**Gering’s Water Source**

The City of Gering serves approximately 8,500 customers an average of 2.6 million gallons of water per day. The City of Gering also provides water to City of Terrytown, Terrytown serves water to approximately 2,150 customers an average of 410,000 gallons of water per day.

Our water source is groundwater, which is pumped to the water system from five wells located in Gering and four wells west of Gering. Our Midtown and Northwest Well Fields pump water from the North Platte River aquifer, (alluvium is a sand and gravel formation under the North Platte River Valley).

**Treatment Process**

The City of Gering does not treat our drinking water supply. Thanks to the natural filtration of the aquifer, nature has already done the work enhancing the quality of Gering’s water. However, chlorine and fluoride are added to the water supply. Chlorine kills a variety of microbial waterborne pathogens, like E. coli and those that can cause typhoid fever, dysentery, and cholera. Fluoride is a natural occurring element in groundwater. Gering’s natural fluoride level is 0.33 ppm. The optimum level for fluoride in drinking water to promote strong teeth is 1.0 ppm. The City of Gering adjusts the fluoride level to between 0.80 ppm and 1.0 ppm. The fluoride ion added to the water is the same fluoride ion that occurs naturally in groundwater.

**Water Use Information**

During 2019, the City of Gering pumped 816 million gallons of water. Serving a population of 10,650, (includes Terrytown) this averages to 209 gallons per person each day. The national average is 150 gallons per person day.

**Lead in Drinking Water**

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.

All Community water systems are 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 you 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 (800-426-4791), at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead or at the DHHS/Water Hotline (800) 426-6800. If you would like to observe or participate in the decision-making process that affects your drinking water quality, please contact the City Clerk to arrange to be placed on the agenda or attend a regularly scheduled meeting of the Gering City Council, on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 6:00 PM at Gering City Hall, 1025 P Street.

**Sources of Drinking Water**

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and groundwater wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and radioactive material and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

A. Microbiological contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.

B. Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water run-off, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.

C. Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water run-off and residential uses.

**Notice to Immuno-Compromised People**

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. Environmental Protection Agency and Center for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other pathogenic contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline, (800) 426-4791 or the Nebraska DHHS office of drinking water at 402-471-2186.

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**2019 Annual Water Quality Report**

City of Gering, 1025 P Street, P.O. Box 687, Gering, NE 69341 (402) 426-6800

**Why This Report**

This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the City of Gering water system to provide safe drinking water.

**Para Clientes Que Hablan Espanol:** Este informe contiene información que puede ser útil para usted. Tradúzcala o hable con alguien que le entienda bien.

Our goal is and always has been to provide you a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. For more information regarding this report, contact Pat Heath, Director of Public Works at 436-6800. If you would like to observe or participate in the decision-making process that affects your drinking water quality, please contact the City Clerk to arrange to be placed on the agenda or attend a regularly scheduled meeting of the Gering City Council, on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 6:00 PM at Gering City Hall, 1025 P Street.

**Source Water Availability**

The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, (NDEQ) has completed a Source Water Assessment. Included in the assessment are a Wellhead Protection Area Map, potential contaminant source inventory, vulnerability rating and source water protection information. To view the Source Water Assessment or for more information please contact Pat Heath at 436-6800 or the NDEQ at (402) 471-3376 or go to www.dq.state.ne.us.

**D. Organic chemicals, 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 run-off and septic systems.**

**E. Radiocative contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or the result of oil production and mining activities.**

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The U.S. Food and Drug Admin-istration, (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

**Compliance**

This report was not required to be mailed to each water system customer. You may obtain a copy of this report at the City of Gering offices located at 1025 P Street, Gering, NE 69341. You may call (308) 436-6800 and request a copy be mailed to you. You may also view this report on the City of Gering website at www.gering.org/2019WaterQualityReport.
How to Read This Report:

The EPA and State Drinking Water program establish the safe drinking water regulations that limit the amount of contaminants allowed in drinking water. The table shows the concentrations of detected substances in comparison to the regulatory limits. Substances not detected are not included in the table. The state requires monitoring of certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Therefore, some of this data may be older than one year.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) Highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water. MCL’s are set as close to the MCLG’s as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) Highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water. MCLG’s are set to the regulatory limits. Substances not detected are not included in the table. The state requires monitoring of the concentrations of detected substances in comparison to the regulatory limits. Disregarded contaminants allowed in drinking water.

