



2011 Water Quality Report

City of Wheaton



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.



Overview

Residents of Wheaton are fortunate to have Lake Michigan as a reliable source of fresh water. We must remember to conserve and protect this valuable resource, not only for today, but for future generations as well.

The Water Division continues to maintain a low rate of water loss, saving millions of gallons of water per year. In 2011: 43 large meters were tested and/or repaired, 19 large meters were replaced, 10 leaks discovered through leak detection were repaired, 47 main breaks were repaired, and 3,500 feet of aging water main was replaced.

We can all help by practicing conservation at home: Turn off the faucet while brushing your teeth. Replace old shower heads with low-flow models. Run the dishwasher and washing machine only when there is a full load or use low water level features. Repair dripping faucets and leaky toilets. Water your lawn in the early morning when temperatures are cooler to minimize evaporation. And, where possible, use a rain barrel for outdoor watering.

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 South 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 312-744-6635.

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).

Water Quality Table

The table shows the results of our water-quality analyses based on tests done in 2011. 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 2011 to supply the finished drinking water. If you would like more information on these results, contact the Water Division.

No water quality violations were recorded for this facility during the 2011 reporting period.

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	MCL	Highest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Date of Sample	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Microbial Contaminants							
Total Coliform Bacteria (%pos/mo)	0%	5%	1.6% in September	n/a	-	-	Naturally present in the environment.
Fecal Coliform or E. coli (#pos/mo)	0	0	0	n/a	-	-	Human and animal fecal waste.
Turbidity (%<0.3NTU)*	n/a	TT	99.50%	99.50%-100.00%	-	-	Soil runoff.
Turbidity (NTU)*	n/a	TT=1NTUmax	0.86	n/a	-	-	Soil runoff.
Inorganic Contaminants							
Barium (ppm)*	2	2	0.0208	0.0201-0.0208	-	-	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)(ppm)*	10	10	0.44	0.39-0.44	-	-	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate & Nitrite (ppm)*	10	10	0.44	0.39-0.44	-	-	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Disinfection/Disinfectant By-Products				Monitoring Date			
Chlorine (as Cl ₂)(ppm)	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	0.8	0.6832-0.91	1/1/2011	-	Drinking water disinfectant.
Haloacetic Acids [HAA5](ppb)	n/a	60	Highest Running Annual Average=15**	8.59-17.27	Quarterly 2011	-	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHMs] (ppb)	n/a	80	Highest Running Annual Average=33**	16.56-47.4	Quarterly 2011	-	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
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	16.1	14.4-16.1	-	-	Erosion of naturally occurring deposits.
Sodium (ppm)*	n/a	n/a	6.64	6.63-6.64	-	-	Erosion of naturally occurring deposits; Used as water softener.
State Regulated Contaminants							
Fluoride (ppm)*	4	4	0.92	0.81-0.92	-	-	Water additive which promotes strong teeth.
Radioactive Contaminants							
Combined Radium (226/228) (pCi/L)*	0	5	1.38	1.300-1.380	3/17/2008	-	Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross Alpha excluding radon and uranium (pCi/L)*	0	15	0.88	0.090-0.880	3/17/2008	-	Erosion of natural deposits.

*The table above includes contaminants monitored by both the City of Chicago and the City of Wheaton. The results marked with an asterisk are based upon tests done by the City of Chicago. All others are from samples collected by the City of Wheaton.

**Not all sample results may have been used for calculating the Highest Level Detected because some results may be part of an evaluation to determine where compliance sampling should occur in the future.

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 range of 0.9-1.2 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.

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

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.

Voluntary Monitoring

Cryptosporidium - The City of Chicago has continued monitoring for Cryptosporidium, Giardia and E. coli in its source water as part of its water quality program. To date, Cryptosporidium has not been detected in these samples, but Giardia was detected in 2010 in one raw lake water sample collected in September 2010. Treatment processes have been optimized to provide effective barriers for removal of Cryptosporidium oocysts and Giardia cysts in the source water, effectively removing these organisms in the treatment process. By maintaining low turbidity and thereby removing the particles from the water, the possibility of Cryptosporidium and Giardia organisms getting into the drinking water system is greatly reduced.

Taste and odor compounds - MIB and geosmin are monitored both in the source and finished water. The treatment process is adjusted to reduce these compounds and provide a drinking water without detectable tastes and odors.

Toxicity - The City of Chicago has added testing methods to those already performed to detect changes in water quality in a timely manner. Protocol for screening water samples for toxicity from chemicals and for the presence of endospores has been developed. Acute toxicity screening detects the presence of toxic chemicals and although the test does not identify individual compounds, it can be used as an early warning tool. Results thus far have not shown any positive results. Anthrax organisms belong to the group of bacteria which can produce endospores. If samples are positive for the presence of endospores, further identification can be done to determine which bacteria are present. Samples are tested to develop a historical record of results and a database of information. No harmful bacteria have been identified.

Additional Health Information

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.

City of Chicago Emerging Contaminant Study

The City of Chicago Department of Water Management (CDWM) has completed a water quality study to monitor some compounds that have not historically been considered to be contaminants of concern, but have been recently documented at trace concentrations in our nation's waterbodies. This study, completed in the years 2009-2011, includes compounds known as Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs) and Pharmaceuticals & Personal Care Products (PPCPs), which are considered to be emerging contaminants. EDCs are compounds with potential to interfere with natural hormone systems. PPCPs are a group of compounds consisting of prescription or over-the-counter therapeutic drugs, veterinary drugs, and consumer products such as sun-screen, lotions, insect repellent, and fragrances. The reader is encouraged to visit the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) website to learn more about EDCs (<http://www.epa.gov/ncer/science/endocrine/>) and PPCPs (<http://www.epa.gov/ppcp/>).

In 2011, CDWM has also monitored for hexavalent chromium, also known as chromium-6, and continues to do so quarterly. 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 CDWM's Water Quality Division at 312-742-7499. A list of detected contaminants from the monitoring studies and additional information is posted on the City of Chicago's website which can be accessed at: (http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/water/supp_info/water_quality_resultsandreports/city_of_chicago_emergincontaminantstudy.html)

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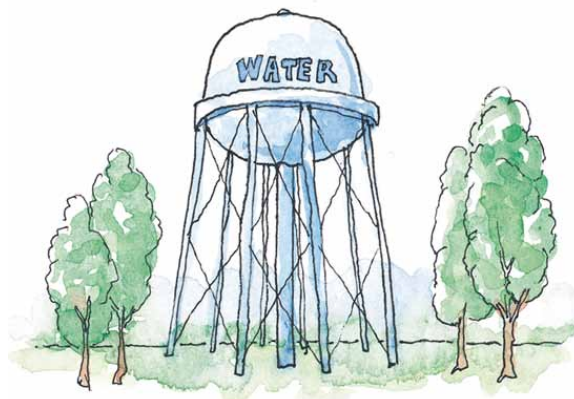
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For More Information

Feel free to attend regular City Council meetings. These are held on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 7:00 P.M. in the council chambers at City Hall, 303 West Wesley Street.

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 web site at www.usepa.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: (630) 260-2161

USEPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline:
(800) 426-4791

American Water Works Association:
(303) 794-7711

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>.

Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule II

Chicago's water system was required to monitor for all contaminants required under the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule II (UCMR II). Started in 2009, monitoring under UCMR II was completed in 2011, with none of the contaminants detected. Inquiries and results may be obtained by calling the Chicago Water Quality Division office at (312) 742-7499.

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.