



City of Ocean Springs

Water Department

P.O. Box 1800
Ocean Springs, MS 39566-1800

2008

Drinking Water Quality Report

TELEPHONE
228-875-3955

OFFICE HOURS
6:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Monday thru Friday

City of Ocean Springs
PWS# 0300005

Attn: André Kaufman
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Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

2008 Report

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PWS ID 0300005

Is my water safe?

Our top priority is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water, so we test for a variety of substances throughout the year. We are pleased to inform that the City of Ocean Springs has complied with all requirements of the Mississippi Department of Health. As a part of the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996, we provide Water Quality Reports to all our customers. By Federal Law, we must report test results from the previous year's test information. The City of Ocean Springs is pleased to announce that the overall rating of the system is 5.0, the highest possible rating offered by the Mississippi Department of Health.

Do I need to take special precautions?

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/Centers for Disease Control (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).

Where does my water come from?

The drinking water supplied by the City of Ocean Springs is pumped from ground water aquifers using six separate wells across town. Five draw from the Graham Ferry Formation and the other from the Pascagoula Formation. The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality has completed a study of the ground water and its availability to Jackson County. The Department has also completed a source water assessment for the City of Ocean Springs and its susceptibility to contamination. Copies of these reports are available for viewing at the Ocean Springs Public Library.

Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

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 (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

How do I get involved?

The Ocean Springs Board of Aldermen meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall on Porter Avenue. Any questions or comments regarding the water system can be addressed at their meetings. We encourage your participation.

Other Information:

If you want additional information about your drinking water, you may contact your Public Works Director or you may prefer to log on to the internet and obtain specific information about your system and its compliance history at the following address: <http://www.msdh.state.ms.us/msdhsite/index.cfm/11.0.76.html>. Information including current and past boil water notices, compliance, reporting violations and other information pertaining to your water including "Why, When, and How to Boil Your Drinking Water" and "Flooding and Safe Drinking Water" may be obtained.

Remember, the City of Ocean Springs is dedicated to protecting your water supply. To insure our supply is not contaminated from commercial or residential customers, we install backflow prevention devices on all services. On rare occasions, some periodic releases from faucets or the hot water heater relief valve may occur. If these problems persist, you may need to contact a plumber to install additional protection on your system.

Important Drinking Water Definitions

MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

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

MRDLG: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal: 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.

MRDL: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level. There is convincing evidence that the addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

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.

For more information contact:

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WATER QUALITY DATA TABLE

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants. Some tests are performed once every few years because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

Contaminants (units)	MCLG	MCL	Your Water	Range Low High	Sample Date	Violations	Typical Source
Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products							
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	NA	60	14	0 52	---	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	NA	80	15	0 43	---	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Inorganic Contaminants							
Chromium [Total] (ppm)	100	100	0.0006	<0.0005 0.0006	3/14/05	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.455	0.42 0.52	2/7/06	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	<0.08	<0.08 <0.08	4/23/07	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; septic tanks; natural deposits
Nitrite (ppm)		1	<0.02	<0.02 <0.02	4/23/07	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; septic tanks; natural deposits
Nitrate & Nitrite (ppm)		10	<0.1	<0.1 <0.1	4/23/07	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; septic tanks; natural deposits
Microbiological Contaminants							
Total Coliform (#) (monthly)	0	1	0	NA	---	No	Naturally present in the environment
Radioactive Contaminants							
Beta/photon emitters (pCi/L)	NA	NA	2.2	0.1 3.6	---	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits. The EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for Beta particles.
Unregulated Contaminants							
Sulfate (ppm)	NA	NA	3.4	3.3 3.5	---	No	

Contaminants (units)	MCLG	AL	Your Water	# of Samples>	Sample Date	Violations	Typical Source
Inorganic Contaminants							
Arsenic (mg/L)	0.05		<0.0005	5	2/7/06	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from grass and electronics production wastes
Cadmium (mg/L)	0.005		<0.0001	5	2/7/06	No	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from metal refineries; runoff from waste batteries and paints
Chromium (mg/L)	0.1		0.001	5	2/7/06	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.2			No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems

Contaminants (units)	MCLG	AL	Your Water	# of Samples>	Sample Date	Violations	Typical Source
Inorganic Contaminants (continued)							
Fluoride (mg/L)	4		0.455	5	2/7/06	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead (ppb)	0	15	0.003			No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Nickel (mg/L)			<0.005	4	3/14/05	No	
Cyanide (ppm)	0.2		<0.005	5	2/7/06	No	
Antimony (ppm)	0.0006		<0.0005	5	2/7/06	No	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from metal refineries; runoff from waste batteries and paints
Barium (ppm)	2		0.004	5	2/7/06	No	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from metal refineries; runoff from waste batteries and paints
Beryllium (ppm)	0.004		<0.0001	5	2/7/06	No	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from metal refineries; runoff from waste batteries and paints
Mercury (ppm)	0.002		<0.0002	5	2/7/06	No	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from metal refineries; runoff from waste batteries and paints
Selenium (ppm)	0.05		0.0011	5	2/7/06	No	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from metal refineries; runoff from waste batteries and paints
Thallium (ppm)	0.002		<0.0005	5	2/7/06	No	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from metal refineries; runoff from waste batteries and paints

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC)

Volatile organic compounds were tested on 2/26/07. All results were below detection limits.

Unit Description:

NA: Not applicable

ND: Not detected

NR: Not reported

MNR: Monitoring not required, but recommended

ppm: Parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

ppb: Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)

pCi/L: Picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)