Continued from front page

Contaminants that might be expected to be in source water (untreated 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 water 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, 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 storm water runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), are a group of chemicals that have been classified by the U.S. EPA as an emerging contaminant and have been used in many industrial applications and consumer products such as carpeting, waterproof clothing, upholstery, food paper wrappings, fire-fighting foams, and metal plating. PFAS have been found at low levels both in the environment and in blood samples from the general U.S. population. For more PFAS information go to: http://michigan.gov/pfasresponse

Arsenic. While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the cost of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

In order to ensure 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. 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.

FACT:
The Sheldon Dunes System Provided 7.22 Million Gallons of Drinking Water in 2024

At-Risk Populations

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 (1-800-426-4791).

Lead in Drinking Water

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. Sheldon Dunes Water System is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for at least 5 minutes to flush water from both your home plumbing and the lead service line. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Joe Hebert at 616-842-5400 for available resources. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Only 3% of the tap water we use on a typical day is used for drinking.
- Households consume at least 50% of their water by lawn sprinkling.
- Water lawns early in the morning when the suns rays aren't working to evaporate water.
- Toilets use the most water with an average of 27 gallons per person per day.
- Water efficient toilets, bathroom faucets and accessories can save the average home more than 11,000 gallons per year.
- An 8-oz glass of water can be refilled approximately 15,000 times for the same price as a six-pack of soda.
- The original reason for building many community water systems in North America wasn't to deliver safe drinking water—it was to fight fires!

2024 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report


Photos courtesy of SDHA member Jim Robbert.

Sheldon Dunes

We're very pleased to provide you with this year's Annual Water Quality Report. We want to keep you informed about the excellent water we have delivered to you over the past year. Our goal is, and always has been, to provide to you a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We are pleased to report that your drinking water is safe and meets federal and state requirements.

Photos courtesy of SDHA member Jim Robbert.

The water system is routinely monitored for contaminants in the drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The table on the next page shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 01, 2024 to December 31, 2024 unless otherwise noted. In addition to the test results listed in the table, we analyzed for 65 different volatile organic compounds, 10 different carbamates, 7 different herbicides, 18 different PFAS, and 31 different pesticides; none of which were found at detectable levels in the prior year. You can obtain the complete reports on these additional tests by contacting the distribution supervisor Joe Hebert at 616-842-5400.

The Sheldon Dunes Water System (WSSN 6025) met all federal and state drinking water regulations during 2024. However, federal law requires that the highest level of any contaminant detected in our treated water be reported to you.

Federal law also requires that we explain the contaminants that may be present in source water (untreated water), not just the wells, which are the source for the Sheldon Dunes water system, but other types of source water as well.

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 and 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.

Source Water Assessment

The Sheldon Dunes Water System utilizes a ground water source, drawing its water from three wells each over 130 feet deep located in the heart of the Sheldon Dunes community. A Source Water Assessment indicates the vulnerability of a water supply to potential sources of contamination. The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy has performed an assessment and found the Sheldon Dunes Water System to have a moderately low susceptibility. Copies of the report may be obtained by contacting the Port Sheldon Township Hall during normal business hours. Contact 616-399-6121.

The water distribution system supplies 92 homes through a network of 6 and 8 inch AC (asbestos cement) pipes with individual service line materials of only plastic or copper, 60 of which are of unknown materials.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water, you may contact Joe Hebert at 616-842-5400 or participate in our board meetings at the Port Sheldon Township Hall on the second Wednesday of every month at 5:30 PM.


Photos courtesy of SDHA member Jim Robbert.

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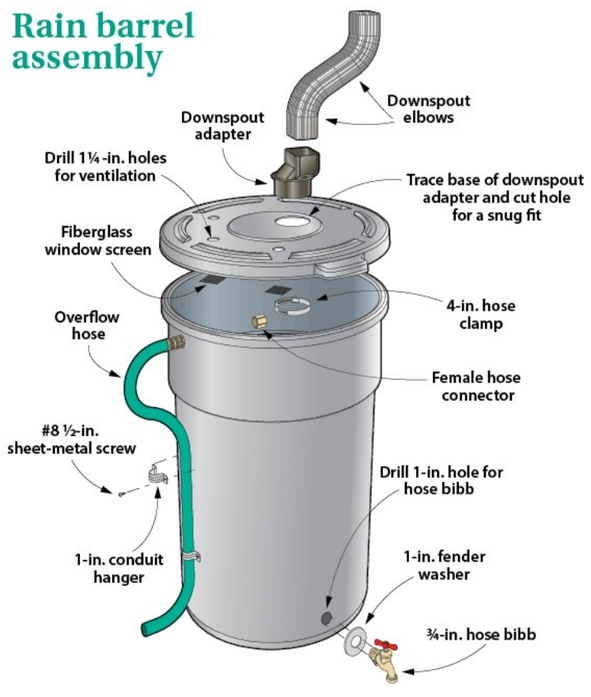
DEFINITIONS