Additional Required Health Effects

Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation. Some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Drinking Water Analysis (Samples Collected In 2019 Unless Noted)

Regulated Contaminants | Highest Level Detected | Range of Levels Detected | Unit of Measurements | MCLG | MCL | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
Arsenic | 5/20/2019 | 3.13 | 2.92 - 3.13 | ppb | 0 | 10 | No | Erosion of natural deposits, run-off from orchards and run-off from electronics production wastes
Barium | 4/3/2017 | 0.0724 | 0.0724 | ppm | 2 | 2 | No | Discharge of drilling wastes, discharge from metal refineries and erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride | 4/3/2017 | 0.992 | 0.992 | ppm | 4 | 4 | No | Water additive which promotes strong teeth, erosion of natural deposits, and fertilizer discharge
Nitrate-Nitrite | 8/27/2019 | 2.75 | 2.75 | ppm | 10 | 10 | No | Run-off from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, sewage and erosion of natural deposits
Selenium | 4/3/2017 | 3.01 | 3.01 | ppb | 50 | 50 | No | Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium Mass | 8/26/2019 | 24.5 | 22.6 - 24.5 | ug/l | 0 | 30 | No | Erosion of natural deposits

Radiological Contaminants | Highest Level Detected | Range of Levels Detected | Unit of Measurements | MCLG | MCL | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
Gross Alpha a. | 7/23/2018 | 24.8 | 24.8 | pCi/L | 0 | 15 | No | Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha a. (including radon and uranium) | 7/23/2018 | 3.7 | 3.7 | pCi/L | 0 | 15 | No | Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Uranium | 7/23/2018 | 21.1 | 21.1 | pCi/L | N/A | N/A | No | Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium (226 & 228) | 7/23/2018 | 1.45 | 1.45 | pCi/L | 0 | 5 | No | Erosion of natural deposits
Radium-228 | 7/23/2018 | 1.45 | 1.45 | pCi/L | N/A | N/A | No | Erosion of natural deposits

Regulated Samples Collected From Water Distribution System

Regulated Contaminant | Monitoring Period | Number of Positive Samples in 2019 | Unit of Measurements | MCLG | MCL | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
Total Coliforms and E. Coli | 1/1/2019 - 12/31/2019 | 0 | Present/Absent | 0 | 0 | No | Naturally present in the environment
Disinfectants, Disinfection By-Products | Monitoring Period | Highest Level Detected, (RAA) | Range of Levels Detected | Unit of Measurements | MCLG | MCL | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAAs) | 7/1/2018 - 6/30/2019 | 5.63 | 5.63 | ppm | 0 | 60 | No | By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (THMs) | 1/1/2019 - 12/31/2019 | 24.5 | 24.5 | ppm | 0 | 80 | No | By-product of drinking water disinfection
Lead and Copper | Monitoring Period | Lead 90th Percentile | Range | Unit | Action Level (AL) | # Sites Over Copper AL | Likely Sources of Contamination
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
Copper, Free .AL | 2017—2019 | 0.401 | 0.00784 - 1.06 | ppm | 1.3 | 0 | Erosion of natural deposits, leaching from wood Preservatives, corrosion of household plumbing
Lead .AL | 2017—2019 | 3.38 | 0.677 - 5.68 | ppb | 15 | 0 | Erosion of natural deposits, leaching from wood Preservatives, corrosion of household plumbing

Unregulated Water Quality Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unregulated Water Quality Data</th>
<th>Collection Date</th>
<th>Highest Value</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Secondary MCL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sulfate</td>
<td>8/9/2017</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>mg/L</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

During the 2019 Calendar Year, the City of Gering had the below noted violation(s) of the drinking water regulations.

Unviolated