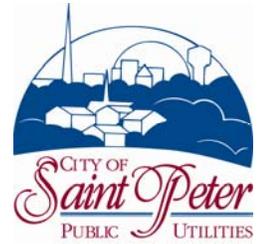


# **Consumer Confidence Report 2011**

## **Saint Peter Water Utility**



# Water Quality Report 2011 Public Water Supply #152006



## Drink Up Saint Peter!

The City of Saint Peter is issuing the results of monitoring completed on the public drinking water supply for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2011. The purpose of this report is to advance consumers' understanding of drinking water and heighten awareness of the need to protect precious water resources. City staff encourages you to share this information with anyone you know who may have occasion to consume the water and may not have received a copy of this report, for example renters.

## Quality Water For Today And The Future

In 2011, the City of Saint Peter provided 425,000,000 gallons of high quality drinking water to the community from groundwater sources. The City has reached the goal of building a new water treatment facility that not only met the existing needs of the City but accommodates for future growth, which also meets drinking water standards in order to provide a safe and reliable drinking water supply to the residents of Saint Peter.

The new facility, located on Broadway Avenue, along with the rehabilitated St. Julien facility, is sized to meet demands and growth for the next 20 years. The Broadway Plant is also designed to allow for expansion should additional capacity be needed. Four new wells and five existing wells are connected to the facilities. The facilities utilize reverse osmosis membrane filtration technology to purify the water to provide one of the upper Midwest's best water qualities. The Broadway Plant went online on March 30, 2011 and the St. Julien Plant went online August 15, 2011.

Water Utility officials are actively involved in protecting your drinking water supply by developing and implementing source protection programs as identified in the Saint Peter Wellhead Protection Plan (SPWHPP). The SPWHPP and the Minnesota Department of Health have identified that three of the sources of water for our community are susceptible to contamination. If you wish to obtain the entire source water assessment regarding the drinking water system for Saint Peter it is available by calling 1-800-818-9318 (and press 5) during normal business hours. Also, you can view it online at [www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/swa](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/swa) go to "find an assessment" and type in Saint Peter.

Call the City of Saint Peter, Water Utility at 507-934-0670 if you have questions about the drinking water in Saint Peter or if you would like information about opportunities for public participation in decisions that may affect the quality of the water.

## Compliance With National Primary Drinking Water Regulations

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 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 stormwater 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 stormwater 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**, which 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 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide that same protection for public health.

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.

## Glossary

**MCLG**—Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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.

**MCL**—Maximum Contaminant Level: 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.

**MRDL**—Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level.

**MRDLG**—Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal.

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

**90th Percentile Level**—This is the value obtained after disregarding ten percent of the samples taken that had the highest levels. (For example, in a situation in which 10 samples were taken, the 90th percentile level is determined by disregarding the highest result, which represents ten percent of the samples.) Note: In situations in which only five samples are taken, the average of the two with the highest levels is taken to determine the 90th percentile level.

**pCi/l**—PicoCuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity).

**ppb**—Parts per billion, which can also be expressed as micrograms per liter (ug/l).

**ppm**—Parts per million, which can also be expressed as milligrams per liter (mg.l).

**nd**—No Detection.

**N/A**—Not Applicable (does not apply).

## Results of Monitoring

City staff works diligently to assure that the treated water in Saint Peter is **SAFE** to drink. The drinking water does contain some substances at levels below the state and federal standards; however, the Minnesota Department of Health reviews City of Saint Peter Water Treatment operations to confirm the drinking water meets requirements.

**No contaminants were detected at levels that exceeded the federal drinking water standards.** However, some contaminants were detected in trace amounts that were below legal limits. The table that follows, shows the contaminants that were detected in trace amounts last year. (Some contaminants are sampled less frequently than once a year; as a result, not all contaminants were sampled in 2011. If any of these contaminants were detected the last time they were sampled, they are included in the table along with the date that the detection occurred.)

Contaminant (Units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found Range (2011)	Average/ Result *	Typical Source of Contaminant
Alpha Emitters (pCi/l) (01/08/2008)	0	15.4	nd-3.3	3.3	Erosion of natural deposits.
Combined Radium (pCi/l)	0	5.4	nd-2.4	2.4	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	.79-1.1	1.18	State of Minnesota requires all municipal water systems to add fluoride to the drinking water to promote strong teeth; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	0	60	N/A	1.2	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	10.4	10.4	.45-.94	.94	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrite (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	1	1	N/A	.02	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
TTHM (Total trihalomethanes) (ppb)	0	80	N/A	9.3	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

\* This is the value used to determine compliance with federal standards. It sometimes is the highest value detected and sometimes is an average of all detected values. If it is an average, it may contain sampling results from the previous year.

Contaminant (Units)	MRDLG	MRDL	****	*****	Typical Source of Contaminant
Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	.4-1.1	1.03	Water additive used to control microbes.

\*\*\*\* Highest and Lowest Monthly Average. \*\*\*\*\* Highest Quarterly Average.

Contaminant (Units)	MCLG	AL	90% Level	# Sites Over AL	Typical Source of Contaminant
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	.06	0 out of 30	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Lead (ppb)	0	15	3	1 out of 30	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

If present, 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. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The City of Saint Peter 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 for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to two minutes before using 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>.

Some contaminants do not have a Maximum Contaminant Level established for them. These “unregulated contaminants” are assessed using state standards known as health risk limits to determine if they pose a threat to human health. If unacceptable levels of an unregulated contaminant are found, the response is the same as if an MCL has been exceeded; the water system must inform its customers and take other corrective actions. In the table that follows are the unregulated contaminants that were detected:

Contaminant (Units)	Level Found		Typical Source of Contaminant
	Range (2011)	Average/Result	
Sodium (ppm)	N/A	28.5	Erosion of natural deposits.
Sulfate (ppm)	N/A	47.7	Erosion of natural deposits.

*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 are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.*



English: This report contains very important information. Translate or ask someone who understands it.  
 Spanish: Información importante. Si no la entiende, haga que alguien se la traduzca ahora.  
 Hmong: Nov yog ntaub ntawv tseem ceeb. Yog koy tsi to taub, nrhiav neeg pab txhais rau koh kom sai sai.