

City of St. Marys 2021 Consumer Confidence Report



*"St. Marys...Delivering Quality
Drinking Water since 1895"*



Dear Water Customers:

We are pleased to present to you this report on Drinking Water Quality for the 2021 year. Please take the time to review this report. It is a summary of the quality drinking water and services we deliver every day. It is a record reflecting the hard work of all our employees to provide safe, reliable drinking water services to the citizens of St. Marys at competitive rates. What does high-quality drinking water cost in St. Marys? About five gallons for a penny!

St. Marys has been delivering quality drinking water to citizens since 1895. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water that achieves the highest standards of customer satisfaction. In 2021, St. Marys distributed over 388 million gallons of drinking water to customers and met all Federal and State drinking water standards. For more information on your drinking water contact Jeff Thompson at 419-394-4114. Water system highlights in 2021 included:

- ◆ **Supply:** The EPA endorsed Source Water Protection Program has been in effect since April 2014, with no noted threats within the protection area. Ohio EPA formally endorsed our Source Water Protection Program on April 29, 2014 and re-endorsed the plan in October 2021. The plan was revised in 2021 to include new well #6. From a public health standpoint, the importance of Ohio EPA endorsing the program is something St. Marys citizens should be very proud of.
- ◆ **Treatment:** The new Water Treatment Plant was completed in the spring of 2020 and went into full production on May 1st, despite the challenges of the Covid 19 restrictions being in full force. Water quality remains excellent with little change to water quality results.
- ◆ **Laboratory:** Testing to comply with Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requirements was moderate in 2021, as Ohio EPA required, we tested for nitrite, nitrate, radiologicals, synthetic organic chemicals (SOC), volatile organic chemicals (VOC), bacteria, and disinfection byproducts. Results were well below regulatory limits. Lead and copper testing was also performed in 2021, the results are included below.
- ◆ **Water Rates:** In order to fund the water system upgrade, water rates will be adjusted to make sure that water funds are adequate enough to pay the debt service and for future operation and system upgrades. 14.9% increases for 6 years and took effect in March of 2016.


Mayor Patrick McGowan

Source Water Information

The City of St. Marys receives its water from 4 wells located in the Teays river valley, an ancient river filled with glacial deposits.

Ohio EPA has completed a study of the City of St. Marys source of drinking water, to determine the susceptibility. According to this study (available at <http://wwwapp.epa.ohio.gov/gis/swpa/OH0600612.pdf>), the aquifers (water-rich zones) that supply water to the City of St. Marys have a moderate susceptibility to contamination. This does not mean that the wellfields cannot become contaminated, only that the likelihood of contamination is moderate. This determination is based on the following:

- ◆ The depth of the aquifers (75-200 feet below ground level) and the presence of a thick layer of clay above the aquifers both serve to protect our well water.
- ◆ There has been no evidence to suggest that our well water has been impacted by any significant levels of chemical contaminants from human activities.
- ◆ The Source Water Protection Plan was adopted in 2014 and revised in 2021.

What Are The Sources Of Contamination In Water?

- ◆ The sources of drinking water (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 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; (E) Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
- ◆ In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, USEPA 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.

What Are The Sources Of Contamination In Water? (Cont.)

- ◆ 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 Federal Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

How Can You Be Sure Your Drinking Water Is Safe?

- ◆ St. Marys has a current, unconditional license to operate our water system, issued by Ohio EPA.
- ◆ Certified Water Treatment Plant operators check water quality at all stages of the treatment process to ensure that the water is treated properly and that the finished water is of consistent quality. We analyzed over 3,500 chemical and over 450 bacteria tests in 2021.
- ◆ In order to insure that tap water is safe, 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.
- ◆ 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 microbiological contaminants are available at 1-800-426-4791 (Safe Drinking Water Hotline).

Lead Educational Information

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 services lines and home plumbing. St. Marys 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 drinking 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>.

License to Operate (LTO) Status Information

In 2021 we had an unconditioned license to operate our water system.

To Learn More

St. Marys is committed to providing you with information about your water supply. We encourage all citizens to learn more about water resources, conservation, and quality. We offer presentations and treatment plant tours to civic groups, school children, and other interested parties. Public participation and comment are encouraged at regular meetings of St. Marys City Council and Council's Water Committee meetings. Please call for more information

Water Department Office: 419-394-4114
Internet Web Page: www.cityofstmarys.net

Water Treatment Plant: 419-394-5512
City Council & Water Committee Meetings: 419-394-3303

The EPA requires regular sampling to ensure drinking water safety. The City of St. Marys conducted sampling for {bacteria; nitrite; nitrate; radiologicals; SOC; VOC; lead; copper; disinfection byproducts} during 2021. For years, samples have been collected for over 150 different contaminants most of which were not detected in the City of St. Marys water supply. 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 our data, though accurate, are more than one year old. A complete listing of all the contaminants we monitor are available upon request.

