



Oconomowoc Water Utility Since 1899

2009 Water Quality Report

We at the Oconomowoc Water Utility are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to provide information about the quality of the water delivered to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our valuable water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of the water. The Oconomowoc Water Utility uses six ground water wells to supply your water through four entry points. Five of the wells are drilled deep into the Sandstone Aquifer and the sixth well obtains water from the shallow Sand and Gravel formation. We are pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets all Federal and State requirements.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Steve Roush at 569-3198 or visit our website at <http://oconomowocutilities.com/>. We want our customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Utility Committee meetings. These meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 4:00 PM in the Oconomowoc City Hall, Room 3, located at 174 E. Wisconsin Avenue.

The Oconomowoc Water Utility routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The Test Results Table on the following page shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st, 2008 to December 31st, 2009. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. It's important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk.

In 2009, a total of 130 distribution system water samples were tested for coliform bacteria. Of the 130 samples acquired, one tested positive for coliform bacteria. Immediate re-sampling of that location and locations on each side of the positive sample site tested negative for coliform bacteria. For a water system of our size, no more than one sample per month is allowed to test positive for coliform bacteria.

We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected. The EPA has determined that your water is safe at these levels.

PLEASE REMEMBER: "All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by constituents that are naturally occurring or are manmade. Those constituents can be microbes, organic or inorganic chemicals, or radioactive materials."

All 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 the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

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. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791.

TEST RESULTS TABLE

Contaminant / Sample Date	Violation Y / N	Level Detected	Range of Entry Points	Units of Measure	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Radioactive Contaminants Including (+ or -) Factors)							
Gross Alpha/ 4/15/2008 to 1/19/2009 Entry Point 7 Entry Point 200 Entry Point 300	No	Ave 2.08 1.30 3.60 1.34	nd to 5.60	pCi/l	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 / 4/15/2008 to 1/19/2009 (Total) Entry Point 7 Entry Point 200 Entry Point 300	No	Ave .984 .398 1.90 .421	0.31 to 2.70	pCi/l	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228 / 4/15/2008 to 1/19/2009 Entry Point 7 Entry Point 200 Entry Point 300	No	Ave .408 .274 .460 .490	nd to .900	pCi/l	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
Inorganic Contaminants (IOC's)							
Arsenic / 3/05/2008 Entry Point 7 Entry Point 200 Entry Point 300	No	Ave 3.12 6.90 1.70 .76	.76 to 6.90	ug/l or ppb	n/a	10	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics productive wastes
Barium / 3/05/2008 Entry Point 7 Entry Point 200 Entry Point 300	No	Ave .152 .190 .170 .097	.097 to .190	mg/l or ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Cadmium / 3/05/2008 Entry Point 7 Entry Point 200 Entry Point 300	No	Ave .113 .100 .120 .120	.100 to .120	ug/l or ppb	5	5	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from metal refineries; Runoff from waste batteries& paints
Chromium / 3/05/2008 Entry Point 7 Entry Point 200 Entry Point 300	No	Ave 3.800 4.30 3.00 4.10	3.00 to 4.30	ug/l or ppb	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper / 4/13/2009 0 sample > AL Range using 30 Sample Sites	No	Ave .2207	.074 to .6800	mg/l or ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching of wood preservatives
Fluoride 2009 Monthly Average 2009 Maximum Result	No	Ave 1.32 1.45	1.05 to 1.45	mg/l or ppm mg/l or ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive promoting strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead / 4/13/2009 2 samples > AL Range using 30 Sample Sites	No	Ave 3.86	.12 to 29	ug/l or ppb	0	AL= 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits;
Nickel / 3/05/2008 Entry Point 7 Entry Point 200 Entry Point 300	No	Ave 1.87	1.4 to 2.6	ug/l or ppb		100	Nickel occurs naturally in soils; ground water and surface waters and is often used in electroplating stainless steel and alloy products
Nitrate (NO3-N) EP 7 & 200 Annual Entry Point 300 Quarterly Samples Composite of EP 7, 200, 300	No No No	Ave nd Ave 3.0 Ave 3.0	nd nd to 4.9 nd to 4.9	mg/l or ppm mg/l or ppm mg/l or ppm	10	10	Run off from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium /3/05/2008 Entry Point 7 Entry Point 200 Entry Point 300	No	Ave 18.5 9.5 13.0 33.0	9.5 to 33	mg/l or ppm	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hardness, total as CaCO3	n/a	Ave 313	270 to 340	mg/l or ppm	n/a	n/a	Characteristic of deep well water; grains = ppm divided by 17.1
PH	n/a	Ave 7.76	7.64 to 7.86		n/a	n/a	n/a
Volatile Organic Contaminants (VOC's)							
Total Trihalomethanes / 09/15/2009	No	Ave 10.5	6.3 to 17	ug/l or ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Unregulated Contaminants							
Bromodichloromethane / 9/15/2009	No	Ave 3.32	1.8 to 5.7	ug/l or ppb	n/a	n/a	n/a
Bromoform / 9/15/2009	No	Ave .292	nd to .54	ug/l or ppb	n/a	n/a	n/a
Chloroform / 9/15/2009	No	Ave 4.85	2.9 to 7.8	ug/l or ppb	n/a	n/a	n/a
Dibromochloromethane / 9/15/2009	No	Ave 2.07	1.1 to 3.4	ug/l or ppb	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sulfate / 3/05/2008	No	Ave 16.6	11.0 to 22.0	mg/l or ppm	n/a	n/a	n/a
Disinfection Byproducts							
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) / 9/15/2009	No	Ave 3.25	2.4 to 4.2	ug/l or ppb	60	60	n/a

In the Test Results Table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

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

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - the "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) - the "Goal" (MCLG) is 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.

nd - No Detection

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (ug/l) - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

In 2008, 30 homes throughout the City were tested for lead in the drinking water. Two homes out of the thirty had test results above the action level. If more than 5% of the samples or 1.5 homes exceed the action level we are required to provide the following information.

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791.

The enforceable limit for arsenic in drinking water is established at 10 ppb. **All of our entry points were tested in 2008 and were found to be below the 10 ppb standard.** The highest test result was from Entry Point / Well 7 at 6.9 ppb. The following educational statement must be provided if any of our test results are greater than 5 ppb but less than 10 ppb.

While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the cost of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations, and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing you and your family with clean, quality water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. These improvements are sometimes reflected as rate structure adjustments.

We at the Oconomowoc Water Utility work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.