

**Topeka Water Company  
2020 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report**

***Important information for the Spanish-speaking population***

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre el agua que usted bebe. Tradúzcalo, o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

***Is our water safe?***

This brochure is a snapshot of the quality of the drinking water that we provided last year. Included as part of this report are details about where the water that you drink comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Indiana standards. We are committed to provide you with all the information that you need to know about the quality of the water that you drink.

***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 people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people 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 microbial contaminants which are available from the **Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791**.

***Where does our water come from?***

Our water source is ground water pumped from the **Topeka Fan Aquifer**. The groundwater is pumped using three wells on property owned by the Town of Topeka.

***Our Watershed Protection Efforts***

Our water system is working with the community to increase awareness of better waste disposal practices to further protect the sources of our drinking water. We are also working with other agencies and with local watershed groups to educate the community on ways to keep our water safe. We also have a **source water assessment** plan and/or a **well head protection plan** available from our office that provides more information such as potential sources of contamination. This report shows our water quality and what it means. A copy can be obtained online at <https://topeka-in.gov/water/>.

***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 the water poses a health risk. More information on contaminants and their potential health effects can be obtained by calling the **EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791**.

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 land or underground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material or it can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in the raw, untreated water may 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 that result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- **Pesticides and Herbicides**, may come from a variety of sources, such as agricultural, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- **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.
- **Radioactive Contaminants** 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, 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.

We are pleased to present you this year’s annual quality water report. This report is designed to inform you about the water quality and service, 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 source is ground water pumped from three wells on property owned by the Town of Topeka.

We have a source water assessment plan and a well head protection plan available at our office that provides more information such as potential sources of contamination.

The Topeka Water Department 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> through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019. It is All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. It is important to remember that the presence of these does not necessarily pose a health

## Water Quality Data

The table below lists all the contaminants that we detected the 2019 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise indicated, the data presented in this table is from testing done between January 1 and December 31, 2019. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) requires us to monitor for certain contaminants at a frequency less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from one year to another. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality may however be more than one year old.

Some of the terms and abbreviations used in the report are:

- MCL:** *Maximum Contaminant Level*, the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- MCLG:** *Maximum Contaminant Level Goal*, the level of a contaminant in water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- MRDL:** *Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level*, 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.
- 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.
- Avg:** Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual averages of monthly samples.
- ALG:** *Action Level Goal*, 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.
- AL:** *Action Level*, the concentration of a contaminate which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- NTU:** *Nephelometric Turbidity Unit*, a measure of the clarity (or cloudiness) of water.
- ppm:** *Parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/l)-or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.*
- ppb:** *Parts per billion, or Micrograms per liter (ug/l)-or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.*
- pCi/L:** *Picocuries per liter*, picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.
- ND:** *Non-Detects*, the result was not detected at or above the analytical method detection level.

### TEST RESULTS

#### Inorganic Contaminants

Date	Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Unit	Result	Violates	Likely Source of Contamination
8/15/17	Mercury	2	2	ppb	<0.10	NO	Erosion from natural deposits, runoff from landfills and cropland.
8/15/17	Antimony	6	6	ppb	<0.5	NO	Discharge from petroleum refineries, fire retardants, ceramics, solder, and electronics.
8/15/17	Arsenic	10	n/a	ppb	<0.5	NO	Erosion of natural deposits, runoff from orchards, glass and electronic waste.

8/15/17	Beryllium	4	4	ppb	<0.5	NO	Discharge from metal refineries, coal burning factories, discharge from electrical, and aerospace industries.
8/15/17	Chromium	100	100	ppb	<1.0	NO	Discharge from steel and pulp mills, discharge from natural deposits.
8/15/17	Nickel	0.5	0.00010	ppm	0.0015	NO	Corrosion from galvanized pipe, erosion of natural deposits, runoff from batteries and paint waste.
8/15/17	Selenium	50	50	ppm	0.0015	NO	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries.
8/15/17	Thallium	2	0.5	ppb	<0.5	NO	Leaching from ore processing sites, discharge from electronics, glass, and drug factories.
8/15/17	Barium	2	2	Ppm	0.114	NO	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
8/15/17	Cadmium	0.005	0.005	Ppm	<5	NO	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from metal refineries; runoff from waste batteries and paints
8/15/17	Fluoride	4	4	Ppm	0.6	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
08/15/17	Cyanide	0.020	<0.020	Ppm	<0.020	NO	Discharge from metal / steel, plastic and fertilizer factories
8/16/17	Sodium	n/a	n/a	Ppm	4.25	NO	Runoff from road salt application. Not regulated

### Lead and Copper

Date	Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Unit	Result	Violates	Likely Source of Contamination
Special note on lead:		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. The Topeka Water Company is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. 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 at 1-800-426-4791.					
8/14/18	Copper (90 <sup>th</sup> percentile)	AL=1.3	1.3	Ppm	0.136	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
8/14/18	Lead	AL=15	0	Ppb	<2.0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, and erosion of natural deposits

### Disinfection Byproducts & Precursors

Date	Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Unit	Result	Violates	Likely Source of Contamination
08/20/19	Total Haloacetic Acids (haa5)	60	2.0	Ppb	<2.0	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
08/21/19	Total Trihalomethanes (tthm)	80	0.5	ppb	19.6	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination

### Coliform Bacteria

Date	Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Unit	Result	Violates	Likely Source of Contamination
Twice a Month	Total Coliform		0		0 pos. monthly sample	No	Naturally present in the environment.

