

BARTON HILLS VILLAGE WATER CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT for 2009

In 1996, Congress amended the Safe Drinking Water Act to require that all community water systems deliver to their customers a brief annual water quality report. This Consumer Confidence Report includes information on where water comes from, village compliance with federal and state testing requirements and on-going efforts to ensure that Barton Hills Village (BHV) water meets or exceeds quality standards.

BHV water comes from two primary wells, with two back-up wells, to service the village's 140 homes. The wells draw from aquifers extending to the north and northeast of BHV. A Wellhead Protection Plan was approved by the State of Michigan in April 1997. One of the first in the state, this plan identifies BHV water sources, possible risks of contamination and strategies to ensure the future safety of the water supply. The complete report is available for public inspection from the BHV Clerk's office (734-222-5209 or bhvclerk@comcast.net).

The State of Michigan performed an assessment of BHV source water in 2003 to determine the susceptibility, or relative potential, of contamination. The susceptibility rating is on a six-tiered scale from "very-low" to "high" based primarily on geologic sensitivity, water chemistry and contaminant sources. All four BHV wells indicate that the groundwater is obtained from a confined aquifer. The geologic sensitivity for a confined aquifer is characterized as "low." For more information about the Source Water Assessment report, contact the BHV Clerk's Office (734-222-5209 or bhvclerk@comcast.net)

Review of the contaminant source inventory developed for the BHV Wellhead Protection Program and last revised in November 1996 indicates there are several known contaminant sources of concern within the Wellhead Protection Area. These contaminant sites include agricultural areas where fertilizers and pesticides are used, an abandoned gas station, an industrial waste generator and a permitted sanitary sewage/wastewater facility, as well as residential septic systems. In addition to the on-going steps being taken as part of the Wellhead Protection Plan, Barton Hills Village adopted Ordinance #21 in 2001 which requires inspection of BHV residential septic systems on a regular basis. A summary report in 2008 based on records kept by Barton Hills Village indicated over 80% resident compliance with this ordinance.

The sources of drinking water for most communities (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 before it is treated 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 stormwater 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 stormwater runoff and residential uses.

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

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 stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations that 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. Barton Hills Village water is treated according to EPA regulations. Monthly samples are tested by a certified laboratory to ensure that any contamination is dealt with immediately. In addition, periodic tests are performed for over 65 possible contaminants.

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).

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, persons 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).

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. Barton Hills Village 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 two 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 (1-800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

The following table lists all the drinking water contaminants that were detected in BHV water during the 2009 calendar year (January 1-December 31). The state requires monitoring for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old. Terms and abbreviations used in the table are listed following the table.

	MCL	MCLG	Barton Hills Water	Range of Detections	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Inorganic Contaminants							
Arsenic (ppb)	10	0	4	3-4	9/12/08	No	Erosion of natural deposits Runoff from orchards Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.20	0.15-0.20	3/9/05	No	Erosion of natural deposits Discharge of drilling wastes Discharge of metal refineries
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.34	0.34-0.34	8/26/09	No	Erosion of natural deposits Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Sodium (ppm)	n/a*	n/a*	19	9-19	8/26/09	No	Naturally occurring in groundwater
*Sodium is a specially monitored contaminant and there is no MCL or MCLG assigned to it. Special monitoring helps the EPA to determine whether there is a need to regulate that contaminant.							
Bacteriological Monitoring							
Total coliform	More than 1 positive sample	0	1 out of 5 samples	0	monthly	No	Naturally present in the environment
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80	80	0.9	0.7-0.9	7/26/07	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine Residual at the Sampling Site (ppm)	MRDL =4	MRDLG =4	0.05	0.02-0.04	Monthly	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Lead/Copper Monitoring at Customer's Tap				# of samples > AL			
Lead (ppb)	AL =15	0	1.5	0	8/25/09	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Copper (ppb)	AL =1300	0	85	0	8/25/09	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Terms and abbreviations used in the table:

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.

Maximum Contaminant Level (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.

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

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

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

n/a: not applicable *nd*: not detectable at testing limit *ppb*: parts per billion or micrograms per liter
ppm: parts per million or milligrams per liter *pCi/L*: picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)

The capabilities for fire-fighting in BHV underwent a thorough appraisal by the ISO (Insurance Services Office), who issued a very detailed report in August 2009. The ISO Public Protection Classification for BHV (used for setting home-insurance rates) was unchanged at "5" on a scale of "1" (highest) through "10" (lowest), and is in the top 22.6% of all statewide classifications. Credits were assigned for three principal categories: (1) Receiving & handling fire alarms (Washtenaw County, 4.78 points out of a maximum possible 10.00 points), (2) Fire department (Ann Arbor Township, 25.73/50.00), and (3) Water supply (BHV, including tests of representative hydrants, 36.81/40.00). The relatively poor scores for Items 1 and 2 (over which BHV has no control) were largely due to manpower shortages. Further, because of the significant difference between scores for the fire department (mediocre) and the water supply (very good), 8.11 points were deducted, giving us a net score of 59.21/100, just short of the 60.00 needed for the next higher classification of "4". Alas, there is essentially nothing that BHV can do to get a higher classification. Taken in isolation, Item 3 (the BHV water supply) would suffice to put us in the top classification of "1" (corresponding to 90% credit or more).

Barton Hills Village will continue efforts to ensure the highest quality water possible. Residents are encouraged to participate by maintaining septic systems, using fertilizers sparingly (especially those containing phosphorus) and disposing of hazardous materials properly. Additional information regarding water resources is included in the Barton Bulletin, which is distributed to BHV residents every few weeks. Residents may also relay concerns to the Board of Trustees, which meets the second Monday of each month at 6:00 PM at the Village Hall. For more information, contact Maintenance Superintendent Walter Esch (734-222-5209) or Water Committee Chairman Jim Wilkes (734-663-6174).