synthetic organic compounds are sampled once a year. Thirty-one (31) sites have been designated throughout the community from which fifteen (15) samples are also collected on a monthly basis for bacteriological or microbial content. A waiver may be issued for City Synthetic Organic Compounds until December 31, 2010 and a waiver for Cyanide and Asbestos through December 31, 2010.

During 2008, the parameters for which analyses were conducted included monthly analysis for microbial contaminants, annual analysis for nitrates and nitrites, analysis for organic and inorganic compounds as well as analysis for the presence of Lead and Copper. We are proud to inform you that the City of St. Marys did not have any violations of water quality parameters during 2008. All detected contaminants are delineated in the accompanying charts. Any constituents not listed in the accompanying charts had results less than the detection limits and/or maximum contaminant levels.

Thirty (30) representative locations have been selected throughout your community where Lead and Copper analyses are conducted on a periodic basis. Analysis for the presence of Lead and Copper indicate the presence of service lines containing these materials in some single family residences, multi-family residences and/or commercial locations. Results indicated NO residences selected contained these components which exceeded the action levels for these parameters.

Lead and Copper may be found in household plumbing fixtures such as service lines, pipes, soldered and fluxes as well as brass fixtures. Lead is found throughout the environment in the air, soil, water and household dust as well as in consumer products such as lead based paint, pottery and pewter. Lead and Copper enter drinking water as a result of the corrosion or wearing away of materials containing these metals. Lead can pose a significant risk to your health if too much of it enters your body.

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. The City of St. Marys 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 or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

To minimize exposure to Lead and/or Copper, the following measures may be taken.
- When your water has been sitting for several hours, minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking.

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. The EPA has established Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL’s) and Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLG’s) for potential contaminants. MCL’s are the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLG’s are set as close to the MCLG as feasible using the best available treatment technology. MCLG’s are the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG’s allow for a margin of safety.

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 and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 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 the following:
- 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 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 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. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

The City of St. Marys strives to maintain the highest standards of performance and quality possible. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply, improvements that benefit the community must be made. Please help keep these costs as low as possible by utilizing good water conservation practices.

**DEFINITION OF TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS REPORT**

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** "The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG as feasible using the best available treatment technology."

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** "The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety."

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

**Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL):** reasonable goals for drinking water quality. Exceeding SMCL’s may adversely affect odor or appearance, but there is no known risk to human health.

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

**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 microbiological contaminants."

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** "The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG’s do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants."

**Not Detected (ND):** By regulation, this substance or group of substances was tested for in our finished tap water; however, none was detected at the testing limit.

**TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes):** One or more of the organic compounds Chloroform, Bromodichloromethane, Chlorodibromomethane, and/or Bromofluoromethane.

**ppb or ug/l:** parts per billion or micrograms per liter.

**ppm or mg/l:** parts per million or milligrams per liter.

**pCi/l:** picocuries per liter, a measurement of radiation.