

In the July 24, 2008 issue of the Water Quality Update:

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Press Release – Lower Summer Demand, Fewer Standby Wells to Operate

This summer's heavy rainfalls have had at least one positive effect: the usual high seasonal demand for water has been blunted, and that has allowed the Water Utility to keep some of its standby wells out of service. Click [here](#) for details.

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report Now Available in Spanish

The Annual Drinking Water Quality Report is now available in Spanish. The translated report is available on the Water Utility [website](#), or customers may find copies at Centro Hispano. Paper copies are also available upon request by calling the utility at 266-4654.

The report is based on 2007 data and describes the source of Madison's tap water and what citizens can do to help protect and maintain the quality and quantity of our drinking water.

Well Status Report – Seasonal Wells

Well 29 – Well 29 will operate on stand-by through the end of September. Stand-by assures its availability for fire fighting or other water emergencies during the summer months. Because of lower seasonal demand, the Utility is able to pump the water to the storm sewer rather than into the distribution system. About 200,000 gallons are delivered to the sewer, once a week, to turn over the reservoir. Weekly evaluations of water demand determine whether the water is pumped into the distribution system. A previous posting announced that Well 29 water would enter the distribution system on Monday from 8 a.m. to noon and 10 p.m. Thursday to 2 a.m. Friday.

Water quality issues have been a problem at Well 29, located on Madison's Far East side, since its start-up in 2005. Naturally occurring iron and manganese occur at levels that can discolor the water yellow, orange, or brown. Although not at a level that causes a health concern, the water can stain laundry and plumbing

fixtures. As a result, the utility plans to install a filter to remove these minerals. The filter is expected to begin operation in summer 2009.

Well 10 – The Water Utility had planned to operate Well 10 on reserve supply beginning July 1. However, due to lower than normal water demand, the Water Utility has decided to postpone the start-up of Well 10. Water Utility staff will periodically review water demand trends and assess the conditions under which Well 10 would be brought into reserve supply status. Updates will be posted to this listserv.

Other Seasonal Wells – All other seasonal wells are now in service. Well 8 was brought into service on Friday, June 27.

Water Quality Test Results – June 2008

MICROBIOLOGY – In June, the Water Utility collected 395 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 June tested positive for coliform bacteria.

ANNUAL INORGANICS – The utility collected samples from all wells except Well 10, which is currently out of service, and tested them for a suite of 32 inorganic substances including iron, manganese, nitrate, arsenic, lead, calcium, and chloride. Test results are currently unavailable but will be posted to this listserv and our website at a later date.

VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS – The utility also collected samples from four wells and had the water tested for the presence of volatile organic compounds – man-made contaminants that may be present in groundwater. The Water Utility annually tests all wells, usually in July or August, for over 40 of these compounds including tetrachloroethylene and carbon tetrachloride. The table below shows the contaminants detected, the maximum concentration found, the EPA maximum contaminant level (MCL), and the contaminant concentration at the four wells. ND means that the contaminant was not detected.

VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS	MAXIMUM	UNITS	MCL	11	23	25	29
Bromodichloromethane*	1.3	ppb	--	ND	[0.31]	ND	1.3
Bromoform*	0.6	ppb	--	[0.28] ¹	0.60	ND	[0.17]
Chloroform*	1.3	ppb	--	ND	ND	ND	1.3
Dibromochloromethane*	0.82	ppb	--	[0.27]	0.77	ND	0.82
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	3.6	ppb	80	0.94	1.7	ND	3.6
1,2-Dichloroethylene (cis)	0.39	ppb	70	[0.39]	ND	ND	ND
Tetrachloroethylene	0.6	ppb	5	0.60	ND	ND	ND
Trichloroethylene	0.29	ppb	5	[0.29]	ND	ND	ND
Trichlorofluoromethane	0.98	ppb	--	0.98			

* Disinfection By-Product

¹ Bracketed numbers indicate that the contaminant was detected but measured below the Level of Quantification (LOQ)

Radionuclide Monitoring Update

The Water Utility previously reported that grab samples would be collected from seven wells and tested for radionuclides (gross alpha, radium-226, radium-228, and uranium) while composite samples would be collected at the remaining wells. A composite sample involves collecting a sample during each of four consecutive quarters (each three-month period) and combining the four sub-samples prior to submitting the composite sample for analysis.

Grab samples for radionuclide testing were collected at five wells and submitted for analysis. The results can be found in the table below. The current status of Wells 10 and 29 (see *Well Status Report – Seasonal Wells* above) has delayed their sampling until later in August or early September. Collection of the first portions of the composite samples is now complete for the other sixteen wells. Three additional portions will be collected prior to the final submission of the composite samples in spring 2009.

RADIONUCLIDE	UNITS	MCL	UW 7	UW 19	UW 23	UW 27	UW 28
Gross Alpha	pCi/L	15	6.8 ± 1.3	10.3 ± 2.6	4.7 ± 1.3	9.5 ± 1.6	9.7 ± 2.5
Gross Beta	pCi/L	50	6.2 ± 1.3	10.7 ± 2.4	5.8 ± 1.4	6.9 ± 1.3	11.8 ± 2.5
Radium-226	pCi/L	5	1.4 ± 0.7	1.4 ± 0.4	0.60 ± 0.45	2.7 ± 0.9	2.3 ± 0.8
Radium-228	pCi/L	5	1.8 ± 0.6	2.1 ± 0.6	1.0 ± 0.5	2.2 ± 0.6	1.5 ± 0.5
Uranium Total	ug/L	30	1.2 ± 0.1	2.0 ± 0.8	0.94 ± 0.19	1.5 ± 0.3	0.80 ± 0.49

MCL = highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water

± = (test result) ± (margin of error)

ug/L = micrograms/Liter or parts per billion (ppb)

pCi/L = picoCuries/Liter

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>