CITY OF WHEATON

WATER QUALITY REPORT 2023

The City of Wheaton is proud of the fine drinking water we provide every day. We believe this report is a valuable source of information for our customers. We are pleased to report that our drinking water meets or exceeds all state and federal standards for water quality as regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Water Source

Lake Michigan is the surface water supply used to provide drinking water for Chicago and over 100 suburban communities. The Illinois EPA implemented a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) to assist with watershed protection of public drinking water supplies. The SWAP inventories potential sources of contamination and determined the susceptibility of the source water to contamination. The Illinois EPA has completed the SWAP for our supply.

The City of Chicago utilizes Lake Michigan as its source water via two water treatment plants. The Jardine Water Purification Plant serves the northern areas of the City and suburbs, including the City of Wheaton, while the Sawyer Water Purification Plant serves the southern areas of the City and suburbs. Lake Michigan is the only Great Lake that is entirely contained within the United States. It borders Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin, and is the second largest Great lake by volume with 1,180 cubic miles of water and third largest by area.

The Illinois EPA considers all surface water sources of community water supply to be susceptible to potential pollution problems. The very nature of surface water allows contaminants to migrate into the intake with no protection only dilution. This is the reason for mandatory treatment for all surface water supplies in Illinois. Chicago's offshore intakes are located at a distance that shoreline impacts are not usually considered a factor on water quality. At certain times of the year, however, the potential for contamination exists due to wet-weather flows and river reversals. In addition, the placement of the crib structures may serve to attract waterfowl, gulls and terns that frequent the Great Lakes area, thereby concentrating fecal deposits at the intake and thus compromising the source water quality. Conversely, the shore intakes are highly susceptible to storm water runoff, marinas and shoreline point sources due to the influx of groundwater to the lake.

Further information on our community water supply's SWAP is available by calling the City of Chicago, Department of Water Management at 312-742-2406 or by visiting http://dataservices.epa.illinois.gov/swap/factsheet.aspx.

Educational Statements

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 USEPA'S Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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. USEPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the USEPA'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 can dissolve naturally-occurring minerals and radioactive material, and pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Possible contaminants consist of:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organics, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and may also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which may be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Water Quality Tables

The tables show the results of our water-quality analyses based on tests done in 2023. Every regulated contaminant that was detected in the water, even in the most minute traces, is listed here. Not listed are over 100 substances that were tested for, but were not detected. Certain contaminants are monitored less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

Some of our data, though accurate, is more than one year old. The City of Wheaton maintains six emergency backup wells. No water from these emergency backup wells was used in 2023 to supply the finished drinking water. If you would like more information on these results, contact the Water Division.

Water Quality Table Footnotes

Turbidity: A measure of the cloudiness of water. This is monitored because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of the filtration system and disinfectants.

Unregulated contaminants: Maximum contaminant levels (MCL) for some contaminants have not been established by either state or federal regulations, nor has the mandatory health effects language. The purpose for monitoring unregulated contaminants is to assist USEPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water, and whether future regulation is warranted.

Fluoride: Added to the water supply to help promote strong teeth. The Illinois Department of Public Health recommends an optimal fluoride level of 0.7 mg/L with a range of 0.6 mg/L to 0.8 mg/L.

Sodium: There is no state or federal MCL for sodium. Monitoring is required to provide information to consumers and health officials concerned about sodium intake due to dietary precautions. If you are on a sodium-restricted diet, you should consult a physician about this level of sodium in the water.

Glossary of Terms

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 Contaminant Level (MCL): 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.

Highest Level Detected: Represents the highest single sample reading of a contaminant of all the samples collected.

Range of Detections: Represents a range of individual sample results, from lowest to highest that were collected during the calendar year.

Date of Sample: If a date appears in this column, the Illinois EPA requires monitoring for this contaminant less than once per year because the concentrations do not frequently change. If no date appears in the column, monitoring for this contaminant was conducted during the calendar year.

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant that triggers treatment or other required actions by the water supply.

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

%pos/mo: Percent of positive samples per month.

Parts Per Million (ppm): Equivalent to milligrams per liter. One part per million is comparable to one penny in $10,000.

Parts Per Billion (ppb): Equivalent to micrograms per liter. One part per billion is comparable to one penny in $10,000,000.

NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Unit, used to measure cloudiness in drinking water.

%≤0.3 NTU: Percent of samples less than 0.3NTU.

pCi/L: Picocuries per liter, used to measure radioactivity.

nd: Not detectable at testing limits.

n/a: Not applicable.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of a drinking water disinfectant 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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of a drinking water disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

2023 Water Quality Results for Monitoring by the City of Wheaton

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	MCL	Highest Level found	Range of detections	Date of sample	Violation	Typical source of contaminant
Disinfection/Disinfectant By-Products							
Chlorine (ppm)	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	1.2	1.0-1.4	2023	-	Water additive used to control microbes.
Haloacetic Acids [HAA5](ppb)	n/a	60	18	7.3-29.8	2023	-	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHM] (ppb)	n/a	80	44	19.48-46.9	2023	-	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Lead and Copper							
Copper (ppm)	1.3	AL=1.3	0.0776 (90th percentile)	0 sites exceeding AL	2023	-	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead (ppb)	0	AL = 15	1.6 (90th percentile)	0 sites exceeding AL	2023		Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

MCLG	Total Coliform MCL	Highest Percent of Positive	Fecal Coliform or E. Coli MCL	Total No. of Positive E. Coli or Fecal Coliform Samples	Violation	Typical source of contaminant
Coliform Bacteria						
0	5% (%pos/mo)	1.6%	n/a	0	-	Naturally present in the environment.

