



# South Harrison Water Corporation

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## 2008 Annual Water Quality Report

### **Introduction:**

Welcome to our “new look” consumer confidence report for 2008. Because we are inserting this report in with your water bill, we had to change the format. We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. 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 water.

### **Summary:**

This report covers the period from 1/1/08 to 12/31/08. South Harrison Water's drinking water meets or exceeds all federal and state drinking water standards. We had no violations during calendar year 2008.

### **More Information:**

Consult our web site at [www.southharrisonwater.com](http://www.southharrisonwater.com). We provide information about us at this site and also include many links to other drinking water information sites. You can also check the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency site at [www.epa.gov/safewater/](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/). 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 board meetings. They are held on the second Wednesday of every month at 7:00 PM.

### **Overview:**

In 2008 South Harrison Water treated and pumped 262 million gallons of water to our customers. On an average day, we pumped 720,000 gallons of water. We also installed or upgraded some 19,000 feet of new water mains as part of our Norstam Veneer project. We connected 49 new water meters. We served 3,077 meters, or an approximate population of 8,308 at the end of calendar year 2008.

### **Planned Construction for 2009:**

We are finishing up the clean up work (seeding & strawing) on the Norstam Veneer 12” water main project. No other major construction plans are proposed for this year. We are working with our elected county officials to gain funding for emergency back up generators. Some work on generator installation may begin this year. We were very fortunate to keep water on during the recent September 2008 wind storm and the January 2009 ice storm and the week long power outages after each event.

### **Membership:**

As a reminder to our customers, you may transfer your membership by filling out a simple form and filing it with our office. Contact one of our customer service representatives for more information on this very simple procedure for transferring your membership. The form is also available for download from our web site. A membership can be listed in more than one name.

### **Source of Water:**

South Harrison Water owns two ground water wells along the Ohio River in southern Harrison County. All of our water is pumped from these two wells. This aquifer reserve is adequate for our needs for many years to come. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management determined our source water to be at ‘moderate risk’ of contamination. This is mainly due to the small thickness of confining clay soil layer over our aquifer.

### **National Primary Drinking Water Regulation Compliance:**

This report was prepared by Bruce A. Cunningham, South Harrison Water's General Manager. You may contact Bruce at South Harrison's office (812) 968-3425 for more information. Learn more about the South Harrison Water Corp. water system, including an online version of this report, at [www.southharrisonwater.com](http://www.southharrisonwater.com). Previous CCR's may be downloaded from our web site.

# Detected Contaminants

## How do I read this chart?

Our water is tested to assure that it is safe and healthy. Please refer to the chart below. The column marked "Contaminant" lists the item detected. Only detected contaminants are shown on this chart. The column marked "Detected Level" shows the highest test result during the year. "Range" shows the minimum and maximum test results if more than one test was taken. The column marked "Sources" shows where this substance usually originates from. Footnotes explain other details. Columns with the headings "MCL" and "MCLG" refer to:

- MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level) - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set by state or federal agencies and are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- 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.

## Key to Table:

ppm - parts per million (same as mg/L). A part per million is the same as one penny out of \$10,000.00.

ppb - parts per billion (same as ug/L). A part per billion is the same as one penny out of \$10,000,000.00.

-----Begin Contaminant Chart-----

## South Harrison Water—(No water was purchased from outside sources in 2008)

Contaminant	Date Tested	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Detected Level	Range	Sources	Violation
Nitrate	9/18/08	ppm	10.0	10.0	3.98	3.98-3.98	Runoff from fertilizers; leaching from septic tanks & sewage.	No.
Barium	1/22/08	ppm	2.0	2.0	0.0139	0.0139-0.0139	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.	No.
Lead	8/13/08	ppm	0.015*	0	0.0061	<0.002-0.0061	Corrosion of household plumbing. erosion of natural deposits.	No.
Copper	8/13/08	ppm	1.3*	0	0.534	<0.002-0.534	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits; leaching of wood preservatives.	No.
Fluoride	1/2/08	ppm	4.0	4.0	1.19	0.91-1.19	Erosion of natural deposits; Additive that promotes strong teeth.	No.
Chlorine Residual	12/14/08	ppm	4.0	n/a	1.19	0.43-1.19	Water additive for disinfection.	No.
Gross Alpha#	10/16/08	pCi/L	15	0	0.6	0.6-0.6	Erosion of natural deposits.	No.
Beta#	10/16/08	mrem/yr	4	0	2.6	2.6-2.6	Decay of natural and manmade deposits.	No.
Uranium#	10/16/08	ug/L	30	0	0.5	0.5-0.5	Erosion of natural deposits.	No.
Sodium**	1/22/08	ppm	n/a	n/a	74.6	74.6-74.6	Erosion of natural deposits; leaching.	No.
Total Coliform – one positive sample – did not contain e. coli or fecal coliform							Naturally present in the environment.	No.

