



## CITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

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# PRESS RELEASE

## For Immediate Release

### ANN ARBOR'S TAP WATER MEETS/EXCEEDS FEDERAL REGULATIONS

ANN ARBOR, Mich., December 21, 2010 —According to City of Ann Arbor officials, the city's tap water continues to meet or exceed federal quality standards, including total chromium levels. A report released Monday by the nonprofit Environmental Working Group (EWG) included results of a study on the occurrence of hexavalent chromium (also known as "Chromium-6"). Hexavalent chromium is not a regulated contaminant, but is being considered for regulation by the State of California. While hexavalent chromium can come from man-made sources, it can also be naturally-occurring at low levels.

EWG reportedly analyzed drinking water from 35 cities nationwide, and detected hexavalent chromium in 31 of those cities, including Ann Arbor. Based on the EWG test results, the study reports hexavalent chromium in Ann Arbor at 0.21 parts per billion.

According to Molly Wade, Ann Arbor's Water Treatment Services Manager, total chromium, which includes hexavalent and trivalent forms of chromium, is regulated under the national Safe Drinking Water Act. The maximum allowable level of total chromium in the finished drinking water is 100 parts per billion. Ann Arbor is required to test its finished water for total chromium every nine years. However, the city tests the water for chromium on an annual basis. Results from the last three annual Ann Arbor water tap samples were below the EPA-approved laboratory method's minimum detection limit (currently set at 2 parts per billion). As the laboratory cannot detect levels below 2 parts per billion, samples below this minimum detection limit are considered "not-detected."

Wade adds that if the city detected total chromium at 2 parts per billion or above, follow-up samples would be taken to determine the levels of hexavalent and trivalent chromium. Wade observes that Ann Arbor was not contacted by EWG to participate in or to inform the city of the study. It is unknown where EWG collected the water sample(s) or what laboratory method was used to analyze the sample.

For more information about Ann Arbor water treatment services, including the annual water quality report, please visit [www.a2gov.org/government/publicservices/water\\_treatment/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.a2gov.org/government/publicservices/water_treatment/Pages/default.aspx).

*Ann Arbor has 114,000 residents, spans 27.7 square miles, and is frequently recognized as a foremost place to live, learn, work, thrive and visit ([www.a2gov.org/news](http://www.a2gov.org/news)). To keep up with City of Ann Arbor information, subscribe for e-mail updates ([www.a2gov.org/subscribe](http://www.a2gov.org/subscribe)), follow us on Twitter (<http://twitter.com/a2gov>) or become a city fan on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/thecityofannarbor](http://www.facebook.com/thecityofannarbor)). The city's mission statement reads: The city of Ann Arbor is committed to providing excellent municipal services that enhance the quality of life for all through the intelligent use of resources while valuing an open environment that fosters fair, sensitive and respectful treatment of all employees and the community we serve. ###*