

In the April 1, 2008 issue of the Water Quality update:

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Updated Water Quality Reports Now Available

Last year, the Water Utility initiated a service on our website enabling customers to obtain information about the well(s) serving their home or place of work and water quality associated with those well(s). The Water Quality reports for each well have been updated and now include

- Results of water quality monitoring conducted in 2007,
- Links to the 2006 test results for inorganic and organic contaminants,
- Information on microbial contaminant (bacteria and viruses) monitoring, and
- Information on how much water each well pumped in 2007

It is anticipated that the Water Quality reports for each well will be updated annually.

The application for identifying the well(s) that serve an address can be found under the Water Quality tab on our website, www.madisonwater.org, or directly from the following link:

<http://www.cityofmadison.com/water/serviceCustomer.cfm>

Water Quality Test Results – February 2008

MICROBIOLOGY – In February, the Water Utility collected 355 water samples from Water Utility facilities and representative sample locations in the water distribution system. These samples were tested for coliform bacteria – indicators of potential water contamination. None of the samples collected in February tested positive for coliform bacteria.

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

	Mn (ppb)	Fe (ppm)
UW 7	27	0.387
UW 11	17	0.015
UW 19	44	0.205
UW 23	30	0.064
UW 24	28	0.199
UW 24	28	0.190
UW 28	23	0.195
UW 30	14	0.194

Unit Well 3 Abandonment Update

Municipal Well & Pump began the process of permanently abandoning Unit Well 3 on Monday, March 24. The well drilling company pulled the pump last week and began filling the open bore hole with pea gravel and concrete earlier this week. The well will be permanently abandoned by the end of this week. Prior to filling the borehole, staff from Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey logged the well to obtain physical and geological data about the rock formations that make up the upper and lower aquifers, the relative depths, and thickness of the Eau Claire Shale confining layer.

Well 29 Pump Test Report – Now Available On-line

A complete report on the pump test conducted at Unit Well 29 is now available on our website, <http://www.cityofmadison.com/water/Documents/UW29PumpTestFinalReport.pdf>.

Recommendations for long-term operations of Well 29, which were based on the results of the pump test and subsequent groundwater modeling, were presented at the Water Utility Board meeting in February. In response, the Water Board approved a recommendation from staff to reduce the operational capacity of the filter to be installed at Well 29. The Water Utility is also moving forward with a plan to install and monitor a sentinel well drilled into the lower aquifer at a location between Well 29 and the Sycamore Landfill.

The website also contains reports from previous investigations at Unit Well 29 including,

- Unit Well 29 Pilot Study
- Unit Well 29 Manganese Assessment

Water Main (Hydrant) Flushing Program Begins

The 2008 Flushing Program began on Monday, March 31. Below is a brief description of the technique and potential customer impacts due to flushing. Additional information, including schedules and how to learn more about when your neighborhood may be impacted, is available on our website, <http://www.cityofmadison.com/water/plansWater.cfm>, or by calling the Water Utility at 261-9129.

What is the Water Main (Hydrant) Flushing Program?

In order to improve water quality and minimize discoloration, City of Madison water mains are comprehensively flushed by a technique known as Unidirectional Flushing. The procedure is performed in warm-weather months and involves the systematic opening and closing of hydrants, one section of main at a time, in order to force the water through the pipes at high velocity, removing accumulated sediment until the water is clear. Unidirectional flushing differs from conventional flushing in that it involves the closing of adjacent valves and the use of a single hydrant per flush in order to isolate individual sections of main. Conventional flushing also removes accumulated sediment from pipes, but it involves the flushing of multiple hydrants at a time and does not include the valving off of individual sections of main, thereby diminishing the “scouring” efficiency. Conventional flushing is used in areas of the city where less minerals build up in the mains.

How Will Flushing Affect Water Service?

When flushing crews are working close to your residence or business, you may experience periods of very low pressure or even a complete stoppage of service. We attempt to notify customers in advance if flushing is expected to result in a complete water outage, but such outages are rare.

Flushing operations may also lead to discolored water, which can be drawn into homes and businesses if the water is being used during or immediately following the flushing. Such events should affect customers for a few hours at most. The discoloration is caused by iron (red color) or manganese (black color) particles being dislodged from the water main and can stain porcelain and laundry. If discoloration occurs, open the cold tap nearest the water meter—usually a basement sink—to full flow until the water runs clear. In some situations this may take 5 to 10 minutes. It is also advised that you make sure your water is clear before doing laundry or other projects for which discolored water causes problems.

A precise schedule of flushing operations is difficult to determine more than a day or two in advance. If you wish to be notified before work will be done in your area, please call Gordon Heingartner at 261-9129 or email water@madisonwater.org

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>

Sincerely,
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