Contaminant	Year Tested	Unit	MCL (Highest Allowed)	MCLG (Ideal Goal)	St. Marys Detected Level	St. Marys Detected Range	Violation	Possible Sources of Contamination
Inorganics								
Fluoride ¹	2020	ppm	4	4	0.439	N/A	No	Erosion of natural deposits Water additive that promotes strong teeth
Lead and Copper								
Contaminant	Year Tested	Unit	Action Level (AL)	MCLG (Ideal Goal)	90% of Test Levels Were Less Than	St. Marys Detected Range	Violation	Possible Sources of Contamination
Lead ²	2021	ppb	15 ppb	0	0.00	0 – 6.3	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
	Zero out of forty-three samples was found to have lead levels in excess of the Action Level of 15 ppb							
Copper ²	2021	ppm	1.3 ppm	1.35	0.0774	0 - .160	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
	Zero out of forty-three samples was found to have copper levels in excess of the Action Level of 1.350 ppm							
Residual Disinfectants								
Total Chlorine	2021	ppm	MRDL = 4	MRDLG=4	2.1	1.0 – 3.4	No	Water additive used to control microbes

Definitions/Notes:

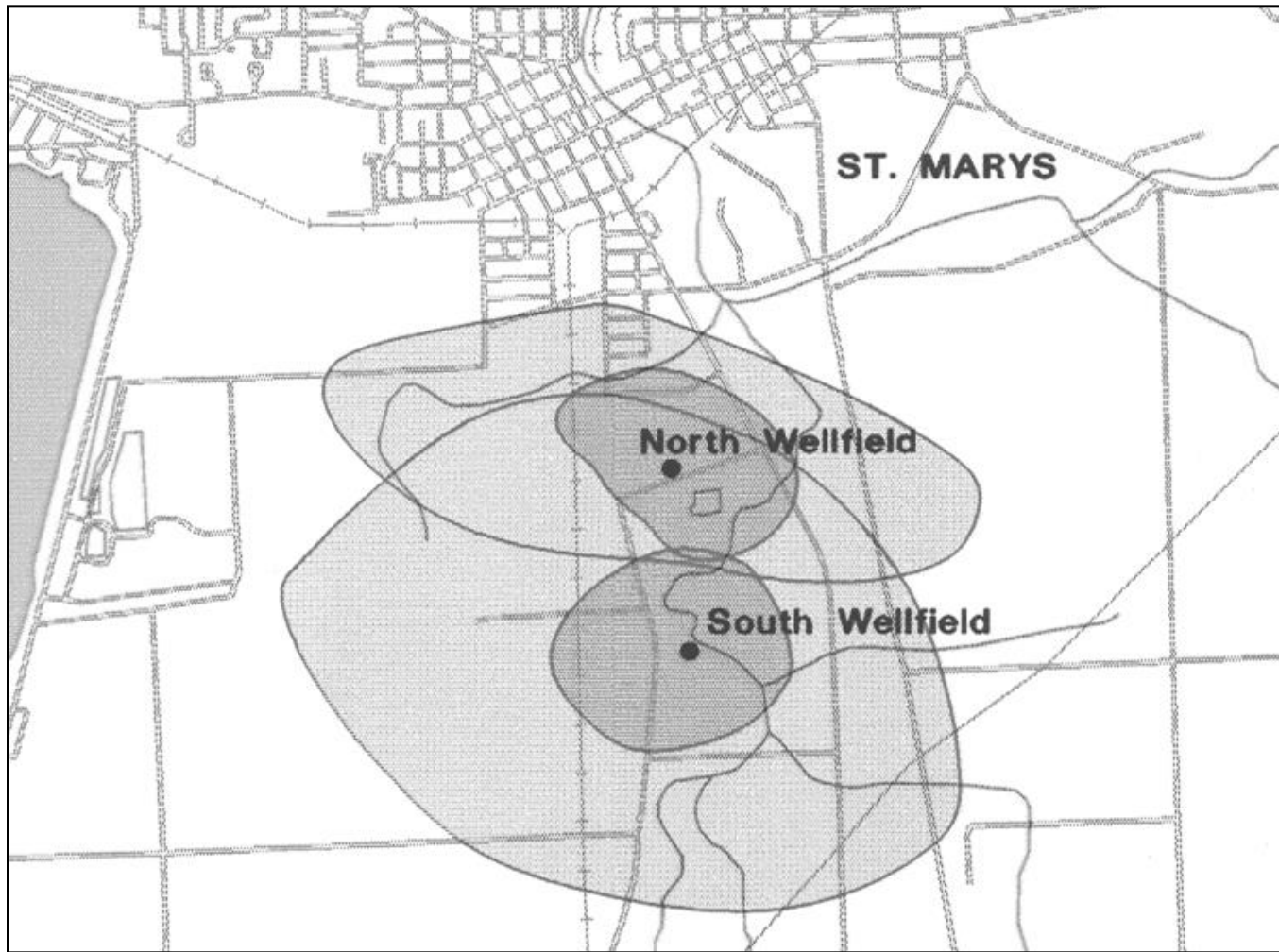
MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level) - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water
MCLG (Max. Contaminant Level Goal) - The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk
ppm (Parts per Million) - Units of measure for concentration (one part per million is equal to one minute in two years)
ppb (Parts per Billion) - Units of measure for concentration (one part per billion is equal to one minute in 2,000 years)
pCi/L (Picocuries per Liter) - A common measure of radioactivity
AL (Action Level) - The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow
MRDL (Max. Residual Disinfectant Level) - The highest level of a disinfectant allowed (addition is necessary to control microbial contaminants)
MRDLG (MRDL Goal) - Disinfectant level below which there is no known or expected health risk (goal does not reflect microbial control benefits)
N/A - Does not apply

¹ - Fluoride naturally occurs in the well water used by St. Marys

² - Lead and copper are measured at the customers tap, and in St. Marys their presence is due to private household plumbing

USEPA Required Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring

Name	Year Tested	Unit	Detected Level, Average	Detected Range
No Unregulated Contaminants have been required for the previous 5+ years. Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards (MCL's). The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining whether certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants.				



St. Marys Source Water Protection Area