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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 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 byproducts 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, 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 provide the same protection for public health.

**Source Water Assessment: The State performed an assessment of our Lake Michigan source water in 2003 and completed it in 2004 to determine the susceptibility or the relative potential of contamination. The susceptibility rating is on a six-tiered scale from “very-low” to “high” based primarily on geologic sensitivity, water chemistry and contaminant sources.**

**Paperless Water Bills: GHT is now offering paperless bills for utility customers.** If you would like to sign up to receive your utility bill via email, please send a request to utilitybilling@ght.org or call (616) 842-5989 to request an application.

**On-Line Parks Reservations:** Through a collaborative effort between our neighboring communities and Ottawa County, Grand Haven Charter Township is pleased to offer an online reservations system for our park facilities.

To reserve a shelter in one of the Township Parks, please go to www.miocta.org/ottawaparks which hosts the parks reservation system. A link can also be found on the Township’s website which is hosted on the Ottawa County website at www.ght.org/community/parks-recreation/.

All questions or concerns regarding reservations or payments should continue to be directed to Grand Haven Charter Township at (616) 842-5988.

**Monthly Electronic Newsletter:** The Township wants residents that are engaged and aware of what is occurring. If you want to receive a monthly newsletter through your email account, please sign-up at: www.ght.org/community/sign-up/

The Northwest Ottawa Water System (NOWS) provided over 2.2 billion gallons of drinking water in 2017.

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**Parts per million (ppm)** - A measurement of concentration. One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years.

**Parts per billion (ppb)** - A measurement of concentration. One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2000 years.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** - The “Maximum allowed” (MCL) is the highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL’s are set close to the MCLG’s as feasible using the most available treatment technology.

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

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)** - 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.

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

**NTU** - Nephlometric Turbidity Unit. Turbidity level shall not exceed 0.3 NTU in 95% of the samples every month. This is the measurement of suspended material that is found in water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

**Unregulated Monitoring** - Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. Monitoring helps EPA to determine where these contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants.

**Gross Alpha emitters, Radium 226 & 228** - Radionuclide contaminants that give off ionizing radiation. The state allows NOWS to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. All data is representative of the water quality, but some are more than one year old.

**Selenium (2010)** - A measurement of concentration. One part per million corresponds to one minute in 2000 years.

**Nitrate** - A measurement of concentration. One part per million corresponds to one minute in 2000 years.

**Available Cyanide** - A measurement of concentration. One part per million corresponds to one minute in 2000 years.

**By-product of drinking water chlorination** - Compliance is based on a Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA).

**Compliance** - The results were recorded as "Not Detected" from the experiments.

**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.
- Toilets use the most water with an average of 27 gallons per person per day.

**REGULATED AND UNREGULATED MONITORING AT THE TREATMENT PLANT AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM**

**Volunteer group** - A group of people who have volunteered to help with the monitoring process.

**Technical manual** - A manual that provides guidelines for the monitoring process.

**The next scheduled testing period is 2019.**

**Drinking Water Stability and Corrosion**

**Is your drinking water corrosive?**

NOWS Tap Water Yearly Average pH Value = 7.9

NOWS Tap Water Yearly Average Alkalinity Value = 129 ppm

From these results water falls into the zone of deposition/calcium carbonate coating. This coating is critical to customers in controlling possible "lead" contamination.