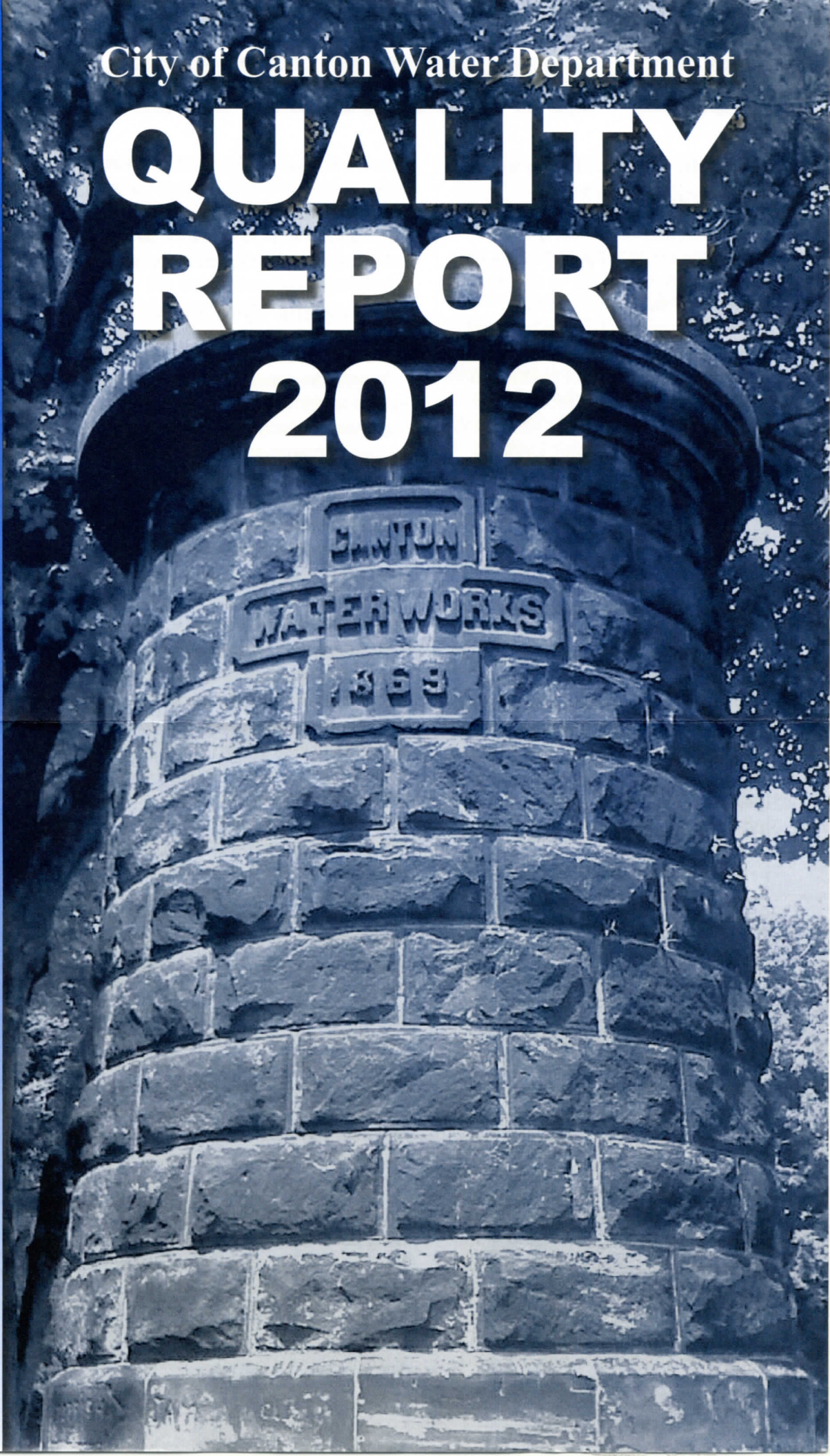


City of Canton Water Department

QUALITY REPORT 2012

WATER



IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT

What to expect from your drinking water?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain 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).

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.

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; and (E) Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

How do the EPA and the FDA fit in?

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the 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.

Who needs to take special precautions?

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 persons 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).

What is the source of Canton's drinking water?

The Canton Water Department obtains 100% of its water from underground wells. Our wells extend hundreds of feet deep into sand and gravel aquifers that were created long ago by glacial activity. These natural aquifers provided Canton with 6,973,731,800 gallons of water in

2011. We have three separate well fields that supply water to our three water treatment plants. The first is referred to as our Northeast Well Field, which is located in the northeast section of Canton. The second is referred to as our Northwest Well Field, which is located in the northwest section of Canton. Finally, our Sugar-creek Well Field is located southwest of Canton. The Source Water Assessment Reports have been completed for all three well fields. The reports indicate the well fields are potentially susceptible to contamination due to the physical nature and location of the respective aquifers. We have taken protective measures to avoid contamination. More information can be obtained by calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Backup Measures: Should the need ever arise, we have several protective backup systems built into our utility that enable us to ensure a dependable flow of drinking water to our consumers. As previously mentioned, Canton has three separate water treatment plants and well fields. If one plant is taken off-line, the other two plants can make up the difference in water production. The City also has nearly 30 million gallons of drinking water stored in enclosed reservoirs, acting as a protective reserve of water. Another backup system includes diesel generators at each Water Treatment Plant. These powerful generators can provide enough electricity to operate the Plants in the event of a widespread power outage. We also have two interconnections with the North Canton Water System which are normally kept in a closed position. In an emergency, however, these valves could be opened and potable water supplied as needed. All of the redundant and overlapping "backup" systems described above ensure that the Canton Water Department can

UT OUR WATER SUPPLY

provide a dependable supply of drinking water to all of our consumers.

