Introduction

This report is intended to provide you with important information about your tap water and the efforts made by the water system to meet all U.S.E.P.A. and State drinking water health standards. The City vigilantly safeguards its water supply and this report summarizes the quality of water that we provided last year, including details about where the water comes from, what it contains and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. We are committed to providing you with this information about the water you are receiving. If you have any questions about this report or concerns about your water system, please contact Jeremy Keyes at the Sewer Water Dept at (618) 625-8611. Board meetings are held the Second Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm at the Community Hut located at 110 North Walnut St. in Sesser IL.

Water Source Assessment

Water is Purchased Surface water from the Rend lake Intensity water system. The source water assessment for our supply has been completed by the Illinois E.P.A. The Illinois E.P.A considers all surface water sources susceptible to potential pollution problems. Hence the reason for mandatory treatment of all public water supplies in Illinois. Mandatory treatment includes coagulation, sedimentation, filtration and disinfection. Primary sources of pollution in Illinois lakes can include agricultural runoff, land disposal (septic systems) and shoreline erosion. For your own copy of this report you may obtain a copy at City hall or access the Illinois EPA website at http://www.epa.state.il.us/cgi-bin/wp/swap-fact-sheets.pl.

Health Issues

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. US E.P.A. / CDC guide lines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the USEPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

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 USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, USEPA 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 must provide the same protection for public health.

Contaminant Source

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 radio active material, 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 waste water discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- Pesticides & Herbicides which may come from a variety of sources such as Agricultural, urban storm water runoff and residential uses.
- Organic Chemical Contaminant 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 system's.
- Radioactive Contaminants which maybe naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
- 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. We are 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 you 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.

Jeremy Keyes
Sewer Water Superintendent