

## Terms & Abbreviations

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

**Chlorine Residual** – the amount of chlorine in water available for disinfection.

**Disinfection By-product (DBP)** – Chemical compounds that result from the addition of chlorine to water containing organic substances.

**HAA (Haloacetic acids)** – the combined concentration of the following five contaminants; Dibromo-, Dichloro-, Monobromo-, Monochloro-, and Trichloro-, acetic acids.

**Inorganic Contaminant** – chemical substances of mineral origin, such as iron or manganese.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** – the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as possible.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)** – 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.

**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.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)** – the level of a disinfectant in drinking water 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.

**mg/l** – (milligrams per liter) corresponds to one part of liquid in one million parts of liquid (parts per million or **ppm**).

**Microbiological Contaminant** – Very small organisms, such as bacteria.

**N/A** – not applicable.

**nd** – not detected at testing limits.

**ng/l** – (nanograms per liter) corresponds to one part of liquid in one trillion parts of liquid (parts per trillion or **ppt**).

**NTU** – Nephelometric Turbidity Unit - a measurement of particles in water.

**Organics** – substances containing the element carbon. These can be naturally occurring or man-made, and can include pesticides, solvents, and by-products of disinfection.

**pCi/L** – Pico curies per liter; units of concentration of radioactive substances.

**Radionuclides** – Contaminants giving off ionizing radiation.

**TTHM – (Total Trihalomethanes)** – the combined concentration of the following four contaminants; Bromodichloromethane, Bromoform, Chloroform, and Dibromochloromethane.

**TON (Threshold Odor Number)** – The greatest number dilutions of a sample with “odor-free” water yielding a definitely perceptible odor.

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

**ug/l** – (micrograms per liter) corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid (parts per billion or **ppb**).