

# City of St. James Water Department 2016 Water Quality Report

The City of St. James is pleased to present to you this years Annual Water Quality Report for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2016. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of water and services we deliver to you every day. This report is also to advance consumer's understanding of drinking water and heighten awareness of the need to protect our precious water resources.

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 drinking water.

We are pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets all federal and state requirements. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact our Water Superintendent Mark Sturm at 375-1229. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled City Council meetings. They are held on the first and third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm at the community building located at 505-1<sup>st</sup> Ave. South.

Water conservation is a high priority for the City of St. James. Public education for the wise use of water resources should be a priority of everyone. The City of St. James has a water conservation plan in place.

The City Water Department now has the ability to now show our customers when and how much water is used at their residence with the new water meters that were installed. We also have dye strips available for each customer to use for checking your toilet for any leaks they may have or give us a call and we will come and check for you.

If you would like more information or ideas on how to conserve water feel free to contact the City at 375-3241 or 375-1229. You may also go on line at [www.mrwa.com](http://www.mrwa.com) and look under news/publications. Then click on water conservation where there are many articles to look under. They range from conservation tips on water use to a calculator that will show how much water is lost from a leaking stool or faucet.

**Informacion importante Si no la entienda, haga que alguien se la traduzca ahora**

## Source of water

The City of St. James provides drinking water to its residents from the following groundwater sources:

There are six wells ranging from 48 to 194 feet deep that draw water from the Quaternary Water Table and Quaternary Buried Artesian aquifer.

The water provided to customers may meet drinking water standards, but the Minnesota Department of Health has also made a determination as to how vulnerable the source of water may be to future contamination incidents. If you wish to obtain the entire source water assessment regarding your drinking water, please call 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 (and press 5) during normal business hours. Also, you can view it on line at [www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swo/swa](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swo/swa).

If you have any questions about the City of St. James drinking water or would like more information about opportunities for public participation in decisions that may affect the quality of the water you can call us at 375-1229.

The City of St. James Municipal water routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to all federal and state laws. The table below shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 – December 31, 2016.

### Results of Monitoring

No contaminants were detected at levels that violated 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 for in 2016. If any of these contaminants were detected the last time they were sampled for, they are included in the table along with the date that the detection occurred.)

#### Key to abbreviations:

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 10 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 10 percent of the samples.) Note: In situations

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

PWSID: 1830006

in which only 5 samples are taken, the average of the two with the highest levels is taken to determine the 90th percentile level.

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

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

N/A—Not Applicable (does not apply).

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found		Typical Source of Contaminant
			Range (2016)	Average /Result*	
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	.62-.97	.8	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 (HAAs) (ppb)	0	60	N/A	20.2	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	10.4	10.4	N/A	.41	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
TTHM (Total trihalomethanes) (ppb)	0	80	N/A	46.4	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 the 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	.17-2.2	1.2	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	.3	0 out of 20	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Lead (ppb)	0	15	4.9	0 out of 20	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

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. City of Saint James 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 2 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>.

Monitoring may have been done for additional contaminants that do not have MCLs established for them and are not required to be monitored under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Results may be available by calling 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 during normal business hours.

### 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. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the 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 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.

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