2006 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report - Platteville Water & Sewer Utility

We're pleased to present to you the 2006 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

The sources of drinking water, both tap 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, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Our water source is supplied by groundwater pumped from 3 wells out of the Sandstone Aquifer. All wells are between 900 and 1000 feet below ground. A source water assessment was required for all public water systems by December 30, 2004. The assessment by DNR has identified land areas that contribute to each system, significant potential contaminant sources within those areas, and the susceptibility of the drinking water systems to contamination. This report is available on the DNR web site at http://prodmtex00.dnr.state.wi.us/pls/inter1/pk_swap_web.p_swap_summary?i_ro_seq_no=135608

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.
- 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 that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which shall provide the same protection for public health.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact **Irv Lupee at 348-9741.** I'm proud to report that our drinking water is safe and meets federal and state requirements. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Water & Sewer Commission meetings. They are held on the second Monday of every month at 4:00 PM in the Common Council Chambers of City Hall.

The Platteville Water and Sewer Utility routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. In the past year we have sampled for 1 Disinfection Byproduct, 16 Inorganic Contaminants, 2 Microbiological Contaminants, 1 Radioactive Contaminant, 26 Synthetic Organic Contaminants including Pesticides and Herbicides, 33 Unregulated Contaminants and 21 Volatile Organic Contaminants. The following table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2006. A date in parenthesis in the table indicates the date of testing, if done prior to 2006.

In this table there are terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

Non-Detects (ND) - laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present.
Not Applicable (N/A) – there are no standards for this contaminant.
Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years.
Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years.
Parts per trillion (ppt) or Nanograms per liter (nanograms/l) - one part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years.
Parts per quadrillion (ppq) or Picograms per liter (picograms/l) - one part per quadrillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000,000 years.
Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.
Millirems per year (mrem/yr) - measure of radiation absorbed by the body.
Million Fibers per Liter (MFL) - million fibers per liter is a measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.
Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) - nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.
Action Level - the concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements, which a water system must follow.
Treatment Technique (TT) - A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
Maximum Contaminant Level - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is 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 - The "Goal" (MCLG) is 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.

TEST RESULTS						
Contaminant (units)	Violation Y/N	Level Found	Range	MCLG	MCL	Typical Source of Contamination
Disinfection Byproducts - Not Detected						
1. HAA5 (ppb) HaloAcetic Acids (5 types)	**No**	ND	ND	60	60	
Microbiological Contaminants – None						
Radioactive Contaminants						
2. Gross Alpha emitters, excluding Radon & Uranium (pCi/l) (8/20/2002)	**No**	8.0	2.0 – 8.0	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Inorganic Contaminants						
3. Arsenic (ppb) (8/11/05)	**No**	6 (max)	ND – 6	N/A	10	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
4. Barium (ppm) (8/11/05)	**No**	0.062 (max)	.048 – .062	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
5. Beryllium Total (ppb) (8/11/05)	**No**	.03 (max)	ND - .03	4	4	Discharge from metal refineries and coal-burning factories; Discharge from electrical, aerospace, and defense industries
6. Cadmium (ppb) (8/11/05)	**No**	.1 (max)	ND - .1	5	5	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from metal refineries; Runoff from waste batteries and paints
7. Copper (ppm) (6/14/05)	**No**	0.2070	.0231 - .2430	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
8. Fluoride (ppm)	**No**	1.2 (average)	.8 – 1.4	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
9. Lead (ppb) (6/14/05)	**No**	6.46	ND – 10.80	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
10. Mercury (ppb) (8/11/05)	**No**	.5 (max)	ND – .5	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from refineries and factories; Runoff from landfills; runoff from cropland
11. Nickel (ppm) (8/11/05)	**No**	4.8800 (max)	ND – 4.8800		100	Nickel occurs naturally in soils, groundwater and surface waters and is often used in electroplating, stainless steel and alloy products
12. Sodium (ppm) (8/11/05)	**No**	31.00 (max)	7.78 – 31.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
13.Thallium (ppb) (8/11/05)	**No**	.4 (max)	ND-.4	0.5	2	Leaching from ore-processing sites; Discharge from electronics, glass, and drug factories
No detectable amounts were found for the following Inorganic Contaminants: Antimony, Chromium, Nitrates & Selenium						
Synthetic Organic Contaminants including Pesticides and Herbicides – None Detected						
Volatile Organic Contaminants						
14. TTHM (ppb) (8/11/05) Total Trihalomethanes	**No**	2.8 (max)	.7 – 2.8	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Unregulated Contaminants						
15. Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	**No**	.69 (max)	.22 – .69	N/A	N/A	N/A
16. Bromoform (ppb)	**No**	.56 (max)	ND - .56	N/A	N/A	N/A
17. Chloroform (ppb)	**No**	1.06 (max)	.23 – 1.06	N/A	N/A	N/A
18. Dibromochloromethane (ppb)	**No**	.51 (max)	.26 - .51	N/A	N/A	N/A

What does this mean?

We constantly monitor for various contaminants in the water supply to meet all regulatory requirements. We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some contaminants have been detected. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels. This is the second year we were required to test for HAA5, TTHM and the four Unregulated Contaminants. As you can see they are at extremely low levels, below EPA standards.

While your drinking water meets USEPA's standard for **arsenic**, it does contain low levels of arsenic. USEPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. USEPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such

as skin damage and circulatory problems.

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 the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791, or on the Internet at www.epa.gov/safewater/.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than 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 and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791), or on the Internet at www.epa.gov/safewater/.

We at the Platteville Water & Sewer Utility work diligently to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future. Please call our office if you have questions, 348-9741, or e-mail at pwwtp248@centurytel.net.