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.
Parts per trillion (ppt) *or Nanograms per liter* – one part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years, or a single penny in $10,000,000,000.
N/A - *Not Applicable*
TT - *Treatment Technique:* A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
pCi/L - Picocuries Per Liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.
Action Level – The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow
Maximum Contaminant Level **- The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL)** is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLG(s) 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. MCLG(s) allow for a margin of safety.
90th Percentile - 90 percent of the samples were below the number listed.
LHA - *Lifetime Health Advisory*: A non-regulatory health-based reference level at which there are no adverse health risks when ingested over a lifetime.

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.

Additional Monitoring

Unregulated contaminates are those for which the USEPA has not established drinking water standards. Monitoring helps the USEPA determine where certain contaminants occur and whether regulation of those contaminates are needed.



What are the benefits of using a rain barrel?

In addition to saving water in the yard and garden, rain barrels can save money, energy, protect the environment and provide plants with untreated "soft water" free of dissolved salts or sediment. Using a rain barrel will reduce the amount of storm water runoff into local community water systems which may reduce flooding and stress on the water system.
https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/rain_barrels_are_economical_and_ecolog

REGULATED MONITORING AT THE CUSTOMER TAP

Compliance is determined using 90th percentile (i.e.. 9 out 10 samples must be below the AL)	Violation Yes/No	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	90th Percentile	Range	Year Sampled	Number of Samples Above AL	Likely Source of Contamination
Lead (ppb)	No	15	0	3	0 - 3	2024	0	Lead service lines, corrosion of household plumbing including fittings and fixtures; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	No	1.3	1.3	0.4	0.1 - 0.5	2024	0	

REGULATED AND UNREGULATED MONITORING AT THE TREATMENT PLANT AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Substance	Violation Yes/No	Highest Level Detected	Unit Measurement	Range of Detection	MCL	MCLG	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform (total number or % of positive samples/month)	No	Not Detected	Presence or Absence	N/A	TT	N/A	Naturally present in the environment
E. coli in the distribution system (positive samples)	No	Not Detected	Presence or Absence	N/A		0	Human and animal fecal waste
Fecal indicator - E. coli at the source (positive samples)	No	Not Detected	Presence or Absence	N/A	TT	N/A	Human and animal fecal waste
Hardness (as CaCo3)	No	183	ppm	N/A			Erosion of natural deposits
Iron	No	0.8	ppm	N/A			Erosion of natural deposits
Chloride	No	25.3	ppm	N/A			Runoff from fertilizer and septic tanks
Sodium	No	13.2	ppm	N/A			Mineral and nutrient erosion
Sulfate	No	24.7	ppm	N/A			Mineral and nutrient erosion
Nitrate	No	<1	ppm	N/A	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha (2023)	No	-0.822	pCi/L	(0.822±0.706)	15	0	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (2017)	No	0.076	ppm	N/A	2	2	
Radium 226 (2020)	No	0.14	pCi/L	0.14 ± 0.56	5 combined Ra		
Radium 228 (2020)	No	0.19	pCi/L	0.19 ± 0.44	5 combined Ra		
Arsenic (2023)	No	0.003	ppb	N/A	10	0	

REGULATED MONITORING

Compound	Violation Yes/No	Highest Level Detected	Unit Measurement	Range of Detection	Year Sampled	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
PFNA	No	< 2	ppt	N/A	2024	6	Used in many industrial applications and consumer products Current lifetime health advisory = 70ppt for PFOS and PFOA combined
PFOA	No	< 2	ppt	N/A	2024	8	
PFHxA	No	< 2	ppt	N/A	2024	400,000	
PFOS	No	< 2	ppt	N/A	2024	16	
PFHxS	No	< 2	ppt	N/A	2024	51	
PFBS	No	< 2	ppt	N/A	2024	420	
HFPO-DA	No	< 2	ppt	N/A	2024	370	