



# City of Owosso

## Water Quality Report

### June 2005

This report provides information on the quality of the drinking water supplied by the City of Owosso with specific details for calendar year 2004. The Federal Safe Drinking Water Act requires all community water systems, like Owosso's, to annually provide certain information to their customers. Included are details about where your water comes from, how it is treated, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards. The final page introduces our water source (groundwater wells) and treatment process, with additional information provided in the insert. The inside cover pages describe our drinking water monitoring program and results.

**The drinking water provided by the City of Owosso meets, or is better than, federal and state safe drinking water standards.** The major elements of our program to assure the safety of your drinking water include: assuring a safe source,

providing comprehensive treatment, maintaining a reliable distribution system and carrying out an extensive monitoring program. Please contact us if you would like more detailed information, further explanations or to provide us with your comments or suggestions.

**PLEASE ADDRESS QUESTIONS OR  
COMMENTS TO:**

**City of Owosso**

**Attn: Gary Burk, Utilities Director**

**301 W. Main St., Owosso, MI 48867**

(989) 725-0550 (989) 725-0524 FAX

gary.burk@ci.owosso.mi.us

[www.ci.owosso.mi.us](http://www.ci.owosso.mi.us)

***Public Input** – The City water system is overseen by the Owosso City Council. Their meetings, at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall, 301 West Main Street, on the first & third Mondays of each month, provide a forum for public input.*



*New lime softening clarifiers, part of a \$4.8 million water treatment plant improvement project, were fully operational in April, 2004.*

## MONITORING FOR SAFETY AND COMPLIANCE

Certified plant operators conduct routine daily tests on our drinking water quality at the water plant laboratory. Additional samples are sent to the state, or other certified, laboratories for analyses to assure that our well supplies are free from contamination and that our treated drinking water meets all applicable state and federal drinking water standards.

The state establishes a minimum monitoring schedule for our public water supply. All required samples were collected on a timely basis in 2004. All sample results are reported to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality – Water Division - and are available public information.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has directed all public water suppliers to pass on the following basic information on the potential for contaminants in 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 the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the **EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (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 (800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. (Note: all the City of Owosso water comes from 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 or gas production, mining, or farming.
- ◆ Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential use.
- ◆ Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and which 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 must provide the same protection for public health.

## MONITORING RESULTS

Listed in the table below are regulated drinking water contaminants detected by our monitoring program. This is the information EPA directs us to provide in this report. Additional monitoring information is available upon request. The results are from calendar year 2004 unless noted otherwise. Certain substances, such as lead or copper, are monitored less frequently than once a year because previous monitoring results have been consistently below levels of concern and the levels are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. There were no violations of drinking water standards or monitoring requirements in 2004.

### Definitions:

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's 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.

**Maximum residual disinfectant level (MRDL):** 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):** 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.

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

**ppm:** Parts per million or also expressed as milligrams per liter

**ppb:** Parts per billion or also expressed as micrograms per liter

	Standard	Highest Level Reportable	Goal	
CONTAMINANT	MCL	ACTUAL	MCLG	SOURCE OF THE SUBSTANCE
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80	39	none	By-product of chlorination; range from 31 to 45 ppb
Total Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	60	5	none	By-product of chlorination; range from "not detected" to 7 ppb
Barium (ppm)	2	0.035	2	Erosion of natural deposits (2000 data)
Fluoride (ppm)	4	1.15	4	Erosion of natural deposits; also added to promote dental health. Range from 0.18 to 1.15 ppm (average = 0.7 ppm)
Combined Radium (pCi/l)	5	1	0	Erosion of natural deposits (2003 data)
DISINFECTANT	MRDL	ACTUAL	MRDLG	
Chlorine (ppm)	4	0.98	4	Water treatment additive for control of microbial contaminants; average of 0.38 ppm
	Action Level	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Value	MCLG	
Lead (ppb)	15	4	0	Corrosion of service line or household plumbing. No sample exceeded the Action Level. (2002 data)
Copper (ppb)	1300	51	1300	Corrosion of service line or household plumbing. No sample exceeded the Action Level. (2002 data)

## Owosso Water System Basics

### **GROUNDWATER SUPPLY**

Six groundwater wells serve as our water supply source. Two wells (Hintz and Osburn) are located north and east of Owosso. Two wells (Local Wells No.1 and No. 13) are located near our water treatment plant near South Gould Street. Two wells (Palmer Wells No. 2 and 3) are located south of town, off Palmer Street, near Hopkins Lake. All the wells are individually tested to assure a safe source of water. All six wells deliver water to our central treatment plant, though generally only two or three wells are used at any given time.

Additional information is given inside on the vulnerability of our groundwater supply to potential contaminant sources and our source water or "wellhead" protection program.

### **WATER TREATMENT**

Water treatment consists of lime softening for hardness reduction and iron removal, dual media filtration, and chlorine disinfection. Fluoride is added as a dental health measure increasing the natural concentration from 0.4 to 1.0 parts per million. The plant is staffed at all times by state certified operators.

Additional information on the first year's performance of the new water treatment facilities for lime softening is included inside. The new facilities were phased into operation in early 2004. The improvement project firms the plant's capacity to treat up to a maximum of 6 million gallons of water per day while maintaining consistent treatment. Plant security has been improved, reducing the vulnerability of our drinking water supply to terrorist threat.