) and five haloacetic acids (HAA5). Steps have been taken to ensure that all sampling will be conducted as required by enacting a more comprehensive management plan. This plan assigns

responsibilities for sampling and contains contingency measures if the assigned Water Department personnel are absent. The Ohio EPA requires us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though accurate, is more than one year old .

Listed below is information on those contaminants that were found in the Lima Water Treatment Plant drinking water.

Contaminants (Units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Range of Detections	Violation	Sample Year	Typical Source of Contaminants
<b>Bacteriological</b>							
Turbidity (NTU)	N/A	TT	1.72	0.03 - 1.72	NO	2004	Soil Runoff.
Turbidity (% samples meeting standards)	N/A	TT	98.2%	98.2% - 100%	NO	2004	Soil Runoff.
Total Coliform (TC)	0	5% of monthly samples positive	1.1%	0.0 - 1.1%	NO	2004	Naturally present in the environment.
Total Organic Carbon Compliance Ratio	N/A	TT	1.68	1.18 - 2.24	N/A	2003 2004	Naturally present in the environment.
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Copper (ppm)	1.3	AL = 1.3	0.0335	N/A	NO	2004	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.
0 out of 30 distribution samples were found to have a copper level that exceeded the action level of 1.3 ppm. 0 of 1 plant tap sample were found to have a copper level above 1.3 ppm.							
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	2.33	0.25 - 2.33	NO	2004	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	1.41	0.85 - 1.41	NO	2004	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.

Synthetic Organic Contaminants including Pesticides and Herbicides`							
Atrazine (ppb)	3	3	0.29	0.00 - 0.424	YES	2004	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops.
Volatile Organic Contaminants							
TTHM's (ppb) [Total Trihalomethanes]	N/A	80	62.8	39.0 - 93.3	YES	2003 2004	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Compliance of THM's is based on running annual average, and not individual sample values.							
Haloacetic Acids [HAA] (ppb)	N/A	60	31.2	19.2 - 46.9	N/A	2003 2004	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Compliance of HAA values is based on running annual average and not individual sample values.							
Chloroform (ppb)	N/A	N/A	20.3	N/A	N/A	2004	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	N/A	N/A	4.72	N/A	N/A	2004	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Dibromochloromethane (ppb)	N/A	N/A	1.07	N/A	N/A	2004	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Residual Disinfectants							
Chlorine (ppm)	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	2.1	1.6 - 2.2	NO	2003 2004	Water additive used to control microbes.
Chlorine compliance is based on running annual average.							

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water and is an indication of the effectiveness of our filtration system. The turbidity limit set by the EPA is 0.3 NTU's in 95% of the daily samples and shall not exceed 5 NTU at any time. As reported above, the Lima Water Treatment Plant's highest recorded turbidity result for 2004 was 1.72 NTU and lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting the turbidity limits was 98.2%.

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant you should ask advice from your health care provider.

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Public participation and comment are encouraged at regular meetings of Lima City Council which meets in the year 2005 on the following dates: 1/3, 1/24, 2/7, 2/28, 3/14, 3/28, 4/11, 4/25, 5/9, 5/23, 6/6, 6/20, 7/11, 7/25, 8/8, 8/22, 9/12, 9/26, 10/10, 10/24, 11/7, 11/21, 12/5, and 12/19. All council meetings are held in Council Chambers at 7:30 PM at 50 Town Square.

For more information on your drinking water contact Terry Huber at (419) 221-5170. Written suggestions or comments can be sent to:

Lima Water Treatment Plant  
1100 East Wayne Street  
Lima, Ohio 45804

Learn more about City of Lima Water Treatment Plant System at the web address: [www.cityhall.lima.oh.us/](http://www.cityhall.lima.oh.us/)

### **An Explanation of the Water-Quality Data Table**

The table shows the results of our water-quality analysis. Every regulated contaminant detected in the water, even in the most minute traces, is listed here. The table contains the name of each substance, the highest level allowed by regulation (MCL), the ideal goals for public health, the amount detected, the usual sources of such contamination, footnotes explaining our findings, and a key to units of measurement. Definitions of MCL and MCLG are important.

**Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL:** 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 or 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 requirement that a water system must follow.

**Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water. The data presented in this report is from the most recent testing done in accordance with regulations.

**The “<” symbol:** A symbol which means less than. A result of <5 means that the lowest level which could be detected was 5 and that the contaminant in that sample was not detected.

**Parts per Million (ppm) or Milligrams per Liter (mg/L)** are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per million corresponds to one second in a little over 11.5 days.

**Parts per Billion (ppb) or Micrograms per Liter (ug/L)** are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per billion corresponds to one second in 31.7 years.

### **Key To Table**

**AL** = Action Level

**MCL** = Maximum Contaminant Level

**MCLG** = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal

**NTU** = Nephelometric Turbidity Units

**ppm** = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)

**ppb** = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l)

**TT** = Treatment Technique

**TTHM** = Total trihalomethanes

**RAA** = Running annual average

**QA** = Quarterly average

**MRDL** = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

**MRDLG** = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal