

# Algoma Sanitary District #1 Consumer Confidence Report for 2009

We are pleased to present you with this year's annual water quality report. This report is intended to inform you about the water quality and services the Algoma Sanitary District provides to you. As you will see from the charts and tables inside, your Water Utility did not have a single contaminant violation. In order to maintain these excellent results, your District's staff is continuously monitoring for bacteria and other parameters throughout the entire year. All bacteria samples for the year came back with safe results.

We are committed to and are constantly striving at being the best water provider to you while keeping water rates as low as possible.

The Commissioners and Sanitary District Staff wish you a warm and happy summer.



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Office Hours  
Monday — Friday  
8:00 - 11:30 a.m. & 12:30 - 4:30 p.m.

The Sanitary District holds regular meetings on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at the Sanitary District Office, 3477 Miller Drive.

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## New Drinking Water Treatment Facility

The Algoma Sanitary District has completed the construction of our third municipal drinking water treatment facility in November 2009 (see picture below). This third facility has increased our previous pumping capacity of 900 to serve up to 2100 homes. Our water utility currently has 861 homes connected and using the municipal water system.

### Proposed Water treatment Facility & Administrative/Garage Complex.



### Completed Facility



## New Address

Our new address is 3477 Miller Drive.

## From your Director—Kevin Mraz



Your Algoma Sanitary District staff has been working diligently on many fronts to sustain low water rates, sewer user fees, and retain top customer service. While 2009 has been a milestone year for us, most notable was moving into our new office facility. We also had many other accomplishments that are detailed for you in this report.

## Sanitary Utility

Our sanitary sewer utility has replaced 6 thirty year old motors with new larger capacity efficient motors to power our lift station pumps. These motors are being well maintained as we strive to get thirty years of service from these new motors also. As a matter of fact, we needed to change the model of pumps because the previous motors lasted so long they became obsolete and replacement parts were limited. These new motors and pumps have been sized to handle the complete build out of our sewer utility in the locations of Bellhaven, Brooks Lane, and the Leonard's Point Lane lift station area.

In efforts to reduce our sanitary sewer utility expenses, we have targeted the high cost of wastewater treatment. To lower this expense, we addressed all the unnecessary costs to convey, pump, and treat clear storm water that comes from inflows and infiltration. The biggest source of inflows are from sump pumps discharging directly into the sanitary sewer system. Since 2008, when we implemented our sump pump inspection program, we have yielded a 12% reduction to our average daily sewer flow. This project, along with our sewer main repair programs, has reduced our daily flow by 106,000 gallons.

## Water Utility

### Safe drinking water:

Our Water utility has experienced 21 new water connections during the first 5 months of 2010. This is more than double from last year. Approximately half of these water connections are derived from new homes and the remaining are existing homes with the need to connect to the municipal water system for various reasons. I want all residents, whether using our municipal water system or not, to understand that our full time operators are available to address questions and/or concerns in regards to water quality or conservation.

## Water Service Valves

If you notice your water service valve needs to be lowered in your front yard, please call us and we will be happy to adjust it for you at no charge.

Before



After



## Well No. 3 Facility, Administration Building & Utility Garage.

This new facility was designed with our third water treatment facility contained directly inside our administrative building. This reduces the travel time (expense) for our staff. This facility was built just in time to continue having enough water capacity to supply our residents and fire department. The completion timeline of this project was important to maintain a pumping capacity adequate to keep up with residential growth and to have the additional quantity of water the fire department requires during fire fighting responses.

## Open House

Our staff would like to personally thank all the wonderful residents we got to meet during the open house for stopping by and learning more about what services your water and sanitary utility provide.



## From your President—Earl Lawrence



Every year we prepare this report to keep the residents informed about the quality of the water we provide and the general health of your Sanitary District. What has been the focus for all of us in the last year has been the economy.

Likewise the Commissioners' attention has been focused on the economic condition of the District. The District did expand this past year, this expansion was necessary for many reasons, some related to state requirements to maintain certain

capacities of water production, others due to the growth of the District in men and materials.

Because of this expansion the District did make several major investments in the past year and these investments meant we had to borrow money. However, the current economic situation actually helped the District's finances as we were able to take advantage of low labor and material costs, low interest rates, and we also obtained grant money, all of which would not have been as favorable during better economic conditions.

The financial decisions the District made this past

year were focused on the long term stability of the District and are aimed at assuring the most affordable services possible over the long term. There are many government entities that are struggling financially; your Sanitary District is not one of them. The District's sewer and water systems are in excellent condition and are well maintained and your commissioners want to assure you that your District is operated efficiently and as affordable as practical.

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 (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 systems 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 Environmental Protection Agency's 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. 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 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, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which shall provide the same protection for public health.

**Radioactive Contaminants (Results for our District)**

Contaminant (units)	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Combined Uranium (ug/l)	30	0	4.2	1.2-4.2	No	Erosion of natural deposits
GROSS ALPHA, EXCL. R & U (pCi/l)	15	0	4.2	4.2	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
GROSS ALPHA, INCL. R & U (n/a)	n/a	n/a	11.0	7.0-11.0	No	Erosion of natural deposits
GROSS BETA PARTICLE ACTIVITY (pCi/l)	n/a	n/a	5.3	4.6-5.3	NO	Decay of natural and man-made deposits. MCL units are in millirem/year. Calculation for compliance with MCL is not possible unless level found is greater than 50 pCi/l.
RADIUM, (226 + 228) (pCi/l)	5	0	2.8 (average)	.5-2.8	NO	Erosion of natural deposits

**Unregulated Contaminants (Results for our District)**

Contaminant (units)	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Violation
BROMODICHLOROMETHANE (ppb)	n/a	n/a	2.80 (average)	2.40-2.80	NO
BROMOFORM (ppb)	n/a	n/a	5.00 (average)	4.50-5.00	NO
CHLOROFORM (ppb)	n/a	n/a	1.50 (average)	1.40-1.50	NO
DIBROMOCHLOROMETHANE (ppb)	n/a	n/a	4.50 (average)	4.50-4.50	NO

**Fire protection**

The Algoma Fire Department has used the fire hydrants on 19 days over the past 12 months to combat fires, practice, and train.

The District thanks all the residents who clear a path to the fire hydrants during the winter time. This makes the fire department's response time faster and safer.

**Fire protection fee**

The Town of Algoma Board made a motion in May, 2010 to fund 100% of the fire protection fee beginning in 2010. This fee is for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the fire hydrants, elevated water tower and water main upsizing to handle high flow rate capacities required during fire fighting. This contribution will remove the fire protection fee line item from your quarterly water bill and reduce it by \$12.90 (\$51.60 annually).

**Summer construction season**

As the warm weather approaches, so does construction season. Throughout the summer you will see our operators working on various projects in the District. It is important to slow down when passing these projects on the roadways.

If you are curious what or why the operators are doing something, please feel free to stop and ask. Our operators are always happy to answer questions. If they can't, they will put you in contact with someone who can.

**Water hardness**

The District's water results for hardness shows an average of 17 grains per gallon. Most homes hooking up to the Municipal Water System have kept their water softeners. The District recommends that you keep the softener. We do recommend not softening the drinking water tap in order to have good water quality and taste. When you soften your water, you actually remove the calcium and may increase the water by 2 parts sodium for every 1 part calcium removed. If you are on a low sodium diet you should watch out for softened water.

**Inorganic Contaminants (Results for our District)**

Contaminant (units)	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
ARSENIC (ppm)	10	0	0	0	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
BARIUM (ppm)	2	2	.096 (average)	.047-.096	NO	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
COPPER (ppm)	AL=1.3	1.3	.473 (average)	.0 of 5 results were above the action level	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
FLUORIDE (ppm)	4	4	1.2 (average)	.8-1.2	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
LEAD (ppb)	AL=15	0	8.25 (average)	0 of 5 results were above the action level	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
NICKEL (ppb)	100		1.0000	1.0000-1.0000	NO	Nickel occurs naturally in soils, ground water and surface waters and is often used in electroplating, stainless steel and alloy products
SODIUM (ppm)	n/a	n/a	22.40 average	16.90-22.40	NO	n/a

