

2000 Drinking Water Quality Report

City of Dover

P. O. Box 475

Dover, Delaware 19903

June 15, 2001

The City of Dover is pleased to present our Annual Water Quality Report for the 2000 calendar year. This report and the information contained herein is required by the 1996 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act. It is designed to inform our customers about the quality of your drinking water and the services we deliver to our customers each and every day. Our goal as a public water purveyor is to provide a healthy and dependable supply of drinking water. We want our customers to understand the continuous efforts we are making to improve the City's water treatment process and protect our precious water resources. The City of Dover is committed to providing the highest quality of drinking water possible.

The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) has evaluated the state's available water supply through a program designed to assess the susceptibility of public water sources to possible contamination. This evaluation, known as the Source Water Assessment Report, is in final draft form. Copies of the Source Water Assessment Report will be available to the public pending final approval from DNREC officials. To obtain a copy of this information, please contact DNREC at 302-739-4793.

Drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) can come from many sources. These sources 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 materials and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. **The City of Dover's water supply system uses groundwater as its source of supply. Our public drinking water wells draw water from the Cheswold, Piney Point, and Columbia Aquifers.** In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations established limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

This water quality report identifies some of the components of the City's drinking water. If you have any questions concerning the information contained in this report, please contact **Mr. Scott D. Koenig, P.E., Director of Public Works, or Mr. Andrew Riggi, Assistant City Engineer, at (302) 736-7025.** Interested customers can also attend any of our regularly scheduled City Council meetings. These meetings are held on the second and fourth Mondays of each month in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 15 E. Loockerman Street, Dover, Delaware. The open forum segment of these meetings begins at 7:15 p.m. As a public water purveyor, we want our customers to be informed about the quality of their water supply and the dedicated efforts of the City's water utility.

The **City of Dover** routinely monitors for various constituents in your drinking water in accordance with all Federal and State laws. A table has been included in this report which shows the results of the City's required monitoring for the period of **January 1st thru December 31st, 2000.** As indicated previously, water which travels over land or underground can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of these substances or contaminants. It's important to remember the mere presence of one or more of these constituents does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. 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. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

This report contains the following terms and/or abbreviations which you may not be familiar with. To help you

better understand these terms we have provided some simple definitions:

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

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

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

Treatment Technique (TT) - a treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Maximum Contaminant Level - the "Maximum Contaminant Level" (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in your drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - 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.

In August 2000, the City of Dover obtained 37 samples from our customers to comply with the requirements of the **Lead & Copper Rule**. These samples were analyzed by an independent laboratory. Our results for lead indicated the 90th percentile sample had 0.000 mg/L of lead present in the sample. This result is below the action level of 0.015 mg/L for lead. Our results for copper indicated the 90th percentile sample had 0.086 mg/L of copper present in the sample. This result is below the action level of 1.3 mg/L for copper. Since our results were below the action level for both substances, no further action is required by the City of Dover at this time.

As indicated in the following table, the city's water system had only one (1) minor violation for Total Coliform for the 2000 calendar year. Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as a marker which may indicate that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present. In December 2000, Coliforms were found in more than 5% of our routine samples. Corrective action in the form of limited chlorination was taken immediately by the City to bring the quality of our drinking water back into State and Federal compliance. We're proud that your drinking water currently meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements.

TEST RESULTS						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants						
Total Coliform Bacteria	Y	Present	Present / Absent	0	presence of coliform bacteria in 5% of monthly samples	December 8 - 28, 2000 Public Notice Likely Source of Contamination: Construction of new water mains in the City's Water Distribution System.
Radioactive Contaminants						
Alpha emitters	N	0.0348	pCi/l	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Inorganic Contaminants						
Fluoride	N	0.86-0.93	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth
Unregulated Inorganic Contaminants						
Iron (Fe)	N	0.087	ppm	0	0.3	
pH	N	8.2	ppm		6.5 – 8.5	
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	N	193	ppm		500	

Total Coliform: The Total Coliform Rule requires water systems to meet stricter limits 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 testing is done in order to determine if harmful bacteria are present in the water supply. If the strict limit is exceeded, the water supplier must notify the public by newspaper, television or radio and take immediate corrective action which may include chlorinating and/or flushing the distribution system in the affected area.

In our continuing efforts to maintain a viable and dependable water supply it may be necessary from time to time to make improvements to the City's water distribution and treatment systems in your area. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in our future rate structure. **The City of Dover will begin continuous chlorination and fluoridation of the City's water distribution system in 2001.**

Employees of the **City of Dover** work around the clock to provide top quality water to all of our water customers. 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.