

# YPSILANTI COMMUNITY UTILITIES AUTHORITY

Augusta Charter Township • Pittsfield Charter Township • Superior Charter Township  
City of Ypsilanti • Charter Township of Ypsilanti • Southwest Canton Charter Township

## 2003 Annual Water Quality Report

### KEEPING YOU INFORMED!

The Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority (YCUA) provides your drinking water and is pleased to present you with this sixth annual water quality report. This report follows the guidelines set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable water supply. This report will illustrate that we are achieving this goal.

### YOUR DRINKING WATER

YCUA obtains your drinking water from the Detroit water system. Your drinking water originates from the Detroit River, is purified at the Southwest and Springwells Water Treatment Plants, and is delivered to YCUA for distribution.

### SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT

The MDEQ is in the process of finalizing the source water assessment of our raw water supply (the Detroit River). When it becomes available, we will post information on how to obtain a copy of the assessment on our web site at [www.ycua.org](http://www.ycua.org).

### INFORMATION ON LEAD

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels in your home may be higher than others in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your home's water tested and to flush your tap for 30 seconds to two minutes before using the water.

### INSIDE YOUR WATER QUALITY REPORT

*health effects language and definitions*  
*test results table*  
*contact information*

### 2003 WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

- **Second Connection to DWSD Water System:** Construction of a 36-inch water main near the General Motors Powertrain plant began in 2003. Once completed, the project will provide a second source of water supply for the YCUA water distribution system, ensuring continued safe and reliable drinking water. The project consists of approximately 5,100 feet of 36-inch water main, a master meter vault, and two pressure reducing valve vaults. The pressure reducing valve vaults will allow YCUA to more efficiently operate the water distribution system in various portions of the service area. The project is anticipated to cost approximately \$3.7 million.
- **Summit Street Water Main Improvement:** This project consisted of replacing approximately 1,500 feet of old, undersized water main on Summit Street between Michigan Avenue and Pearl Street. The street pavement was also restored and improved. Project cost was approximately \$235,000.
- **Merritt Road Water Pump Station Upgrades:** Due to an increase in water demand, the pumps at the Merritt Road Water Pumping Station needed upgrades to increase the pumping capacities. Work continued during 2003 on this project, which included upgrading two 50 hp pumps to 150 hp with variable frequency drives (VFDs). The VFDs allow the pumps to run at different speeds to efficiently match system flow demands. The project cost was approximately \$70,000.
- **City Street and Water Main Improvement Projects:** The City of Ypsilanti and YCUA continued to improve both the pavement and water infrastructure in various areas of the City. Projects completed included the Ainsworth Park, College Heights, and Normal Park areas. Approximately 10.9 miles of old, undersized water main was replaced at a cost of approximately \$7.3 million.

## HEALTH and SAFETY INFORMATION

Drinking water, including bottled water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk.

The sources of both tap and bottled drinking water include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive materials, and can also pick up substances resulting from animal or 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 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, septic systems, and urban or agricultural runoff (i.e., pesticides and herbicides)
- *Radioactive contaminants*, which can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities

*More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800.426.4791*

Based on the results of the 2003 testing (see table at right), all of these contaminants were below the level of concern in your water. To ensure that tap water is safe, the EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration is in the process of establishing limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

### *Information for People with Special Health Concerns*

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons 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. Federal guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are also available from the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline, 800.426.4791.

## DEFINITIONS

**Parts per million (ppm) and parts per billion (ppb)** - One ppm can be equated to four teaspoons of salt in a standard 24-foot backyard pool. One ppb is one teaspoon of salt in an Olympic-sized pool.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)** - The MCLG is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk. MCLGs provide for a margin of safety.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** - The MCL is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in the drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible, using the best available treatment technology. MCLs are set at very stringent levels by the State and Federal governments. To understand the possible health effects, a person would have to drink about two liters (quarts) of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the associated health effect.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)** - The level of 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 (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.

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

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (ntu)** - measures clarity.

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

**e.n.d.** - erosion of natural deposits.

**nd** - not detectable at testing limit.

**na** - not applicable.

# YCUA WATER QUALITY TEST RESULTS FOR 2003

Your drinking water is continuously monitored above and beyond Federal and State laws. The table below lists all of the contaminants detected in your drinking water during calendar year 2003. Some results are from previous years, because the State allows monitoring for certain contaminants less than once per year, as their concentrations are not expected to change year to year. Lead, Copper and Bacteriological monitoring is performed by each individual community and is presented as the last entry below (there were no bacteriological detects during 2003.) All other results are for the entire YCUA service area. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate a health risk. This table does not show the hundreds of other contaminants tested for, but not found in your drinking water. **The test results confirm that your drinking water meets or surpasses all Federal and State requirements, and that ALL DETECTED CONTAMINANTS ARE BELOW ALLOWED LEVELS.**

## Regulated Inorganic Parameters (annual monitoring at the plant taps)

contaminant	test date	unit	avg	low	high	MCLG	MCL	likely sources
Fluoride	2003	ppm	1.1	na	na	4	4	water additive to promote strong teeth; e.n.d.; discharge from fertilizer/aluminum factories
Nitrate	2003	ppm	0.4	na	na	10	10	runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; e.n.d.

