

In the February 26, 2009 issue of the Water Quality update:

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### **Water Quality Test Results – January 2009**

**MICROBIOLOGY** – In January, the Water Utility collected 353 water samples from Water Utility facilities and representative sample locations in the distribution system. Samples were tested for coliform bacteria – indicators of potential water contamination. One sample collected in January tested positive for coliform bacteria. Follow-up samples were not able to confirm the original positive result.

**IRON & MANGANESE** – The utility also collected samples from seven wells and tested the water for manganese and iron. At elevated levels, these minerals can cause yellow, orange, or brown colored water. Monthly water samples are typically collected from operating wells that exceed 0.15 ppm iron or 25 ppb manganese or that appear to exhibit seasonal variation in the mineral concentrations. The January test results are shown in the table below.

	<b>Mn (ppb)</b>	<b>Iron (ppm)</b>
UW7	27	0.351
UW19	42	0.199
UW23	27	0.060
UW24	31	0.186
UW26	14	0.013
UW27	34	0.167
UW30	16	0.289

**RESIDENTIAL IRON & MANGANESE** – Residential tap samples were collected from twelve homes in the Well 8 service area in January. These homes were likely receiving water from Well 11 or Well 24 at the time of sampling because Well 8 is out of service for the winter. Manganese levels ranged from 2-41 parts per billion (ppb) with a median value of 6 ppb. Iron levels ranged from 0.005-0.212 parts per million (ppm) with a median of 0.04 ppm. The Water Utility expects to collect additional samples later this spring.

### **Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Update**

The Water Utility successfully collected samples from 16 wells and 7 representative distribution sample locations to comply with the Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Regulation, Cycle 2

(UCMR2). Water samples were collected on February 9. Results will be posted to this listserv when they become available. Seasonal wells including Wells 6, 8, 17, 28, and 29 were not sampled since they are currently out of service for the winter. Well 18, which has been out of service for maintenance since November 1, also was not sampled.

More information on the regulation and the contaminants can be found on the UCMR2 page of the Environmental Protection Agency website,  
<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/ucmr/ucmr2/index.html>

### **Well 29 Filter Update**

Construction of the iron/manganese filter plant at Well 29 is on-going. Filter testing will likely begin in mid-March and the plant could be fully operational by May 1. Once operational the plant is expected to treat 1.6 million gallons of water per day and have an annual production of 575 million gallons. The filter, which will run continuously year-round, is expected to reduce iron levels from 0.4 mg/L to <0.1 mg/L and manganese levels from 180 ug/L to <20 ug/L.

### **Subscribe to the Drinking Water Quality Listserv**

People who want to receive regular updates on Madison's drinking water quality can subscribe to this Listserv at:

<http://lavos.wiscnet.net/mailman/listinfo/drinkingwaterquality>

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