

# ELLIS WATER CO., INC. (IN5228001)

## 2019 Annual Water Quality Report

### January 1 to December 31, 2019

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Quality Water Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

Our water is purchased as finished water from the City of Linton. Linton uses ground water from wells near Ilene, Indiana.

Ellis Water routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019.

In this table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

*Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)* - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

*Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter* - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

*Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)* - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

*Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)* - (mandatory language) The “Maximum Allowed” (MCL) is 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 (MCLG)* - (mandatory language) The “Goal”(MCLG) is 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 Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)* – (mandatory language) 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.

*Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)* – (mandatory language) The level of a 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.

## TEST RESULTS

| Contaminant                         | Date     | Violation Y/N | Highest Level Detected | Range of Levels Detected | Unit Measurement      | MCL G | MCL   | Likely Source of Contamination  |
|-------------------------------------|----------|---------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------|---|---|
| <b>Microbiological Contaminants</b> |          |               |                        |                          |                       |       |   |   |
| Total Coliform Bacteria             | 2019 (E) | N             | 0                      |                          | # of positive samples | 0     | presence of coliform bacteria in 5% of monthly samples  | Naturally present in the environment  |
| Fecal coliform and <i>E.coli</i>    | 2019 (E) | N             | 0                      |                          | # of positive samples | 0     | a routine sample and repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one is also fecal coliform or <i>E. coli</i> positive | Human and animal fecal waste  |
| <b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>     |          |               |                        |                          |                       |       |   |   |
| Gross Beta/photon emitters          | 2008 (L) | N             | 2.1                    |                          | pCi/l                 | 0     | 4 mrem/y  | Decay of natural and man-made deposits  |
| Gross Alpha emitters                | 2014 (L) | N             | 1.9                    |                          | pCi/l                 | 0     | 15  | Erosion of natural deposits   |
| Combined Uranium                    | 2014 (L) | N             | 2.5                    |                          | ppb                   | 0     | 30  | Erosion of natural deposits   |
| <b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>       |          |               |                        |                          |                       |       |   |   |
| Fluoride (Natural)                  | 2017 (L) | N             | .09                    |                          | ppm                   | 4.0   | 4.0   | Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories |
| Nitrate (as Nitrogen)               | 2019 (L) | N             | 6.67                   |                          | ppm                   | 10    | 10.0  | Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits                               |
| Selenium                            | 2017(L)  | N             | .0019                  |                          | ppm                   | .05   | .05   | Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines                          |
| Sodium                              | 2017 (L) | N             | 5.41                   |                          | ppm                   |       | None  | Runoff from road salt application   |

## Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products

|                                    |                      |        |             |             |     |                            |     |   |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|--------|-------------|-------------|-----|----------------------------|-----|---|
| Chlorine                           |                      |        |             |             | ppm | 4.0                        | 4.0 | Water additive used to control microbes.  |
| TTHM<br>(Total trihalomethanes)    | 2019 (E)<br>2019 (L) | N<br>N | 15.6<br>9.1 | 15.6<br>9.1 | ppb | No<br>Goal<br>For<br>Total | 80  | By-product of drinking water chlorination |
| HAA5's<br>(Total Haloacetic Acids) | 2019 (E)<br>2019 (L) | N<br>N | 5.7<br>4.2  | 5.7<br>4.2  | ppb | No<br>Goal<br>For<br>Total | 60  | By-product of drinking water chlorination |

(E) = Ellis Water - IN5228001

(L) = Linton – IN 5228005

Not all sample results may have been used for calculating the Highest Level Detected because some results may be part of an evaluation to determine where compliance sampling should occur in the future.

## LEAD AND COPPER

Definitions:

*Action Level Goal (ALG)* – The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.

*Action Level* – The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

“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. Ellis Water 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 of lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using the 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.”

| Lead and Copper | Date Sampled         | MCLG       | Action Level (AL) | 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile | # Sites Over AL | Units      | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination  |
|-----------------|----------------------|------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|------------|-----------|---|
| Copper          | 2017 (E)<br>2018 (L) | 1.3<br>1.3 | 1.3<br>1.3        | .388<br>.166                | 0<br>0          | ppm<br>ppm | N<br>N    | Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems. |
| Lead            | 2017 (E)<br>2018 (L) | 0<br>0     | 15<br>15          | <1<br><1                    | 0<br>0          | ppb<br>ppb | N<br>N    | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.                                   |

### ***Microbiological Contaminants:***

**Total Coliform.** Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.

**Fecal coliform/E.Coli.** Fecal coliforms and E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, and people with severely compromised immune systems.

### ***Radioactive Contaminants:***

**Beta/photon emitters.** Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit forms of radiation known as photons and beta radiation. Some people who drink water containing beta and photon emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

**Alpha emitters.** Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation. Some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

**Uranium.** Some people who drink water containing uranium in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer and kidney toxicity.

### ***Inorganic Contaminants:***

**Barium.** Some people who drink water containing barium in excess of the MCL over many years could experience an increase in their blood pressure.

**Copper.** Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor.

**Fluoride.** Some people who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the MCL over many years could get bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones. Children may get mottled teeth.

**Lead.** Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

**Nitrate.** Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue-baby syndrome.

**Selenium.** Selenium is an essential nutrient. However, some people who drink water containing selenium in excess of the MCL over many years could experience hair or fingernail losses, numbness in fingers or toes, or problems with their circulation.

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant you should ask advice from your health care provider.

As you can see by the table, our system had no violations. We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected. The EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels.

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 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 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, storm water runoff, and residential uses.

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

In order to ensure tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. All 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 the 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.

MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

**Total Coliform:** The Total Coliform Rule requires water systems to meet a stricter limit for coliform bacteria. Coliform bacteria are usually harmless, but their presence in water can be an indication of disease-causing bacteria. When coliform bacteria are found, special follow-up tests are done to determine if harmful bacteria are present in the water supply. If this limit is exceeded, the water supplier must notify the public by newspaper, television or radio. To comply with the stricter regulation, we have increased the average amount of chlorine in the distribution system.

**Nitrates:** As a precaution we always notify physicians and health care providers in this area if there is ever a higher than normal level of nitrates in the water supply.

**Lead:** Lead in drinking water is rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning, but it can add to a person's total lead exposure. All potential sources of lead in the household should be identified and removed, replaced or reduced.

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 from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact our office at (812) 847-9898. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00PM in the water office.

We at Ellis Water work around the clock to provide top quality water. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.