

UNIT WELL #13

Drilled in 1959, Unit Well 13 has a pumping capacity of 2300 gallons per minute. It operates year-round and serves Madison's North side. In 2019, Well 13 pumped 422 million gallons of water compared to the 5-year average of 575 million gallons annually.

Unless otherwise noted, data contained in this report, which is updated annually, are from 2019.

Bacteria

In 2019, thirty-nine water samples were collected from Well 13 and tested for coliform bacteria, an indicator group of bacteria used to determine drinking water safety. None of these samples were found to contain coliform bacteria. Most samples (35) were from chlorinated water while four samples were untreated groundwater. The Water Utility chlorinates drinking water to protect against bacteria and viruses that can be present in groundwater.

Hardness and Other Minerals

Like all groundwater, water from Well 13 contains calcium and magnesium that contributes to its hardness (370 mg/L [ppm] or 22 grains per gallon). Other naturally occurring constituents that are present in water from Well 13 can be found in the [Inorganics Table](#).

Iron and Manganese

Water from Well 13 contains low levels of iron and manganese. Both minerals are well below the US EPA [secondary standards](#), which are 0.3 mg/L for iron and 50 µg/L for manganese.

Chromium

Low levels of naturally occurring chromium, including hexavalent chromium, have been found at Well 13. The level is well below the existing drinking water standard of 100 µg/L for total chromium. More information can be found on the [chromium](#) page.

Sodium

The level of [sodium](#) in Well 13 water matches the EPA guideline which recommends drinking water not to exceed 20 mg/L sodium. These guidelines are intended for higher risk populations including individuals with high blood pressure or on severe sodium restricted diets. In 2019, sodium at Well 13 measured 20 mg/L. Road salt application likely contributes to elevated sodium levels at some Madison wells.

Lead

Madison's groundwater supply does not contain significant amounts of naturally occurring lead.

Radionuclides

In 2014, water from Well 13 was tested for radium-226, radium-228, and other gross measures of radiation in water. Combined radium (226+228) measured 1.7 picocuries per liter (pCi/L) – well below the maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 5 pCi/L.

Naturally occurring, radioactive elements are found in rock, soil, water, and air. They derive from the creation of our planet and enter our bodies when we drink water, breathe air, and eat foods that contain them. Everyone is exposed to some level of radiation in everyday life. For example, uranium and thorium are found in rock and soil. In time, they decay to other elements including radium, which later decays to radon gas. Radon is the largest contributor to our daily exposure of radiation from the natural world. More information is available from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry ([ATSDR](#)).

See [ATSDR](#) for more information on radon.

Man-made Contaminants

Madison Water Utility annually tests all of its municipal wells for man-made contaminants that may be present in groundwater. No disinfection by-products (DBP) or volatile organic compounds (VOC) that we test for were detected at Well 13. DBPs form when the disinfectant chlorine interacts with impurities in groundwater.

The [Volatile Organic Compounds](#) table shows the list of substances that were tested, the results, and how the detected levels compare with the maximum contaminant levels (MCL) established by the EPA.

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

Six different [PFAS](#) were found at Well 13 in 2019. The combined PFAS level is estimated at 6 ng/L or parts per trillion (ppt). Although there is no state or federal drinking water standard for any PFAS, Wisconsin Department of Health Services recommended a health-based groundwater standard of 20 ppt for two types of PFAS (PFOA & PFOS). Our website, [madisonwater.org](#), has more information about PFAS in drinking water.

Additional Information

Information on routine [water quality monitoring](#) activities, including current test results and links to additional resources, is available at [madisonwater.org](#). In addition, you can sign-up to receive periodic updates on Madison drinking water quality or the water main flushing program through the [City of Madison](#) website.

If you have questions about the information in this report or on our website, our staff would be happy to answer them. Please call the Water Quality line at 266-4654 weekdays from 7:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Click [here](#) to view water quality reports for other Madison municipal wells.