Quality and Reliability since 1882
Madison Water Utility mwu
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UNIT WELL #25

Drilled in 1982, Unit Well 25 has a pumping capacity of 2200 gallons per minute. It operates year-round and serves Madison's Far East neighborhoods including Heritage Heights, Elvehjem, Richmond Hills, North Star and Sprecher East. In 2019, Well 25 pumped 351 million gallons of water compared to its 5-year average of 360 million gallons annually.

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

Bacteria

In 2019, thirty-three water samples were collected from Well 25 and tested for coliform bacteria, an indicator group of bacteria used to determine drinking water safety. None of the samples were found to have coliform bacteria present. A majority of the samples (29) were chlorinated water while four 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 25 contains calcium and magnesium that contributes to its hardness (311 mg/L [ppm] or 18 grains per gallon). Other naturally occurring constituents that are present in water from Well 25 can be found in the Inorganics Table.

Iron and Manganese

Water from Well 25 contains low levels of iron and manganese. Both minerals are 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 25. 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.

Lead

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

Radionuclides

In 2014, water from Well 25 was tested for radium-226, radium-228, and other gross measures of radiation in water. Combined radium (226+228) measured 1.8 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 wells for man-made contaminants that may be present in groundwater. None of the volatile organic compounds (VOC) tested were detected at Well 25 in 2019.

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)

All Madison wells were tested for PFAS in 2019. None of the thirty PFAS we tested were found at Well 25. 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.