



# 2015 Drinking Water Quality Report

CITY OF HIGHWOOD

## Introduction

The City of Highwood is pleased to present its Annual Water Quality Report for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2014. This report, as required by Federal law, is designed to inform all water customers about the quality of water and services that are delivered each day by the City of Highwood. The City of Highwood is pleased to report that your drinking water has met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and state drinking water health standards. There were no water quality violations recorded during 2014, nor were there any samples over the Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL). The City's continuing goal is to provide all of its consumers with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. As part of this process, the City wants all customers to understand the efforts that are continually being made to improve the water treatment process and to protect our water resources. In short, the City of Highwood is committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

## Source of Highwood's Drinking Water

The City of Highwood Water Plant uses surface water drawn from Lake Michigan through a 16" Intake Pipe located one half mile from shore in Lake Michigan. This Intake Pipe is situated at a depth of 20 feet below the lakes surface. All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by constituents that are naturally occurring or are manmade. Those constituents can be microbes, organic or inorganic chemicals. 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 USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

## Contaminants

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 can dissolve naturally occurring minerals and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Possible contaminants consist of:

**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 storm-water runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or fracking;

**Pesticides and herbicides**, Which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water 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 storm water runoff and septic systems;

**Radioactive contaminants**, Which may be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

**Turbidity**, Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water caused by suspended particulates and is monitored because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration system and disinfectants.

**Sodium**, There is not a federal or state MCL for sodium. Monitoring is required information to consumers and health officials that are concerned about sodium intake due to dietary precautions. If the level is greater than 20 ppm, and you are on a sodium restricted diet, you should consult a physician.

**Lead and Copper**, The City of Highwood is in full compliance with all State and Federal regulations governing the control of lead and copper within public drinking water supplies. 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. The City of Highwood 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>.

Please contact Jeffrey Harding, Director of Water Treatment; at 847.432.3730 should you have any questions regarding this report.

Jeffrey T. Harding  
Director of Water Treatment  
City of Highwood

## Definitions

In the table hereafter you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

### Unit Descriptions

mg/L - **milligrams per liter** or the number of milligrams of substance in one liter of water.

ppm - **Parts per million** or Milligrams per liter (mg/L).

ppb - **Parts per billion** or Micrograms per liter (µg/L).

NTU - **Nephelometric Turbidity Unit**, used to measure the cloudiness in drinking water.

NA – not applicable

ND – not detected

TT - **Treatment Technique** or a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

MCL - **Maximum Contaminant Level** or 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.

MCLG - **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal** or 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.

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

MRDLG – **Maximum Residual Disinfection Level Goal** or the level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

MRDL – **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level** or the highest level of a disinfectant allow in drinking water.

MPL – **Maximum Permissible Level** that is state assigned

## Additional Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune or 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. USEPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

For additional information regarding this report please contact Jeff Harding, Director of Water Treatment at 847.432.3730 or via e-mail at [jhardng@cityofhighwood.org](mailto:jhardng@cityofhighwood.org)

# City of Highwood, IL 2015 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

<p><b>HIGHWOOD IL0970550</b></p> <p>Annual Water Quality Report for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2014</p> <p>This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the water system to provide safe drinking water. This report <b>will not</b> be mailed to water consumers but will however be made available by the City upon request.</p> <p>The source of drinking water used by HIGHWOOD is Surface Water</p> <p>For more information regarding this report contact: Jeff Harding, Water Treatment Director 847.432.3730</p> <p>Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre el agua que usted bebe. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.</p>	<p><b>Source of Drinking Water</b></p>	<p>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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.</p> <p>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. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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. We 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 <a href="http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead">http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead</a>.</p>
<p>Contaminants that may be present in source water include:</p> <p>-Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.</p> <p>-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.</p> <p>-Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.</p> <p>-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 septic systems.</p> <p>-Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.</p>		

## Source Water Information

Source Water Name	TYPE OF WATER	Report Status	Location
INTAKE 3 (20235) LAKE MICHIGAN	LAKE MICHIGAN WATER	SW	3500 FEET NORTHEAST OF THE PLANT

