

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**)