Violations Table

Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM): Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
Monitoring, Routine (DBP), Major	10/1/23	12/31/23	We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated.

2023 Water Quality Results for Monitoring by the City of Chicago

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	MCL	Highest Level found	Range of detections	Date of sample	Violation	Typical source of contaminant
Turbidity Data							
Turbidity (NTU/Lowest Monthly %≤0.3NTU)	n/a	TT (95%≤0.3NTU)	100.0% (Lowest Monthly %)	100%-100%		-	Soil runoff.
Turbidity (NTU/Highest Single Measurement)	n/a	TT=1NTUmax	0.25	n/a		-	Soil runoff.
Inorganic Contaminants							
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.0195	0.0192-0.0195		-	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)(ppm)	10	10	0.33	0.29-0.33		-	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate & Nitrite (ppm)	10	10	0.33	0.29-0.33		-	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Total Organic Carbon							
TOC [Total Organic Carbon]	The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month and the system met all TOC removal requirements set by IEPA.						
Unregulated Contaminants							
Sulfate (ppm)	n/a	n/a	27.8	25.0-27.8		-	Erosion of naturally occurring deposits.
Sodium (ppm)	n/a	n/a	8.71	8.43-8.71		-	Erosion of naturally occurring deposits; Used as water softener.
State Regulated Contaminants							
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.74	0.66-0.74		-	Water additive which promotes strong teeth.
Radioactive Contaminants							
Combined Radium 226/228 (pCi/L)	0	5	0.95	0.83-0.95	2/4/20	-	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.
Gross Alpha excluding radon and uranium (pCi/L)	0	15	3.1	2.8-3.1	2/4/20	-	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.

Concerning Lead in Our 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.

The City of Wheaton is 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 your 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 or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Other Drinking Water Facts

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, USEPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Voluntary Monitoring

Cryptosporidium - The City of Chicago monitors for Cryptosporidium, Giardia and E. coli in its source water as part of its water quality program. No Cryptosporidium or Giardia was detected in source water samples collected in 2023. Treatment processes have been optimized to provide effective removal of Cryptosporidium and Giardia from the source water. By maintaining low turbidity through the removal of particles from the water, the possibility of such organisms getting into the drinking water system is greatly reduced.

Chromium-6 - In 2023, the City of Chicago has also continued monitoring for hexavalent chromium, also known as chromium-6. USEPA has not yet established a standard for chromium-6, a contaminant of concern which has both natural and industrial sources. Please address any questions or concerns to Chicago DWM's Water Quality Division at 312-744-8190. Data reports on the monitoring program for Chromium-6 are posted at: https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/water/supp_info/water_quality_resultsandreports/city_of_chicago_emergincontaminantstudy.html.

UCMR5 - In compliance with the Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) samples were collected in 2023 at Wheaton's entry points to the distribution system and analyzed for all contaminant groups. All the contaminant groups tested were below the minimum reporting levels specified in the test method under UCMR5.

PFAS - The Illinois EPA collected finished water samples from Chicago's Water System on Oct. 29, 2020 and analyzed the samples for a total of 18 Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) contaminants. In its notification to Chicago, the IEPA stated that these contaminants were not present in Chicago's drinking water at concentrations greater than or equal to the minimum reporting levels.

More Information:

Feel free to attend regular City Council meetings. These are held on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the council chambers at City Hall, 303 W. Wesley St.

Water quality data for community water systems throughout the U.S. is available on the internet at www.awwa.org.

Additional information regarding water treatment and regulations is available at the USEPA website at www.epa.gov.

Contact Information:

Wheaton Water Division
Al McMillen, Water Superintendent: 630-260-2090

Internet: www.wheaton.il.us
Water bill questions: 630-260-2024
After-hours emergencies: 911

USEPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline: 800-426-4791

Monitoring Violations Annual Notice

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Monitoring Requirements Not Met for the City of Wheaton

Our water system violated a drinking water standard over the past year. Even though this was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct this situation.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During October 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023 we did not complete all monitoring or testing for Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time.

What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do at this time.

The table below lists the contaminant that was not properly tested for during the last year, how often we are supposed to sample for this contaminant, how many samples we are supposed to take, how many samples we took, when samples should have been taken, and the date on which follow-up samples were taken.

Contaminant	Required sampling frequency	Number of samples taken	When all samples should have been taken	When samples were or will be taken
TTHM[1]	8 samples Quarterly	8	10/1/23-12/31/23	11/8/2023 Follow up 2/7/2024

What happened? What is being done?

As required, 8 samples were collected November 8, 2023 for TTHM and delivered to a certified laboratory for testing. One sample was unable to be tested due to a Quality Control issue at the laboratory. Samples were collected as required February 7, 2024. Results of that analysis met drinking water standards.

For more information, please contact Al McMillen at 630-260-2090 or 303 W. Wesley St., Wheaton, IL 60187.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by the City of Wheaton Water System ID# IL0431050 Date distributed June 15, 2024

[1] Disinfectants are an essential element of drinking water treatment because of the barrier they provide against waterborne disease-causing microorganisms. However, Total Trihalomethanes are a group of disinfection byproducts that form when disinfectants used to treat drinking water react with naturally occurring materials in the water (e.g., decomposing plant material).