### Radioactive Contaminants

Date	Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Unit	Result	Violates	Likely Source of Contamination
4/18/18	Gross Alpha	15	0	pCi/l	0.7	No	Erosion of natural deposits.
4/18/18	Beta Particle Activity	4	0	Mrem/yr	2.35	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
4/18/18	Uranium	30	0	ug/L	>1.0	No	Erosion of natural deposits.
4/18/18	Radium-228	5	0	pCi/l	>1.0	No	Erosion of natural deposits.

Special note on Gross Beta: The MCL for Gross Beta is 4mrem/year; however, EPA considers 50 pCi/l to be the level of concern for Beta particles. *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.

## Synthetic Organic Contaminants including Pesticides and herbicides

Date	Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Unit	Result	Violates	Likely Source of Contamination
6/18/18	2,4-D	70	70	ppb	<0.050	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
6/18/18	2,4,5-TP (silvex)	50	50	ppb	<0.10	No	Residue of banned herbicide
6/18/18	Alachlor	2	0	ppb	<01.0	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
6/18/18	Atrazine	3	3	ppb	<0.072	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
6/18/18	Benzo(a)pyrene (PAH)	200	0	ppb	<0.019	No	Leaching from linings of water storage tanks and distribution lines
6/18/18	Carbofuran	40	40	ppb	<0.50	No	Leaching of soil fumigant used on rice and alfalfa
6/18/18	Chlordane	2	0	ppb	<0.10	No	Residue of banned termiticide
6/18/18	Dalapon	200	200	ppb	<0.50	No	Runoff from herbicide from right-of-way
6/18/18	Di(2ethylhexyl) adipate	400	400	ppb	<0.52	No	Discharge from chemical factories
6/18/18	Di(2ethylhexyl) phthalate	6	0	ppb	<0.52	No	Discharge from chemical and rubber factories
6/18/18	Dinoseb	7	7	ppb	<01.0	No	Runoff from herbicide used on soybeans and vegetables
6/18/18	Diquat	20	20	ppb	<0.40	No	Runoff from herbicide use
6/18/18	Endothall	100	100	ppb	<9.0	No	Runoff from herbicide use
6/18/18	Endrin	2	2	ppb	<0.0081	No	Residue of banned insecticide
6/18/18	Ethylene dibromide not tested in 2018	50	0	ppb	<0.01	No	Discharge from petroleum refineries
6/18/18	Heptachlor	400	0	ppb	<0.020	No	Residue from banned termiticide
6/18/18	Heptachlor epoxide	200	0	ppb	<0.016	No	Breakdown of heptachlor
6/18/18	Hexachlorobenzene	1	0	ppb	<0.081	No	Discharge from metal refineries & ag chemical factory
6/18/18	Hexachlorocyclopentadiene	50	50	ppb	<0.072	No	Discharge from chemical factories
6/18/18	Lindane	200	200	ppb	<0.016	No	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on cattle, lumber, gardens
6/18/18	Methoxychlor	40	40	ppb	<0.081	No	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on fruits, vegetables, alfalfa, livestock
6/18/18	Oxamyl [Vydate]	200	200	ppb	<0.50	No	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on apples, potatoes and tomatoes
6/18/18	Pentachlorophenol	1	0	ppb	<0.020	No	Discharge from wood preserving factories
6/18/18	Picloram	500	500	ppb	<0.050	No	Herbicide runoff
6/18/18	Simazine	4	4	ppb	<0.052	No	Herbicide runoff
6/18/18	Toxaphene	3	0	ppb	<0.50	No	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on cotton and cattle
6/18/18	Dibromo Chloropane DBPC	4	0	ppb	<0.014	No	Herbicide runoff
6/18/18	Dibromoethane EDB	2	0	ppb	<0.0071	No	Herbicide runoff

### Residual Disinfectant

Date	Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Unit	Result	Violates	Likely Source of Contamination
	Chlorine Residual	4 MRDL		Ppm		No	Water additive (disinfection) used to control microbiological organisms.

### ***Public Involvement Opportunities***

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact **Stewart Bender at 260-593-2300**. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of the regularly scheduled meetings or visit the town's website at [www.topeka-in.gov](http://www.topeka-in.gov). Meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of each month at the Topeka Town Hall 124 East Lake Street, at 4:00 pm.

### ***Please Share This Information***

Large water volume customers (like apartments, schools, and/or industries) are encouraged to post copies of this report in conspicuous locations or to distribute them to your tenants, residents, patients, students, and/or employees. This "good

faith” effort will allow non-billed customers to learn more about the quality of the water that they consume. Extra copies can be obtained by calling **260-593-2300**. We at the Topeka Water Company work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. 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. The Topeka Water Company is a Member of American Water Works Association (AWWA), and the Alliance of Indiana Rural Water. **Topeka PWSID#IN5244008**. Thank You.