

# ROBIN GRAYS PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM

## Consumer Confidence Report for 2016

### **INTRODUCTION**

This brochure is a summary of the quality of the water we provided last year. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards. We are providing you with the information because we want you to be informed. We know that you count on us for a safe and reliable supply of water every day and we are dedicated to providing the highest quality of service to you.

The Clermont County Board of County Commissioners owns and operates the Clermont County Water System. The Village of New Richmond purchases water from the Clermont County Water System to provide water for our system (Robin Grays Public Water System). The Village of New Richmond council meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Specific questions concerning your water should be directed to Ken Shearwood with the New Richmond Utility Department at 553-3606 and/or Mark Day with the Clermont County Water System at 732-7945.

### **DRINKING WATER QUALITY**

Clermont County Water System and the Village of New Richmond both ensure that your water is safe through regular monitoring and testing of water quality. Our own, as well as other, independent state-certified testing laboratories conduct these tests. This report shows a comprehensive summary of the laboratory test results for the contaminants we have detected in the drinking water in the most recent testing done in accordance with the drinking water regulations. Responsibility for maintaining water quality resides with our staff of certified water treatment plant operators, licensed by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA).

The Safe Drinking Water Act directs the state, along with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), to establish and enforce minimum drinking water standards. These standards set sampling frequency and concentration limits on certain biological, radioactive, organic and inorganic substances sometimes found in drinking water. The limits are called Maximum Contaminant Levels or MCLs.

The Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) are set to prevent health problems for people throughout their lifetime. 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

### **WATER SOURCE INFORMATION**

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, 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:

- 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 can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and 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 (1-800-426-4791).

## **SUBSTANCES THAT COULD BE IN WATER**

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, U.S. EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration 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 Clermont County Water System operates three water treatment plants that pump into a common distribution system of pipes serving our customers.

The MGS plant, located near Miamiville, draws from wells in the Little Miami River Aquifer. In 2004, the Ohio EPA performed a source water assessment for the MGS well field and designated it as highly susceptible to contamination. This is based in part on the geology of the aquifer, which is shallow and has little or no impermeable materials atop it. Another factor is the presence of potential sources of pollution in the area. The EPA also notes the presence of nitrates in the water, which suggests manmade influence in the aquifer. However, the water continues to meet drinking water standards.

The PUB plant is near New Palestine, where its wells draw from the Ohio River Valley Aquifer. A draft susceptibility analysis from the Ohio EPA has determined that this aquifer has a high susceptibility for contamination, based on a relatively thin layer of low permeability material overlying the aquifer, and the relatively shallow depth of the aquifer. Potential pollution sources in the area and a possible hydraulic connection to the Ohio River also contribute to this assessment. However, the EPA agrees that there is no evidence of existing chemical contaminants. These well fields are monitored for contamination and cared for under the Wellhead Protection Plan. Persons who wish to learn more may call Mark Day at 513-732-7945.

The Bob McEwen Water Treatment Plant (BMW) is located near Batavia and draws surface water from Harsha Lake, which was created by constructing a dam across the East Fork Little Miami River. Surface water is more susceptible to contamination than groundwater; so extensive testing of the raw water is conducted frequently. Chemical and bacteriological testing, as well as evaluation of the biological organisms living upstream of the lake is used to determine raw water quality and identify areas of concern. The Ohio EPA completed a source water assessment for BMW in 2004. The protection area around Harsha Lake and the upstream portions of the East Fork Little Miami River includes a number of commercial and industrial facilities, but the greater concern is runoff from agricultural fields, the potential for spills at road and rail crossings, and residential septic systems in the watershed. Persons who wish to learn more may contact Mark Day at 513-732-7945. Additional information on the watershed collected by Clermont County is available from the Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ) at 513-732-7894 or the website: <http://www.oeq.net>. After treatment, which includes Granular Activated Carbon filtration, water from the lake meets all required drinking water standards.

## **LEAD AND 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 Robin Grays PWS 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 at 800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

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

### **UCMR3 Information**

Clermont County Water participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> stage of the EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation (UCMR3) program by performing additional tests on our drinking water. UCMR benefits the environment and public health by providing the EPA with data on the occurrence of contaminants suspected to be in drinking water. In order to determine if EPA needs to introduce new regulatory standards to improve drinking water quality. Contact us for more information on this program.

### **DATA SHEET AND SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

The first table included with this report contains a summary of the most recent required testing results for regulated contaminants that were detected in the drinking water. The second table contains unregulated contaminants that were detected. The substances listed are not additional contaminants, but are already included in the TTHEMs and HAAs listed in the first table. They are unregulated individually and thus appear twice.

Tests were conducted for other contaminants, which were not detected, and therefore are not included in the table. Contaminants not detected include arsenic, which will soon be regulated by the Ohio EP A. Throughout 2007; neither *Cryptosporidium* nor *Giardia* was detected in monthly tests conducted by an outside lab on water from our lake intake. If you want to know if we have tested for a particular substance, please call us.

Water hardness is not regulated and does not appear on the table. Each of our three water treatment plants produces waters of differing hardness, which mix in the common piping system. In general, if you live in Pierce or Union Township, you receive water with a hardness of 11 grains per gallon (180 ppm). In Batavia, Stonelick, and Goshen Townships, the water has 7 grains per gallon (120 ppm) of hardness. In Miami Township, blending of these two waters is possible, but the softer

water is more likely. In northern Miami Township, hardness varies from 7 grains in the winter (October through April) to 14 grains (240 ppm) in summer (May through September).

**LICENSE TO OPERATE INFORMATION**

Both the Village of New Richmond and Clermont County Water have current, unconditioned license to operate water systems.

If you have questions about these tables, call Mark Day at 732-7945 or Ken Shearwood at 553-3606.

## 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.*

**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 (pg/L):** *are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per billion corresponds 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.*

### Consumer Confidence Report Data Sheet for Robin Grays Public Water System Regulated Contaminants

Substance (Unit of Measure)	Year Sampled	MCL	MCLG	Amount Detected	Range Low-High	Violation	Typical Source
Turbidity (NTU)	2015	TT	NA	0.355	0.039 - 0.355	No	Soil runoff
Chlorine (ppm)	2016	[4]	[4]	0.63	0.21-2.07	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Fluoride (ppm)	2016	4	4	0.99	0.69-1.30	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (ppm)	2016	10	10	0.91	0.10-1.60	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Barium	2016	2	2	0.0299	0.0299 - 0.0299	NO	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries, Erosion of natural deposits
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2016	80	NA	55.2	0 - 55.2	No	By-product Of drinking water disinfection

**Consumer Confidence Report Data Sheet for Robin Grays Public Water System  
Regulated Contaminants (continued)**

Lead and Copper
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Contaminants (Units)	Action Level (AL)	Individual Results Over the AL	90% of test levels Were less than	Violation	Year Sampled	Typical Source of Contaminants
Lead (ppb)	15	48 ppb	25.5 ppb	Yes	2016	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
1 out of 5 samples were found to have lead levels in excess of the lead action level of 15 ppb						
Copper (ppm)	1.3	N/A		No	2016	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Zero of 5 samples were found to have copper levels in excess of the copper action level of 1.3 ppm.						