

In the December 18, 2008 issue of the Water Quality update:

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Water Quality Test Results – November 2008

MICROBIOLOGY – In November, the Water Utility collected 338 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. None of the samples collected in November tested positive for coliform bacteria.

IRON & MANGANESE – The utility also collected samples from six wells and tested the water 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 November test results are shown in the table below.

	Mn (ppb)	Iron (ppm)
UW11	6.5	0.006
UW19	47	0.206
UW23	29	0.064
UW24	32	0.163
UW27	43	0.256
UW30	14	0.211

RESIDENTIAL IRON & MANGANESE – Residential tap samples were collected from fifteen homes in the Well 8 service area in November. These homes were likely receiving water from Well 11 or Well 24 at the time of sampling since Well 8 is out of service for the winter. With one exception, manganese levels ranged from 2-14 parts per billion (ppb) with a median value of 4 ppb. Iron levels ranged from 0.006-0.134 parts per million (ppm) with a median of 0.02 ppm. One sample was visibly discolored and measured 0.495 ppm iron and 151 ppb manganese. The Water Utility expects to collect additional samples in the coming months.

VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS – In November, the Utility collected samples from five wells and had the water tested for over 40 volatile organic compounds – man-made contaminants that may be present in groundwater. These five wells are tested quarterly due to past detections of volatile organic compounds. The table shows only the contaminants detected, the EPA maximum contaminant level (MCL), and the concentration that was measured at each of the five wells. ND means that the contaminant was not detected.

VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS	MCL	UNITS	9	11	14	15	18 ²
Bromodichloromethane*	--	ppb	[0.44] ¹	ND	ND	ND	3.6
Bromoform*	--	ppb	[0.36]	[0.21]	[0.23]	ND	1.9
Chloroform*	--	ppb	ND	ND	ND	ND	4.2
Dibromochloromethane*	--	ppb	[0.70]	ND	ND	ND	2.9
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	80	ppb	1.5	0.21	0.23	ND	12.6
Chloromethane	--	ppb	ND	ND	ND	3.8	ND
Dichlorodifluoromethane	--	ppb	ND	ND	[0.19]	ND	ND
1,2-Dichloroethylene (cis)	70	ppb	ND	[0.30]	ND	ND	ND
Tetrachloroethylene	5	ppb	2.1	0.53	0.70	3.2	0.80
Trichloroethylene	5	ppb	ND	[0.26]	[0.34]	[0.37]	ND
Trichlorofluoromethane	--	ppb	ND	[0.90]	ND	ND	ND

* Disinfection By-Product

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

² Sample taken from standpipe isolated from distribution system during well maintenance and rehabilitation

UW 29 Iron and Manganese Filter Update

Click on the attached pdf to read the UW 29 Filter update.

Pressure Zone 4 Water Supply Project Update

The Water Utility held a public meeting on December 17th to describe the water supply project being planned for Madison's southeast side and to identify volunteers for the Citizen Advisory Panel. Project details can be found on the Water Utility website, www.madisonwater.org.

A public hearing will be held immediately before the next Water Board meeting, January 27th at 4:30 p.m., to hear testimony regarding the proposed project. Written comments can be submitted to the Water Utility by US mail, 119 E Olin Avenue, or by e-mail (water@cityofmadison.com) anytime before the January Water Board meeting. A vote is expected at the January meeting to determine whether or not to establish the project.

Finally, volunteers are still needed to form the Citizen Advisory Panel. If you would like to help the Utility formulate the scope, location, and character of the project, please contact the Madison Water Utility at 266-4651 or water@cityofmadison.com at your convenience. Citizen input will help to make this project better.

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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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