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Well Status Report – Seasonal Wells

Several seasonal (summer) wells have been taken out of service for the year. Well 29, which was operated on reserve supply during the summer months, was taken out of service on September 10. Well 10 remains out of service. The well operated temporarily in early September to allow for the collection of water samples required by the US Environmental Protection Agency and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. No water from Well 10 entered the distribution system, rather it was pumped to the storm sewer. Finally, Well 8 was taken off-line on September 22 when water main flushing began in the Atwood neighborhood. The well will be pumped to the storm sewer for a couple hours later this week prior to collecting required water quality samples. Then it will be taken out of service for the rest of the year. Wells 6 and 17 are expected to be taken out of service in October.

Water Quality Test Results – August 2008

MICROBIOLOGY – In August, Water Utility staff collected 385 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 August tested positive for coliform bacteria.

CHEMICAL TESTING – During the period of June through August, the Water Utility collects water samples from each operating well to perform the annual inorganic and volatile organic compound (VOC) analyses. In addition, samples are collected at representative distribution system locations and tested for disinfection by-products, chemicals that form when chlorine interacts with impurities in ground water. Results of these annual tests can be found in the Report to Water Utility Board on Annual Water Quality Monitoring Results. The report is available on our [website](#).

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.

Test results for grab samples collected at five wells (UW 7, UW 19, UW 23, UW 27, & UW 28) were previously reported. Wells 10 and 29 were sampled in early September. Results will be posted to this listserv when they become available.

For the remaining sixteen wells, the third portion of the composite sample is scheduled to be collected in October. After that, one additional portion will be collected prior to submission of the composite samples for analysis in early 2009.

Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring – UCMR2

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency establish criterion for a program to monitor unregulated contaminants and to publish a list of contaminants to be monitored every five years. Unregulated contaminants are substances for which a maximum contaminant level (MCL) has yet to be established. Monitoring for these substances provides occurrence and exposure data that help the regulatory agency determine whether the contaminants should be regulated.

Monitoring for cycle two of the Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Regulation ([UCMR2](#)) will occur during 2008-2010. All community water systems serving more than 10,000 people are required to monitor. Madison Water Utility collected water samples during the week of August 18th and will repeat the sampling in late February or early March. Similar to the original sampling, the repeat samples will be collected from all wells and at seven locations in the distribution system. Results will be posted to this listserv when they become available.

Water samples will be analyzed for 25 potential contaminants including pesticides and their degradates, flame retardants, explosives, and disinfection by-products. Additional details regarding the regulation and monitored contaminants can be found on the EPA website at:

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/ucmr/ucmr2/index.html>

Construction on Well 29 Building Addition Set to Begin

Construction is expected to begin this week on the addition that will house an iron and manganese filter at Well 29. The construction will continue through the winter with the filter due to be fully operational by June 1, 2009.

Ground water minerals have been a problem at this well since its start-up in 2005. Naturally occurring iron and manganese occur at levels that can discolor the water yellow, orange, or brown, and, although not at a concentration that causes a health concern, the minerals can stain laundry and plumbing fixtures. As a result, the utility is installing a filter to remove the iron and manganese.

The well is currently shut down. After the filter is installed, the well is expected to pump year round and deliver about 1.6 million gallons per day to east side residents.

The contractor for the filter building is Staab Construction of McFarland, WI. Cost for the entire filter project at this well is \$1.5 million.

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

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