## Source Water Assessment

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water quality. If you would like to learn more or participate in the decision making that may affect the quality of drinking water, please feel welcome to attend any of our regularly scheduled City Council meetings the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7:00pm located at Highwood City Hall, 17 Highwood Avenue, Highwood Illinois 60040. The source water assessment for our supply has been completed by the Illinois EPA. If you would like a copy of this information, please stop by City Hall or call our water operator at 847.432.3730. To view a summary version of the completed Source Water Assessments, including: Importance of Source Water; Susceptibility to Contamination Determination; and documentation/recommendation of Source Water Protection Efforts, you may access the Illinois EPA website at <http://www.epa.state.il.us/cgi-bin/wp/swap-fact-sheets.pl>.

Susceptibility is defined as the likelihood for the source water(s) of a public water system to be contaminated at concentrations that would pose a concern. The Illinois EPA considers all surface water sources of a community water supply to be susceptible to potential pollution problems. The very nature of surface water allows contaminants to migrate into the intake with no protection only dilution, which is the reason for mandatory treatment for all surface water supplies in Illinois. A workgroup from the Great Lakes States was organized to develop a protocol for assessing the Great Lakes. The mission of the Great Lakes Protocol was to develop a consistent procedure allowing the flexibility necessary to properly conduct source water assessments of the Great Lakes as a drinking water source. This flexibility takes into account the variability of these sources and site-specific concerns for determination of source sensitivity and susceptibility (Illinois EPA, 1999). Sensitivity is defined as the intrinsic ability of surface water to be isolated from contaminants by the physical attributes of the hydrologic or geologic setting. With this in mind, the degree of sensitivity becomes the prevailing factor in the susceptibility determination for intakes on the Great Lakes. Intakes located close to shore, or close to a major shipping lane will be more sensitive and thus more susceptible to potential contamination. Highwood's intake has a moderate sensitivity and therefore has greater protection from shoreline contaminants due to mixing and dilution. However, although there are no potential sources within Highwood's critical assessment zone, there are several within the immediate source water area. Shoreline contaminants in the vicinity of this intake such as the combination of the land use, the proximity of storm sewer outfalls and NSSD pumping stations are perceived as a threat and add to the susceptibility of this intake. However, it should be stressed that treatment employed by Highwood is protective of their consumers as noted by the facility's finished water history.

## 2014 Regulated Contaminants Detected

### Lead and Copper

Definitions:  
Action Level Goal (ALG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.  
Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Copper</b>	6/18/2012	1.3	1.3	0.141	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
<b>Lead</b>	6/18/2012	0	15	2.1	0	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

## Water Quality Test Results

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or 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 or 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 goal or 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.
Maximum residual disinfectant level or 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.
Definitions:	The following tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation.
ppb:	micrograms per liter or parts per billion - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.
Na:	not applicable.
Avg:	Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.
Ppm:	milligrams per liter or parts per million - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.

## Regulated Contaminants

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	12/31/2014	0.7	0.6-0.85	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)*	2014	13	4.1-14	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2014	32	18.681-44.02	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium	2014	0.023	0.023-0.023	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Flouride	2014	0.8	0.832-0.832	4	4.00	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen]	2014	0.4	0.4-0.4	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Sodium	2014	10	10-10			ppm	N	Erosion from naturally occurring deposits; Used in water softener regeneration.
Zinc	2014	0.015	0.015-0.015	5	5	ppm	N	This contaminant is not currently regulated by the USEPA. However, the state regulates. Naturally occurring; discharge from metal.

Turbidity	Limit (Treatment Technique)	Level Detected	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Highest Single Measurement	1 NTU	0.18 NTU	N	Soil runoff.
Lowest Monthly % meeting limit	0.3 NTU	100 %	N	Soil runoff.

Information Statement: Turbidity is measurement of the cloudiness of the water caused by suspended particles. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration system and disinfectants.

## Total Organic Carbon

The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month and the system met all TOC removal requirements set, unless a TOC violation is noted in the violations section.