Is My Water Safe? During 2014, your tap water met all health-based U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) drinking water safety standards. Your Tribal employees worked safely and securely to ensure the quality of your water. We value the public health and prosperity of the general population. Immune-compromised persons who have undergone organ transplants, persons suffering from 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. The EPA/Centers of Disease Control (CDC) recommend that you consult with your local health department and other regulatory agencies as appropriate. Your local health department has detailed information about the quality of drinking water from your community water system. Immune-deficient persons are our best allies.

Why are contaminants in drinking water? 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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. It can also pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity. Microbiological contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, can be naturally occurring or result from urban or industrial contamination of ground water, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.

Organic chemical contaminants including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by products of industrial processes and petroleum production, can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.

These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The EPA/CDC recommend that you consult with your local health department and other regulatory agencies as appropriate. Your local health department has detailed information about the quality of drinking water from your community water system. Immune-deficient persons are our best allies.

Do I need to take special precautions? Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminant effects than the general population. Immune-compromised persons who have undergone organ transplants, persons suffering from 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. The EPA/CDC recommend that you consult with your local health department and other regulatory agencies as appropriate. Your local health department has detailed information about the quality of drinking water from your community water system. Immune-deficient persons are our best allies.

The water plant does add fluoride to your water. If you have an aquarium, make sure to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Where does my water come from? Water for consumer use can come from a variety of sources including rivers, lakes and other surface waters. Your Tribal supply comes from underground aquifers as groundwater to your wells. A benefit of ground water is it is naturally filtered through rocks and soil. Our tribe has four wells. Well #3 is located off of Little Elk Road. Well #4 is located west of Shepherd Road. Well #5 is located north of Remus Road and Well 6 is located north of Osceola. The water softening plant was put into operation on April 5, 2000. Please consider not using your home water softener for the following reasons: your water will have an increase in the sodium (salt) content and you could become corrosive. The plant was designed and is operated to provide the tribal homes and businesses with water that is balanced and softened. Re-softerning can create a funny taste and cause you to use extra water to remove soap residues. The water plant does add fluoride to the water. If you have an aquarium with tropical fish, check with your local pet store for proper treatment of the water to avoid harmful effects on your fish.

Source water assessment and its availability: The tribe has worked with the U.S. EPA to conduct a source water assessment. This assessment consists of identifying the area(s) around the well(s), which need to be protected from contamination, and determining potential sources of contamination, and determining the susceptibility of the wells to contamination. The assessment also gives us information on the species we need as a tribal community to make sure our drinking water is safe now and in the future. We have a copy available at the water plant for review to anyone who wishes to read it. This was updated in 2009.

Microbiological contaminants such as viruses and bacteria, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife. Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, can be naturally occurring or result from urban or industrial contamination of ground water, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.

Organic chemical contaminants including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by products of industrial processes and petroleum production, can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The EPA/CDC recommend that you consult with your local health department and other regulatory agencies as appropriate. Your local health department has detailed information about the quality of drinking water from your community water system. Immune-deficient persons are our best allies.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Water Laboratory has worked with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) drinking water safety standards. Your Tribal employees worked safely and securely to ensure the quality of your water. We value the public health and prosperity of the general population. Immune-compromised persons who have undergone organ transplants, persons suffering from 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. The EPA/CDC recommend that you consult with your local health department and other regulatory agencies as appropriate. Your local health department has detailed information about the quality of drinking water from your community water system. Immune-deficient persons are our best allies.