

# News from: Glencoe Water

Glencoe Water is a department of the City of Glencoe, Minnesota and operates a utility for serving potable water to a customer base of approximately 5,758 people, located in McLeod County. The utility has a staff of four people.

The role of Glencoe Water is to provide a safe, reliable and sustainable water resource to our customers while managing groundwater use to meet demand in future years. The utility achieves this by the following:

- ◆ Providing quality customer assistance;
- ◆ Seeking methods of augmenting the current groundwater supply;
- ◆ Providing public information in a timely manner on health-related issues and conservation techniques, as well as on policy decisions.
- ◆ Maintaining and expanding the water infrastructure while incorporating environmental, social, and regulatory issues in the decision-making process;

Glencoe Water's budget is based on meeting customer demands for potable water solely from groundwater. Our primary water quality goal is to protect public health and safety. To accomplish this goal, Glencoe Water thoroughly tests the water for microbiological, organic, and inorganic contaminants which may affect the health of water. Glencoe Water operates 365 days a year to ensure the drinking water supply meets all health standards. Glencoe Water is "zeolite" softening process, which produced 174,373,700 gallons of potable water in 2008.

## City of Glencoe - 2008 Drinking Water Report

The City of Glencoe is issuing the results of monitoring done on its drinking water for the period from January 1 to December 31, 2008. The purpose of this report is to advance consumers' understanding of drinking water and heighten awareness of the need to protect precious water resources.

### Source of Water

The City of Glencoe provides drinking water to its residents from a groundwater source: three wells ranging from 575 to 800 feet deep, and is pumped from the Mt. Simon-Hinckley aquifer. The Minnesota Department of Health has determined that the source(s) used to supply your drinking water are not particularly susceptible to contamination. If you wish to obtain the entire source water assessment regarding your drinking water, please call **651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 (and press 5)** during normal business hours. Also, you can view it on line at:

[www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/swa](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/swa).

Call **(320) 864-6954** if you have questions about the City of Glencoe drinking water or would like information about opportunities for public participation in decisions that may affect the quality of the water.

**Spanish:** Informacion importante. Si no la entiende, haga que alguien se la traduzca ahora.

### Results of Monitoring

No contaminants were detected at levels that violated Federal Drinking Water Standards. However, some contaminants were detected in trace amounts that were below legal limits. The table on the back shows the contaminants that were detected in trace amounts last year.

(Some contaminants are sampled less frequently than once a year; as a result, not all contaminants were sampled for in 2008. If any of these contaminants were detected the last time they were sampled for, they are included in the table along with the date that the detection occurred.)

#### Key to Abbreviations:

**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.

**MCL - Maximum Contaminant Level:** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**MRDL - Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level**

**MRDLG - Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal**

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

**90<sup>th</sup> Percentile Level:** This is the value obtained after disregarding 10 percent of the samples taken that had the highest levels. (For example, in a situation in which 10 samples were taken, the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile level is determined by disregarding the highest result, which represents 10 percent of the samples.) Note: In situations in which only 5 samples are taken, the average of the two with the highest levels is taken to determine the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile level.

**pCi/l - Pico Curies per liter:** (a measure of radioactivity).

**ppb - parts per billion:** which can also be expressed as micrograms per liter (ug/l).

**ppm - parts per million:** which can also be expressed as milligrams per liter (mg/l).

**N/A:** Not Applicable (does not apply)

**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. City of Glencoe 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 800-426-4791** or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Some contaminants do not have Maximum Contaminant Levels established for them. These "unregulated contaminants" are assessed using state standards known as health risk limits to determine if they pose a threat to human health. If unacceptable levels of an unregulated contaminant are found, the response is the same as if an MCL has been exceeded; the water system must inform its customers and take other

corrective actions. In the table that follows are the unregulated contaminants that were detected:

Contaminant (Units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found		Typical Source of Contaminant	Meets Regulatory Requirements
			Range 2008	Average/Result *		
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb) 9-26-06	0	60	N/A	6.4	By-product of drinking water disinfection.	✓
TTHM (Total trihalomethanes) (ppb) 9-26-06	0	80	N/A	20.8	By-product of drinking water disinfection.	✓
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	10	10	0.23-0.34	0.34	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.	✓
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.79-0.97	0.92	State of Minnesota requires all municipal water systems to add fluoride to the drinking water to promote strong teeth; Erosion of natural deposits. Discharge from fertilizer & aluminum factories.	✓
Alpha Emitters (pCi/l) (2/5/02)	0	15.4	N/A	5.3	Erosion of natural deposits.	✓
Barium (ppm) (3/27/02)	2	2	N/A	0.03	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.	✓
Combined Radium (pCi/l) (2-5-02)	0	5.4	N/A	0.83	Erosion of natural deposits	✓
Radon (pCi/l) (10-30-02)	N/A	N/A	N/A	254	Erosion of natural deposits	✓
Sodium (ppm) (9-13-06)	N/A	N/A	N/A	210	Erosion of natural deposits	✓
Sulfate (ppm) (9-13-06)	N/A	N/A	N/A	85.1	Erosion of natural deposits	✓
Contaminant (Units)	MCLG	AL	90% Level	# Sites over AL *	Typical Source of Contaminant	Meets Regulatory Requirements
Lead (ppb) (7-10-06)	N/A	15	10	1 out of 20	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.	✓
Copper (ppm) (7-10-06)	N/A	1.3	0.6	0 out of 20	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.	✓
Contaminant (Units)	MRDLG	MRDL	Highest & Lowest Monthly Average	Highest Quarterly Average	Typical Source of Contaminant	Meets Regulatory Requirements
Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	0.02-2.2	1.05	Water additive used to control microbes.	✓

\* This is the value used to determine compliance with federal standards. It sometimes is the highest value detected and sometimes is an average of all the detected values. If it is an average, it may contain sampling results from the previous year.

## *Compliance with National Primary Drinking Water Regulations*

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 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 waste water 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 farming.

**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 by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water 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, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (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.

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**.

*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* are available from the **Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791**.*

## *Use water. . .and use it wisely!*