**Water Hardness**

Water	Grains per gallon
Hardness	17

**Source of Water**

Well source id	Source	Depth (in feet)	Status
1	Groundwater	673	Active
2	Groundwater	655	Active
3	Groundwater	670	Active

**\*\*\* Cost Savings \*\*\***

**Automatic Water Bill Payments**

The District offers a direct payment plan for water bills. Direct payment is an electronic payment alternative to online and paper checks. We have saved considerable time and money in processing payments from the residents already using this system as well as saving our residents time to deliver or mail us their payments. Please consider taking advantage of this service and call us at (920) 426-0335 for information to be sent to you on how to sign up and take advantage of this program. We have 137 residents using this service currently and would like to extend this service to everyone.

**Quarterly water bills**

The District remotely reads your water meters on a quarterly basis. This is completed by driving past your property with our meter reading receiver in our work truck at about 10 miles per hour. You can expect to receive a water bill during the months of January, April, July, and October. Each bill is for the preceding 3 month period. The average residential water bill in 2009 was \$110.15 per quarter.

Term	Definition
AL	Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level: 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: 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.
MFL	million fibers per liter
mrem/year	millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)
ND	No Detect
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units
pCi/l	picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
ppm	parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)
ppb	parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l)
ppt	parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter
ppq	parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter
TCR	Total Coliform Rule
TT	Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**Disinfection Byproducts (Results for our District)**

Contaminant (units)	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
TTHM (ppb)	80	0	13.3 (average)	13.3 - 13.3	NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination

The table below displays the number of contaminants that were required to be tested in the last five years. The CCR may contain up to five years worth of water quality results. If a water system tests annually, or more frequently, the results from the most recent year are shown on the CCR. If testing is done less frequently, the results shown on the CCR are from the past five years.

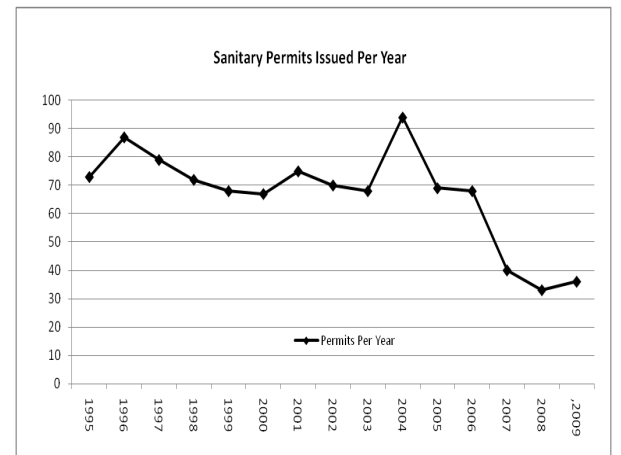
Contaminant Group	# of Contaminants Tested for:
Disinfection Byproducts	2
Inorganic Contaminants	16
Microbiological Contaminants	1
Radioactive Contaminants	3
Synthetic Organic Contaminants including Pesticides and Herbicides	25
Unregulated Contaminants	4
Volatile Organic Contaminants	20

**Volatile Organic Contaminants**

Contaminant (units)	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Xylenes, total (ppm)	10	10	.0002	ND-.0008	No	Discharge from petroleum factories; Discharge from chemical factories

**District's growth**

One way to analyze the annual growth rate of our District is to review our annual volume of new sanitary user permits. In the graph below you will see the trends since 1995 have been fairly stable with a few spikes. The current economic conditions after 2006 have reduced our new home construction by 50%. The District has reviewed our staffing requirements and made adjustments to address this new trend to be able to maintain the same level of high quality customer service and strive to maintain the water and sewer rates as the lowest cost provider in the area.



**Website  
Algomasd.org**

The District has a website to inform & provide helpful information to you. We will be adding contents to the site continuously. Some of the information you will find includes:

- A map showing the water service area
- A map of properties in the Sanitary District
- List of parcels with water service available by tax roll id & by address
- Well abandonment/well permit procedures
- How to read your bill, water rates & a billing schedule
- Minutes/agendas from previous meetings
- Prior newsletters & CCR reports
- Contact information & hours of operation