CITY OF NILES

Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report for 2020

Based on 2019 Data

This report is available on the Niles website: www.thecityofniles.com

The City of Niles has prepared the following report on the water quality from Meander Reservoir. This report is required by the Safe Drinking Water Act. For technical water quality information, contact Meander Water (MVSD) at 330-652-3614. For information regarding distribution service, pressure, lead & copper or discolored water, call Kevin at 330-544-9000 or Andy at 330-544-9010. The City of Niles has a current unconditioned license to operate a public water system under **ID 7802403**.

How is water supplied to customers?

Meander Water treats approximately 24 million gallons per day of raw water from Meander Creek Reservoir and pumps it to Youngstown, Niles, and McDonald. These communities distribute the water to residents and surrounding areas. Treatment includes chemical addition for softening, disinfection, fluoridation, taste & odor control, mixing, settling, filtration, and pumping. Niles distributes approximately 6 million gallons per day through 100 miles of pipeline to residents and sells water to Girard, Lordstown, Mineral Ridge, and portions of Howland and Weathersfield Townships.

How do I participate in decisions concerning my drinking water?

Public participation and comments regarding water are encouraged at regular council meetings scheduled on the first and third Wednesday of every month at 6:00 PM in Niles Municipal Court on the second floor of the safety complex at 15 E. State St..

Who needs to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water. Immune-compromised persons undergoing chemotherapy, persons with 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 provider. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

A word or two about lead !

The City of Niles tests 30 sites on a regular basis. The last testing period was 2017. At that time, the lead concentration at the 90th percentile was below the 15 microgram per liter action level prescribed by the USEPA. At the 90th percentile the sample was found to contain 3 micrograms per liter, which is equivalent to 3 pennies in a billion pennies, or 10 million dollars.

-The City of Niles is on A Triennial cycle for these tests, and was <u>not</u> required to run Lead and Copper tests during 2019. This year's 2020, scheduled testing will take place this summer.

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. Meander Water and the City of Niles are responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been setting 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 at http:// www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- **Microbial Contaminants:** such as viruses and bacteria, which come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- **Inorganic Contaminants:** such as salts and metals, this can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- **Pesticides & Herbicides:** may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm runoff and residential uses.
- **Organic Chemical Contaminants:** include synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, can also come from gas stations, urban storm runoff and septic systems.
- **Radioactive Contaminants:** can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production or mining activities.

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.

Definition of Terms

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of contaminant allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

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

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in a drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for microbial contaminant control.

Parts per Million (ppm) or Milligrams per Liter (mg/l): Both terms are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. Both terms correspond to one second in a little over 115 days.

Parts per Billion (ppb) or Micrograms per Liter (ug/l): Both terms are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. Both terms correspond to one second in 31.7 years.

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

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

The "<" Symbol: A symbol which means less than. A sampling result of <5 means the lowest level that could be detected is 5 and the contaminant in the sample is less than 5.

NA: not applicable, does not apply.

TT: Treatment Technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU): Nephelometric Turbidity Unit is a measure of the clarity of the water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable by the average person.

Water Contaminants	Unit	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Detection Range	Sample Year	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Fluoride	ppm	4	4	0.97	.79 - 1.11	20119	NO	Erosion of natural deposits: Water additive which promotes strong teeth: discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate	ppm	10	10	0.44	0.10 - 0.44 mg/l	2019	NO	Runoff from fertilizer & leachate from septic tanks
Turbidity *	ntu	NA	TT	0.1	0.04-0.10	2019	NO	Soil Runoff
Turbidity (% of samples meeting std.)		NA	TT	100%	100%	2019	NO	Soil Runoff
Barium	ppm	2	2	<10	10	2019	NO	Discharge of drilling water: metal refineries: natural deposits
Atrazine	ug/L	2	2	<0.1	0.1	2019	NO	Runoff from Herbicide use on row crops
TOC **	ppm	NA	TT	1.83	1.60 - 2.10	2019	NO	Naturally present in the environment

Above results reported by Mahoning Valley Sanitary District

* 100% of the samples tested were below the treatment technique level of 0.3 NTU. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water and is an indication of the effectiveness of out filtration system. The turbidity limit set by the EPA is 0.3 NTC in 95% of the samples analyzed each month and shall not exceed 1 NTU at any time. As reported above, Mahoning Valley Sanitary District's highest recorded turbidity for the year was 0.10 NTU and 1a the lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting the turbidity limits was 100%. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.

** The value reported under "Level Found" for Total Organic Carbon (TOC) is the lowest ratio between percentages of TOC actually removed to the percentage of TOC required to be removed. A value of greater than one (1) indicates that the water system is in compliance with TOC removal requirements. A value of less than one (1) indicates a violation of the TOC removal requirements.

