

Platteville Water & Sewer Utility

City of Platteville

1999 Report to Consumers on Water Quality

Platteville Water & Sewer Utility is committed to providing residents with a safe and reliable supply of high-quality drinking water. We test our water using sophisticated equipment and advanced procedures. Platteville's water supply meets state and federal standards for both appearance and safety. This annual "Consumer Confidence Report," required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), tells you where your water comes from, what our tests show about it, and other things you should know about our water supply.

We are proud to report that the water provided by Platteville Water & Sewer Utility meets or exceeds established water-quality standards.

We encourage public interest and participation in our community's decisions affecting drinking water. Regular Water & Sewer Commission meetings occur on the second Monday every month, at 4:00 PM in the Common Council chambers, City Hall. The public is welcome. Consult our Web site at <http://platteville.wi.us/city/pubwks/> and, for further information, see U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) water information at www.epa.gov/safewater/

Overview

Our water is safe, but very hard. We have a hardness of approximately 331 mg/l or 19.3 grains per gallon.

Water Source

Platteville Water & Sewer Utility is supplied by groundwater pumped from 3 wells out of the Sandstone Aquifer. Two wells are at our Main Plant on Valley Road, and the third is on Camp Street next to Westview Park. All wells are at a depth of about 1000 feet.

Contaminant	Date Tested	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Detected Level*	Range	Major Sources	Violation
Inorganic Contaminants								
Lead	12/2/99	ppb	AL=15	0	7.5	0.41 – 8.89	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	NO
Nitrate	12/2/99	ppm	10	10	0	0 - 0.01	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits	NO
Fluoride	12/2/99	ppm	2.2	2.2	1.7	0.17 – 1.72	Erosion of natural deposits; added to prevent dental decay	NO
Copper	12/2/99	ppm	AL=1.3	1.3	0	0 – 0.597	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives	NO
Barium	12/2/99	ppm	1	1	0	0.04 – 0.06	Erosion of natural deposits	NO
Mercury	12/2/99	ppb	2	2	0	0 - 0.14	Erosion of natural deposits	NO
Selenium	12/2/99	ppb	10	10	0	0 – 1.01	Erosion of natural deposits	NO
Silver	12/2/99	ppb	50	50	0	0 - 0.05	Erosion of natural deposits	NO
Radioactive Contaminants								
Alpha emitters	9/25/97	pCi/L	15	0	12		Erosion of natural deposits	NO

Water-Quality Table Footnotes

* The state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of our data, e.g., radioactive contaminants, though representative, is more than one year old.

Key To Table

AL = Action Level
MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level
MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal
MFL = million fibers per liter
mrem/year = millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)
NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units

pci/l = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)
ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/l)
ppt = parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter
ppq = parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter
TT = Treatment Technique

What Does This Table Mean?

The table shows the results of our water-quality analyses. Every regulated contaminant that we detected in the water, even in the most minute traces, is listed here. The table contains the name of each substance, the highest level allowed by regulation (MCL), the ideal goals for public health, the amount detected, the usual sources of such contamination, footnotes explaining our findings, and a key to units of measurement. Definitions of MCL and MCLG are important.

Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirement that a water system must follow. The data presented in this report is from the most recent testing done in accordance with regulations.

Violations: None

The state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of our data, e.g., inorganic contaminants, though representative, is more than one year old.

Unregulated Contaminants

Platteville Water & Sewer Utility did not test for Cryptosporidium. Cryptosporidium is not found in well water like our system. We test for coliform bacteria in our source water monthly and test 10 locations throughout the city every month for coliform bacteria. Neither our source water, nor the drinking water in the system has tested positive for any type of coliform bacteria. Platteville Water & Sewer Utility did not test for Radon.

Required Additional Health Information

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes limits on the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

(A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

(B) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

(C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

(D) Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organics, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.

(E) Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than is the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

National Primary Drinking Water Regulation Compliance

We'll be happy to answer any questions about Platteville Water & Sewer Utility and our water quality. Call Michael Willis at 608-348-9741.