What's in Canton's Drinking Water?

The EPA requires regular sampling of the Canton water supply to ensure drinking water safety. In 2011 alone, we ran over 30,000 tests for more than 100 different substances. The good news is, none of the contaminants that we detected exceed EPA established Maximum Contaminant

Levels or resulted in a violation of drinking water standards. Only a very small percentage of the contaminants tested for exist in our water at detectable levels. The accompanying tables identify the contaminants that were detected. 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 the data, though accurate, are more than one year old.

Canton Water Department has been involved in three

Federal studies: Lead and Copper Monitoring, Disinfectants/Disinfection Byproduct Evaluation and Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation II.

Lead: 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 Canton 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Disinfectant/Disinfection Byproducts: Under the Stage 2 Disinfectant/Disinfection Byproduct Rule (D/DBPR), our public water system was required by USEPA to conduct an evaluation of our distribution system. This is known as an Initial Distribution System Evaluation (IDSE), and is intended to identify locations in our distribution system with elevated disinfection byproduct concentrations. The locations selected for the IDSE may be used for compliance monitoring under Stage 2 D/DBPR, beginning in 2012. Disinfection byproducts are the result of providing continuous disinfection of your drinking water and from when disinfectants combine with organic matter naturally occurring in the source water. Disinfection byproducts are grouped into two categories, Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) and Haloacetic Acids (HAA5). USEPA sets standards for controlling the levels of disinfectants and disinfection byproducts in drinking water, including both THMs and HAAs. For compliance purposes, we currently sample for Stage I compliance at Maximum Residence Sites. You will see data for both the Stage I and Stage II D/DBPR included in the following charts.

Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation II: None of the Unregulated Contaminates tested in this study were found in detectable levels. There will be no mention of these contaminants in the following charts as none were detected.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is hard water?

Canton's water contains the naturally occurring mineral calcium, which is better known as hardness. Water was nicknamed hard when people found it hard to make soap suds or lather from the water. The presence of calcium in the water is not a health concern, but rather somewhat of a nuisance that is very costly to remove on a large scale. Some individuals use a water softener to remove unwanted hardness. Calcium buildup can be removed from spigots and coffee pots using vinegar.

Why do I occasionally see discolored water leaving my tap?

Discolored water is usually due to the presence of iron. Visible Iron in drinking water can be caused by oxidation of dissolved iron by chlorine in the water, corrosion in the pipes that carry the water from the treatment plant to your home or corrosion in your home's plumbing, including the hot water heater. Problems with discolored water usually clear themselves within a day. If you have a prolonged discolored water problem, please notify us.

Hydrant Flushing:

During the warm summer months, you may see Water Department personnel flushing fire hydrants. We do this to remove the accumulation of iron sediment in the pipes, thereby reducing discolored water situations over the long term. Be aware, however, that hydrant flushing may temporarily cause both a drop in water pressure and discolored water.

TEST RESULTS

CONTAMINANTS	VIOLATION YES/NO	LEVEL DETECTED	UNIT MEASURE	MCLG	RANGE OF DETECTION	DATE OF SAMPLE	MCL	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
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INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS

Barium	No	0.073	ppm	2	.056-.082	7/21/2010	2	Discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Copper	No	157	ppb	1300	ND-482 (0 out of 50 samples exceeded the AL)	2010	AL = 1300	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Fluoride	No	0.95	ppm	4	.70-1.15	2011	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth
Lead	No	2	ppb	0	ND-80.0 (1 out of 50 samples exceeded the AL)	2010	AL = 15.0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems

VOLATILE ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS

TTHM (Total Trihalomethanes)	No	38.3	ppb	0	14.0-48.7	7/19/2011	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
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RESIDUAL DISINFECTANTS

Total Chlorine	No	1.04	ppm	MRDLG=4.0	.72-1.57	2011	MRDL = 4.0	Water additive to control microbes
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DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS

HAA (Haloacetic Acids)	No	5.9	ppb	N/A	7/19/2011	60	3.5-8.9	By-product of drinking water chlorination
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**UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS

Bromodichloromethane		10.2	ppb		4.6-16.7	7/19/2011		By-product of drinking water chlorination
Bromoform		1.37	ppb		.6-1.8	7/19/2011		By-product of drinking water chlorination
Dibromochloromethane		6.7	ppb		3.2-10.4	7/19/2011		By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chloroform		10.7	ppb		5.6-19.9	7/19/2011		By-product of drinking water chlorination

* The Initial Distribution System Evaluation sampling required by the Federal EPA is to determine the range of total trihalomethane and haloacetic acids in the system for future regulations. The samples are not used for compliance, and may have been collected under non-standard conditions. The Federal EPA requires the data to be reported here. Please contact your water system representative if you have any questions.

** Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps the EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants.

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.

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.

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 days.

Parts per Billion (ppb) or Micrograms per Liter (µg/L) are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per billion corresponds to one second in about 32 years.

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

ND: Contaminant Not Detected.

How do I participate in decisions concerning my drinking water? Public participation and comments are encouraged at regular meetings of the City Council which meets every Monday at 7:30 PM in City Hall Council Chambers. During the summer months of June, July and August, the Council meets every other week.

Who do I contact for more information? For more information about your drinking water contact the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791; or contact the Northeast District Office of Ohio EPA at (330) 425-9171; or contact the Water Department Superintendent, Mr. Tyler S. Converse at (330) 489-3308.



Canton Water Department

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www.cantonohio.gov/water

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