## Disinfectant Residuals and Disinfection By-Products (sampled in the distribution system)

Total Trihalomethanes	2003	ppb	16.2	6.2	27.3	na	80	by-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids	2003	ppb	12.4	2.0	25.0	na	60	by-product of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine Residual	2003	ppm	0.67	0.54	0.78	MRDGL 4	MRDL 4	water additive used to control microbes

## Regulated Microbiological Parameters (monitored every 4 hours at the plant taps)

Turbidity	2003	ntu	0.27	na	na	na	TT	soil runoff
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*Turbidity measures the cloudiness of water. The rules state that turbidity must never exceed 1.0 NTU, and must not exceed 0.3 NTU in more than 95% of daily samples in any single month. 100% of our samples were below 0.3 NTU.*

## Total Organic Carbon Removal

Total Organic Carbon (TOC): The TOC removal ratio is calculated as the ratio between the actual TOC removal and the TOC removal requirements. The TOC was measured each month and because the level was low, there is no requirement for TOC removal. The major source of TOC in drinking water is the erosion of natural deposits.

**Unregulated Parameters** (Unregulated parameters are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. Monitoring helps EPA determine where certain contaminants occur and whether there is need to regulate those contaminants.)

Sodium: Sodium is a naturally occurring parameter, but was not detected in our drinking water.

Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR): During 2003, DWSD conducted monitoring for the UCMR. None of the contaminants were detected. If you would like a copy of the results, please contact DWSD at 313.267.3626 or www.dwsd.org.

## Individual Community Copper and Lead Testing (sampled at individual taps)

contaminant	test date	unit	90th	# samples over AL	MCLG	MCL	likely sources
Charter Township of Ypsilanti, City of Ypsilanti, Southwest Canton Charter Township							
Lead	2002	ppb	11	1	0	AL=15	e.n.d.; corrosion of household plumbing
Copper	2002	ppm	0.26	0	1.3	AL=1.3	e.n.d.; corrosion of household plumbing
Superior Charter Township							
Lead	2002	ppb	1.5	0	0	AL=15	e.n.d.; corrosion of household plumbing
Copper	2002	ppm	0.022	0	1.3	AL=1.3	e.n.d.; corrosion of household plumbing
Pittsfield Charter Township							
Lead	2002	ppb	0	0	0	AL=15	e.n.d.; corrosion of household plumbing
Copper	2002	ppm	0.10	0	1.3	AL=1.3	e.n.d.; corrosion of household plumbing
Augusta Charter Township							
Lead	2002	ppb	2.5	0	0	AL=15	e.n.d.; corrosion of household plumbing
Copper	2002	ppm	0.635	0	1.3	AL=1.3	e.n.d.; corrosion of household plumbing

*Lead and Copper compliance is based on the 90th percentile, where 9 out of 10 samples must be below the Action Level (AL).*

## GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT YCUA

YCUA staff works around the clock to provide you with a reliable supply of water. If you have questions about the YCUA water system, please contact Jim Bellers, Director of Services, at [jbellers@ycua.org](mailto:jbellers@ycua.org) or at 734.484.4600 extension 310.

Additional information about YCUA is available on our web site at [www.ycua.org](http://www.ycua.org). This report is also published on our web site and additional copies of this report may be obtained by calling YCUA Customer Service at 734.484.4600.

If you wish to learn more about the plants that treat our water or obtain information regarding Detroit Board of Water Commissioner meetings, please visit [www.dwsd.org](http://www.dwsd.org) or call DWSD's Water Quality Division at 313.267.3626.

### IMPORTANT CONTACTS

*(clip and save for future reference)*

YCUA:

734.484.4600 / [www.ycua.org](http://www.ycua.org)

EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline:

800.426.4791

EPA Web Site:

[www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater)

## QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?

If you have questions specific to your community's water distribution system, please contact the following individuals, or attend your local board meeting:

**Augusta Charter Township:** John Linville, Utilities Manager, 734.487.5627, 800.884.2860, or 734.817.2326 (pager). The Township Board meets monthly at the Township Hall, 8021 Talladay Road. Dates and times are posted on cable channel 12 or call 734.461.6117.

**Pittsfield Charter Township:** Michael Luptowski, Utilities Director: 734.822.2110; Utilities Customer Service: 734.822.3105; Water and Sewer Field Office and 24-hour Emergency Line: 734.822.2110. The Township Board meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 7:30 pm at the Administration Building, 6201 W. Michigan Avenue. For more information call: 734.822.3120.

**Superior Charter Township:** Rick Church, Utilities Director, 734.480.5500. The Township Board meets on the first and third Mondays of the month at 7:30 pm at the Township Hall, 3040 North Prospect Road.

**Charter Township of Ypsilanti, City of Ypsilanti, and Southwest Canton Charter Township:** Jim Bellers, Director of Services, 734.484.4600 extension 310. YCUA's Board meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at 3:00 pm at the YCUA Administration Building located at the corner of State and McGregor Roads.

Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority

Environmental Leaders



[www.ycua.org](http://www.ycua.org)

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