

1998 Drinking Water Quality Report

University of Kansas - October 1999

This report is designed to inform you about the water quality and services that your water system provides to you. Every water system's goal is to provide customers with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water.

As you may be aware, the University of Kansas purchases its drinking water from the City of Lawrence; so, the water may come from either the Kansas River and/or Clinton Reservoir.

This report shows the campus water quality for 1998 and what it means. The bottom line is that the water that is provided to you is safe.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Jon M. Rossillon of the Environment, Health & Safety department on campus by phone (4-2853), or by email (jrossillon@ehs.ukans.edu).

In the continuing efforts to maintain a safe and dependable water supply it may be necessary to make improvements in your water system. Therefore, interruptions in supply may occur from time to time.

The City of Lawrence and the University of Kansas routinely monitor for constituents in the drinking water according to federal and state laws. The tables which follow shows the results of this monitoring. It is important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk. More information about contaminants and their potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

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.

Quality standards for public water systems are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for most constituents we have provided the following example. A person would have to drink two liters of water every day at the maximum drinking water standard for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

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, and 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, other microbiological contaminants, and information about potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

To help you better understand these terms we have provided the following definitions.

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

Non-detects (ND) - no presence of the constituent detected.

Parts per million (ppm) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years, or one penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or one penny in \$10,000,000.

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

Million fibers per liter (MFL) - a measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than ten micrometers.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) - a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of five NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

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

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - 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.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) - 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.

Table 1. 1998 Water Quality Data as reported by the University of Kansas			
Parameter	Result		
Coliform Bacteria	None detected in 1998		
Parameter	Highest Level Allowed (EPA's MCL)	90 th Percentile	Ideal Goals (EPA's MCLG)
Copper	1.3 ppm AL	0.2543 ppm	1.3 ppm AL
Lead	15 ppb AL	5.9 ppb	0 AL

A possible source of the metal contaminants is the normal corrosion of the plumbing system.

Table 2. 1998 Water Quality Data as reported by the City of Lawrence				
Parameter	Highest Level Allowed (EPA's MCL)	Highest Level Detected Kaw River Water Treatment Plant	Highest Level Detected Clinton Reservoir Water Treatment Plant	Ideal Goals (EPA's MCLG)
Alpha emitters	15 pCi/L	0.4 pCi/L	2.6 pCi/L	0 pCi/L
Atrazine	3 ppb	0.4 ppb	0.3 ppb	3 ppb
Barium	2 ppm	0.0217 ppm	0.0416 ppm	2 ppm
Beta emitters	50 pCi/L	7.9 pCi/L	5.8 pCi/L	0 pCi/L
Carbon tetrachloride	5 ppb	0.7 ppb	1.6 ppb	0 ppb
Chromium	100 ppb	2.2 ppb	1.7 ppb	100 ppb
Fluoride	4 ppm	0.67 ppm	0.62 ppm	4 ppm
Nitrate	10 ppm	1.11 ppm	0.38 ppm	10 ppm
Selenium	50 ppb	2.2 ppb	1.3 ppb	50 ppb
Turbidity	5 NTU	0.37 NTU	0.18 NTU	None
(percentage of sample < 0.5 NTU)		100%	100%	

Possible sources of the above contaminants include the erosion of natural deposits, runoff from herbicide used on row crops, decay of natural and man-made deposits, former chlorine supplier, water additive which promotes strong teeth, runoff from fertilizer use, and soil runoff.