



The Metropolitan District

water supply • environmental services • geographic information

CUSTOMER ADVISORY

MDC'S DRINKING WATER CHROMIUM LEVELS WELL BELOW ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE LIMIT

February 1, 2011

The Metropolitan District (MDC) has been testing for total chromium, which includes Chromium VI, or hexavalent chromium, since the EPA established the maximum level of 0.100 parts per million in the early 1990s. Without exception, all detected values for total chromium have been below this regulatory maximum level. This year, test results for total chromium indicated a range of 0.011 to 0.014 parts per million.

Currently, there is no EPA established maximum contaminant level specifically for hexavalent Chromium, nor is there any requirement to independently analyze for this contaminant. However, in response to the current concern over hexavalent Chromium in drinking water within other water distribution systems, the MDC conducted sampling at fifteen different locations within its treatment and supply system. The samples were sent to an independent analytical laboratory in California with extensive experience in the EPA method for detection of hexavalent Chromium. All fifteen samples submitted for analysis were negative (none detected) for the presence of hexavalent Chromium. The minimum reporting level used by the laboratory was 0.05 parts per **billion**.

Hexavalent chromium is one of 20 chemicals currently under review by the EPA for possible further regulation. The EPA's risk assessment should be completed by the summer of 2011, and may lead to more stringent drinking water standards for total chromium levels, as well as specific maximum levels for hexavalent chromium. The MDC will continue to stay abreast of any new developments in these regulations and monitor the watershed closely for any possible source of contaminants. Our testing protocol will remain in place to ensure that we meet or exceed EPA standards as they presently exist or as may be modified.

Through careful management and vigilant protection of our superior watershed system, and through diligence in maintaining and operating our two water filtration and treatment plants, we continue to provide the highest quality drinking water to our customers and have the capacity to do so for the foreseeable future.

About the MDC: *The MDC is a nonprofit municipal corporation chartered by the Connecticut General Assembly in 1929. The MDC provides water, sewer and household hazardous waste collection services to its member municipalities: Bloomfield, East Hartford, Hartford, Newington, Rocky Hill, West Hartford, Wethersfield and Windsor. In addition, under a series of special agreements, the District supplies treated water to Glastonbury, the southern portion of South Windsor, the eastern portion of Farmington, East Granby and Unionville.*

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