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Well Status Report

Seasonal wells are gradually being brought back into service to help meet increasing seasonal water demand. Greater water usage results from lawn watering and other outdoor activities.

- Wells 23 and 27 were returned to service earlier this month; Well 6 started pumping in mid-April. As reported in March, Well 28 has been on-line since January.
- Well 17 is expected to be in service in early June while Well 8 is scheduled to start pumping in early July.
- The Water Utility does not plan to use Well 10 this year.

Water Quality Test Results – March & April

MICROBIOLOGY – In March & April, Water Utility staff collected a total of 781 samples from Water Utility facilities and representative locations in the distribution system. Each sample was tested for coliform bacteria – indicators of potential water contamination. None of these samples tested positive for coliform bacteria.

LEAD & COPPER – In April, Water Utility staff began collecting required water samples to comply with the federal Lead and Copper Rule. Water samples are collected at household taps after a minimum six-hour stagnation period. Water stagnation allows the water to sit motionless in the pipe and evaluates the tendency of the water to leach lead and copper from pipe materials, fittings, and plumbing fixtures. This standard procedure simulates lead and copper levels that are observed following periods of no water use in a home.

Ninety-one of 100 samples were collected in April. The remaining nine samples are expected to be collected in May or June. Most samples tested in the 0-3 ug/L or parts per billion [ppb] lead range compared to an action level of 15 ppb, while copper ranged from 32 to 239 ppb compared to the action level of 1300 ppb. One sample exceeded the action level for lead. Monitoring for lead and copper will be repeated later this year, most likely in September or October.

IRON & MANGANESE – One or more samples were collected from nine wells in March and/or April and tested for iron and manganese. At elevated levels, these minerals can stain laundry and plumbing fixtures. Accumulation and later re-suspension of iron and manganese in water mains may lead to discolored water at the tap. Results are shown in the following table.

March 2011	Mn (ppb)	Iron (ppm)
Well 6	n/s	n/s
Well 7	24	0.355
Well 15	5.5	0.013
Well 19	46	0.194
Well 24	27	0.180
Well 25	3.9	0.050
Well 26	3.9	0.034
Well 28	21	0.157
Well 30	14	0.213
Standard*	50	0.3

April 2011	Mn (ppb)	Iron (ppm)
Well 6	0.6	0.026
Well 7	n/s	n/s
Well 15	5.8	0.015
Well 19	50	0.194
Well 24	32	0.180
Well 25	n/s	n/s
Well 26	7.5	0.004
Well 28	n/s	n/s
Well 30	15	0.221
Standard*	50	0.3

* Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL) - non-enforceable guideline for aesthetic effects (color, taste, or odor)
 ppb = parts per billion; ppm = parts per million; 1 ppm = 1000 ppb

The Water Utility began collecting monthly samples from routine distribution sample locations to test for iron and manganese. These locations, representing the distribution system as a whole and including at least one site from each pressure zone, are also tested twice weekly for coliform bacteria. Statistics for the twenty-nine samples collected in April follow.

April 2011	Iron (ppm)	Mn (ppb)
Minimum	<0.01	<0.2
Average	0.02	3.8
90 th Percentile	0.05	8.2
Maximum	0.06	11
Standard	0.3	50

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

The Annual Drinking Water Quality Report, also known as the Consumer Confidence Report or CCR, was recently printed and mailed to over 110,000 postal addresses in the City of Madison and other locations served by Madison Water Utility. The report summarizes the required water quality monitoring conducted by utility staff in 2010. Other highlights include updates on water system improvements, wellhead protection activities, and the advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) upgrade scheduled for later this year and 2012. We hope you enjoy reading the report on your drinking water system and welcome your feedback. If you did not receive a copy or you have misplaced it, copies of the report are available on our [website](#), at our administrative office (119 E Olin Avenue), or by calling the water quality section at 266-4654.

Water Quality Updates on the Web

Water quality reports tailored to the individual water supply wells can be found on our [website](#). Each report provides general information about the well including its construction date, pumping capacity, and links to the most recent water quality test data. The reports have been updated with the 2010 inorganics and volatile organic compounds tables. In addition, we added a [new page](#) that lists each of the wells and the area of the city and neighborhoods served by each well.

Water Main Flushing Update

Last month, Water Utility staff began flushing water mains as part of our annual maintenance program to clear mineral sediment that can accumulate in water mains. Several crews will be working throughout the city from April through October. Detailed information and a general schedule can be found on our [website](#). If you wish to be notified before flushing will occur in your area, please call Shayne Santi at 261-9128 or email water@madisonwater.org.

When the utility is flushing a hydrant near your home you may temporarily experience low water pressure or discolored water. In general, pressure is restored as soon as the hydrant is closed but the potential for orange, red, or brown colored water may persist for a short time after flushing is complete. If discoloration occurs, the utility recommends opening a coldwater tap nearest to the water meter – usually a basement utility sink – to full flow until the water clears. It is advised that you make sure your water is running clear before doing laundry or other projects for which colored water could cause problems.

Invitation to Serve on the Well 15 CAP

The Water Utility is currently recruiting members of the public to serve on a Citizen Advisory Panel (CAP) for Well 15, which has rising levels of a volatile organic compound (VOC). The well is located near the intersection of E Washington and Lien Road, and serves neighborhoods along and north of E Washington Avenue from the Yahara River to east of Interstate 90/94. The intent of the project is to address the issue of VOC contamination before it becomes a problem. The purpose of the CAP is to assist the Water Utility by incorporating community preferences into the planning process. More information can be found on our [website](#) or by calling the Water Utility. If you would like to participate, please contact Principal Engineer Al Larson at 266-4653 or allarson@cityofmadison.com.

Eastside Water Supply Project Update

The overall objective of this project is to assess the long-term water supply needs of the study area and evaluate water quality concerns and potential solutions at existing wells. The project outcome will be a list of scheduled projects that will ensure high quality water, excellent water service and adequate fire protection for Madison's east side residents. A series of two public meetings are being planned for late June to share information and gather citizen input. More information about the project is available on the [project website](#).

Contact the Water Utility

Do you have questions about your water? Do you have a water quality concern at your home or place of work? Is there other information you would like to see in future drinking water quality updates or on our website? For answers to these and other questions or to provide us feedback, please contact the Water Utility at 266-4654, water@cityofmadison.com, or through our website at <https://www.cityofmadison.com/water/askUs.cfm>.

Subscribe to the Drinking Water Quality Listserv

People who want to receive regular updates on Madison's drinking water quality can subscribe to this e-mail listserv at <https://my.cityofmadison.com/>.

Registration is simple and provides access to dozens of City of Madison e-mail lists including Drinking Water Quality (this one) and Water Main Flushing, as well as departmental messages from Metro Transit, City Parks, Public Health, and Police.

Once registered for “My Account”, click on the check box for “Drinking Water Quality” under the Water Utility heading.

Please contact me if you need assistance.

Sincerely,
Joseph Grande
Water Quality Manager
Madison Water Utility

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Return to the [Water Utility](#) website