

In the May 18, 2007 issue of the Water Quality Update:

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### **East Isthmus Drinking Water Series Update**

The second of three public meetings in the East Isthmus Drinking Water Series was held on April 19<sup>th</sup>. Forty people attended the informational meeting including representatives from east side neighborhood groups, the Water Utility, City Engineering, the Department of Planning & Development, the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey, and the Department of Natural Resources. The meeting focused on technical issues related to the aquifer underlying the east isthmus and challenges associated with identifying a site for the Well 3 replacement well that will be free from potential contamination.

The third and final meeting in the series will be held on Thursday June 7<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 pm at 329 North Street. The meeting's theme will be conservation and long-term sustainability of the aquifer. Meeting updates can be found on our website, [www.madisonwater.org](http://www.madisonwater.org).

### **Well 3 Replacement Well Study**

The Water Utility recently proposed abandoning Well 3 and replacing it with a new well on the east side of Madison. The replacement well is expected to provide a long-term supply of clean drinking water for the near east side. A team of consultants headed by Montgomery Associates will be assisting the utility in conducting a detailed groundwater analysis and an assessment of potential sources of pollutants as well as to coordinate the public participation component of the project. An advisory working group, with elected officials and citizen representatives from east isthmus neighborhoods, is currently being formed to assist in the planning of future public meetings and other aspects of the public involvement process. Updates on the planning process will be available on our website beginning in earlier June.

### **Well 10 Public Meeting Update**

A public meeting was held on May 3<sup>rd</sup> to update customers in the former Well 10 service on planned Well 10 operations, emergency situations that might require Well 10 water to be pumped into the system, and the customer notification plan being developed to inform customers if that were to occur. The Public Health Department also addressed concerns

related to manganese exposure from drinking water. Much of the meeting was devoted to answering audience questions.

The key points from the meeting were the following:

- Well 10 is currently shutdown but will be designated “supply reserve” from June 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>. During that period, utility staff will visit the well weekly to maintain its readiness in the event of an emergency. Under these conditions, Well 10 water will not be pumped into the distribution system.
- The Water Utility has redundant systems (wells, pumps, etc.) that minimize the need for using Well 10 under normal conditions. However, an emergency situation, which removes one or more of the redundant systems and has the potential to jeopardize life or public safety, may require Well 10 water to enter the distribution system.
- The Water Utility is developing a notification plan to inform customers in the event that Well 10 water is pumped into the distribution system. This plan will include customer notification through a press release, our website, postings to the Drinking Water Quality Listserv, and neighborhood association contacts.
- Wells 12 and 20 are the wells now serving the historic Well 10 area. Both of these wells have significantly lower levels of manganese than Well 10.
- Water quality testing in 2006 found low manganese levels at most homes historically served by Well 10. Over 96% of the nearly 200 homes tested had manganese levels below the aesthetic limit of 50 parts per billion (ppb). Furthermore, 86% were below 20 ppb manganese.

### **Well Status Report**

During March and April 2007, eleven of Madison’s 23 wells operated nearly every day. Four wells operated between 50-55 days during the two-month period. Four seasonal wells did not operate during that span. They include Wells 10, 27, 28, and 29. Wells 8, and 17 began their seasonal operation in late March and pumped water on most days in April. Well 6, another seasonal well, began pumping in late March but has pumped only every other day or every third day. Well 13 was taken out of service for maintenance on April 12<sup>th</sup>; it is expected to go back into service in early June.

### **2006 Manganese Monitoring Study**

A draft report of the 2006 Manganese Monitoring Study was presented to the Water Board at the May 15<sup>th</sup> board meeting. The following conclusions were drawn:

- A majority of water samples tested below the aesthetic standard of 50 ppb manganese. Samples that exceeded the aesthetic guideline were more likely to have been collected from areas served by higher manganese producing wells such as Wells 3, 8, and 29.
- Relatively few samples exceeded the lifetime health advisory level of 300 ppb. Locations that initially tested above this threshold routinely had significantly lower levels of manganese upon resampling.
- Geographically, locations with manganese above 50 ppb were concentrated on the isthmus, and in near and far east neighborhoods. Wells 3, 8, and 29 primarily served these locations.
- Unidirectional flushing was shown to reduce manganese levels at the tap in the Well 10 service area. There was a 35% reduction in the average manganese level of post-flush samples compared with pre-flush samples.

The final report, which will include recommendations, will be presented at the June 19<sup>th</sup> board meeting and then be made available to the public.

### **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,  
Joseph Grande  
Water Quality Manager