

# City of Iron Mountain Annual Water Quality Report 2015

## Is my water safe?

Last year, as in the past, your tap water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards. The City of Iron Mountain vigilantly safeguards its water supplies.

## Where does my water come from?

The residents of Iron Mountain get their drinking water from a well system comprised of four wells.

## 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 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 (800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, 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 presences of animals or from human activity.

1. Microbial Contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
2. 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.
3. Pesticides and Herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
4. 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 farming.
5. 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, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

## Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants the we detected during the calendar year of this report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of the data, through representative of the water quality, may be more than one year old.

## 2015 Iron Mountain Data Table

**Terms and abbreviations used below:**

- **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.
- **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 Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** means 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.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** means 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.
- **N/A:** Not applicable **ND:** not detectable at testing limit **ppb:** parts per billion or micrograms per liter **ppm:** parts per million or milligrams per liter **pCi/L:** picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity).
- **Action Level:** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Regulated Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Level Detected	Sample Date	Violation Yes / No	Typical Source of Contaminant
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	ND	2015	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	0.8	2015	N	Erosion of natural deposits, fertilizer use, leaching of septic fields.
Barium (ppb)	2000	2000	20	9/11	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
Chlorine residual	4	4	Avg. 0.65 (0.1 to 0.9)	With routine bacti samples	N	Disinfectant added to the raw water.
Radioactive Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Level Detected	Sample Date		
Gross alpha (pCi/L)	15	0	0.81-1.91	6/14	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined 226/228 (pCi/L)	5	0	0.0 (derived)	6/14	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Special Monitoring and Unregulated Contaminant			Level Detected	Sample Date	Typical Source of Contaminant	
Sodium (ppm)			26 to 39	2015	Erosion of natural deposits	
Contaminant Subject to an Action Level	Action Level		90% of Samples ≤ This Level	Sample Date	Number of Samples Above AL	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	15		4	2013	0	Distribution piping and fixtures.
Copper (ppb)	1300		150	2013	0	Distribution piping and fixtures.

Mircobial Contaminants	MCL	Number of Detections	Violation	Source
Total Coliform Bacteria	1 positive monthly sample (Positive in ≥ 5% of samples)	0	No	Naturally present in the environment.

Special Sampling	MCL	MCLG	Level Detected	Sample Date	Typical Source of Contaminant
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	60	n/a	3	2015	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80	n/a	13	2015	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

For more information, contact our DPW department at 906-774-1794, City of Iron Mountain, 501 S. Stephenson Ave., Iron Mountain, MI. 49801.

For more information about safe drinking water, visit the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at [www.epa.gov/safewater/](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/).