Water Contaminants	Unit	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Detection Range	Sample Year	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
HAA - Haloacetic Acid *	ppb	NA	80	80	0-80	2019	NO	Water Purification by-product
**** Total Trihalomethanes**	ppb	NA	60	51.1	12.5-51.1	2019	NO	Water Purification by-product
Lead #	ppb	0	AL=15	ND	<5	2017	NO	Household plumbing corrosion
Copper ##	ppb	0	AL = 1300	0.0261 90 percentile	<10 -128	2017	NO	Household plumbing corrosion: & leaching from wood preservatives
Total Chlorine	ppm	4	4	2.05	1.77 - 2.68	2019	NO	Water additive used to control microbes

Above results reported by the City of Niles Water Department

* Some people who drink water containing Halo Acetic Acid (HAA5) in excess of MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

** Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes (TTHM) in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Zero of thirty samples were found to have levels in excess of the action level = 15 ug/L.

Zero of thirty samples were found to have levels in excess of the action level = 1300 ug/L

Our 90th percentile value for lead and copper does not exceed the action level, therefore, there are no actions being implemented at this time other than sharing this consumer notice.

The 15 and 1,300 ug/l listed under the heading of maximum contaminant level (MCL) for lead and copper respectively, are action levels. Action levels are the thresholds of sampling at the 90th percentile.

*** Disinfection byproducts are the result of providing continuous disinfection of your drinking water and form when disinfectants combine with organic matter naturally occurring in the source water. Disinfection byproducts are grouped into two categories. Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) and Haloacetic Acid (HAA5). USEPA sets standards for controlling the level of disinfectants and disinfectant byproducts in drinking water, including both THMs and HAAs.

UCMR

The EPA has an ongoing sampling project known as UCMR (Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule). The City of Niles was chosen to participate in the program and has done so through 2018 & 2019. This project is the sampling and testing for contaminants that are currently ***NOT*** regulated.

Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. In 2019 the City of Niles Public Water system participated in the fourth round of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 4). For a copy of the results please call *Nina Thomas at 330-544-9000*.

Contaminants	Units	Sample Year	Average Level Found	Range of Detection
Butanol	ppb	2019	1.825	ND - 3.65
Manganese	ppb	2019	0.923	0.497 - 1.35
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	ppb	2019	32.125	21 - 47.7
Haloacetic Acids (HAA6)	ppb	2019	2.654	1.30 - 8.13
Haloacetic Acids (HAA9)	ppb	2019	34.687	22.3 - 55.1
Bromrchloracetic Acid	ppb	2019	2.315	1.30 - 6.47
Bromodichloracetic Acid	ppb	2019	0.254	0 – 1.05
Dichloroacetic Acid	ppb	2019	27.4	19.5 - 36.9
Monochloroacetic Acid	ppb	2019	1.569	0 – 4.80
Trichloroacetic Acid	ppb	2019	3.033	1.53 - 6.29

Above Results are reported by the City of Niles Water Department

Additional UCMR testing will take place during the summer of 2020 and will be reported in next year's Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). An additional round of testing will follow in two years.

Your Water Supply

-Meander Water Public Water System uses surface water drawn from the Meander Creek Reservoir. For the purpose of source water assessments in Ohio, all surface water is susceptible to contamination. By nature, surface water is accessible and can be contaminated by chemicals and disease-causing organisms which may rapidly arrive at the public drinking water intake with little warning or time to prepare.

-Meander Water's drinking water source protection area is susceptible to runoff from row crop agriculture and animal feedlot operations, oil and gas wells, failing home and commercial septic systems, road/rail crossings, and new housing and commercial development that could raise runoff from roads and parking lots.

-The Mahoning Valley Sanitary District water system and the City of Niles treat the water to meet drinking water supply quality standards, but no single treatment technique can address all potential contaminants. The potential for water quality impacts can further be decreased by measures to protect Meander Creek Reservoir and its watershed. More detailed information is provided in the Mahoning Valley Sanitary District's Drinking Water Source Assessment Report, which can be obtained by calling (330) 652-3614. The MVSD Meander Creek Reservoir Drinking Water Source Protection Plan is available at the **meanderwater.org** website by clicking on the link for **Administration Public Records**

-Tap and bottled drinking water sources 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 human activity.

- In order to insure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water providing the same protection for public health.

-The water department responded to and repaired many water breaks/leaks in 2019. Permanent and seasonal flusher were used to reduce/eliminate the color issues. Three areas were determined to be looped in 2017 to eliminate the dead ends. They have been completed. The flushers have been moved to other locations that have experienced the same issue.

-The City has embarked on a series of water line replacement and fire hydrant projects. As time and money allow, these projects will continue. We have been fortunate and have procured funding to cover the majority of the costs. The water distribution crew has been relocated to the foot of Summit Street.

To receive a copy is of this report in writing, please contact Nina Thomas at 330-544-9000 ext. 1172 to give her a name and local mailing address to send it to.