

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE
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Jacksonville, IL 62650

MUNICIPAL UTILITIES



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2007 Water Quality Report

City of Jacksonville

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This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the City of Jacksonville water system to provide safe drinking water.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT

A Source Water Assessment Fact Sheet has been prepared by the Illinois EPA in cooperation with the US Geological Survey for the City of Jacksonville.

Drinking water for the City of Jacksonville is supplied by the Jacksonville community water supply (CWS). Two lakes and three wells act as the source of this drinking water.

Illinois EPA considers all surface water sources of community water supplies to be susceptible to potential pollution problems; hence, the reason for mandatory treatment for all surface water supplies in Illinois. Mandatory treatment includes coagulation, sedimentation, filtration, and disinfection. Causes of pollution to the lake include nutrients, siltation, suspended solids, and organic enrichment. Primary sources of pollution include agricultural runoff, land disposal (septic systems), and shoreline erosion.

Potential sources of contamination are also located near the well sites. Due to the presence of potential sources and the unconfined nature of the wells, Illinois EPA considers these wells to be susceptible to contamination. The Illinois EPA provides minimum protection zones of 400 feet for Jacksonville's wells. In 1991, the City of Jacksonville enacted a Maximum Setback Zone Ordinance providing for additional protection out to a distance of 2,500 feet from the wellhead.

WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW?

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline, (1-800-426-4791).

CHARACTERISTICS OF DRINKING WATER

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and groundwater 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. Possible contaminants consist of:

- 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 may 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, urban storm water runoff and septic systems; and
- Radioactive contaminants, which may be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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 (1-800-426-4791).