## Footnotes:

We conducted 111 routine monthly total coliform bacteria tests on our drinking water and one came back positive. Re-sampling of the water in the area of the positive sample came back negative. We also tested for total trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids, nine inorganic compounds, 24 volatile organic compounds, and 21 unregulated compounds and they were all under the detectable limits of testing.

\* Lead & Copper have action levels, not MCLs. None of the 20 samples exceeded the appropriate action level. The 90<sup>th</sup> percentile level for lead was 0.0046 ppm and for copper was 0.167 ppm.

\*\* Sodium is not regulated and has no MCL or MCLG. Results are shown for informational purposes.

# These test results are for regulated radioactive contaminants that are tested for once every three years.

-----End Contaminant Chart-----

**Explanation of Violations:**

South Harrison Water did not report any violations during calendar year 2008.

**Routine Testing:**

During 2008, South Harrison Water tested for nitrate, total trihalomethanes, total haloacetic acids, lead, copper, 9 inorganic compounds, 24 volatile compounds, 21 unregulated compounds, radionuclides, and 111 routine bacteria tests. All of these tests are part of our state and federal required testing that ensures your drinking water is safe to drink. Test results are shown in the table above. Our personnel also made over 4,800 routine daily checks of our drinking water to ensure its quality. Our water is tested every day of the year.

**Lead & Copper Testing:**

Lead and copper testing is conducted on a schedule prescribed by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). We currently are required to collect 20 lead and copper samples from residences around our service area every three years. The primary source of lead and copper in your drinking water is from the plumbing inside your home. Lead & copper are not present in our treated water.

**Required Additional Health Information:**

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes limits on the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled 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 at (800) 426-4791.

The sources of drinking water, both bottled and tap, includes 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 radio active material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animal or human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include: (A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage plants, septic systems, livestock operations, and wildlife. (B) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming. (C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agricultural, stormwater runoff, and residential uses. (D) Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organics, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems. (E) 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. 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 is 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* are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

**Required Statement About Lead:**

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**. South Harrison Water is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in home 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>.

### **Retail Water Rates:**

The board of directors and management of South Harrison Water have worked very hard to keep water rates low. We have not had a retail water rate increase since 1991. That is now 18 years without an increase in the rate you pay for safe and reliable drinking water to be delivered to your home.

In past years, we have used new service growth (and the resulting new revenue) to offset the increases in our operational expenses. In other words, new customers hooking on to our water system generated new monies coming into the water company and that helped us pay for increased expenses. With the national recession and the housing market shut down, we no longer have the new customer growth. Depreciation, electrical power, treatment plant chemicals, labor & benefits, construction materials, and transportation expenses, continue to increase every year.

The board of directors will be reviewing our retail water rate for a possible rate increase for 2010. South Harrison Water is regulated by the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission and any rate filing will have to be approved by them through their normal public process.

### **Customer Services:**

Please be reminded that we offer the following customer billing services for your convenience:

- **Automated Payment Plan** – We can draft your bank account automatically to pay your monthly water bill. Call one of our customer service representatives to start this service. There is no additional fee.
- **Credit Cards** – We accept credit cards for a nominal processing fee. Call one of our customer service representatives if you would like to make a credit card payment.
- **Meter Readings** – You may submit your water meter reading by US Mail, email, web site form, fax or phone.
- **24 Hour Answering Service** – We forward our phone line to an answering service during non-working hours. The answering service can take messages or meter readings. They do not have access to your billing records. Use this service to report water outages or suspected water main breaks.
- **Web Site** – Our web site can be used to submit meter readings, view our water rate tariff, view copies of the annual water quality reports, get directions to our office, and to download forms. See [www.southharrisonwater.com](http://www.southharrisonwater.com) for more information.

We are looking at new customer service features that may be offered in the future. These include email delivery of water bills, online viewing & printing of water bills and online water bill payments. As of this time, these expanded customer service features are somewhat expensive for us to offer.