

VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST

2008 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

The Village of River Forest is pleased to present our Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2008. This report summarizes the quality of water that River Forest provided in 2008, including details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This year, as in past years, your tap water met all Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and State of Illinois drinking water health standards. If you have any questions about this report or concerning the quality of drinking water in River Forest, please contact Phil Cotter, Assistant Director of Public Works, at (708) 366-8500.

If you would like to learn more, please feel welcome to attend any of the regularly scheduled Village Board meetings. Visit the Village's website (www.river-forest.us) for the date, time, and location of each meeting.

Where does our water come from?

The source of drinking water used in River Forest is purchased surface water from the City of Chicago. The City of Chicago utilizes Lake Michigan as its source water via two water treatment plants. The Jardine Water Purification Plant serves the northern areas of the City and suburbs, while the South Water Purification Plant serves the southern areas of the City and suburbs. Lake Michigan is the only Great Lake that is entirely contained within the United States. It borders Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin, and is the second largest Great Lake by volume with 1,180 cubic miles of water and third largest by area.

What can we reasonably expect in our 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 EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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/Center for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and groundwater wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and in some cases radioactive materials, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity. 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 & 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; and
- **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, the EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Federal Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. River Forest is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Finally, in compliance with the new provisions of the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2ESWTR), the Chicago Department of Water Management completed monthly source water monitoring for Cryptosporidium, E. Coli, and turbidity, a process that began in October 2006 and ended in September 2008. The goal of LT2ESWTR is to require water systems, whose source water is susceptible to Cryptosporidium contamination, to improve control of the pathogen. Monitoring performed during this time period did not detect any Cryptosporidium or Giardia in source water samples collected.

Source Water Assessment Summary

The Illinois EPA (IEPA) completed the Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) for our supply. The IEPA implemented a SWAP to assist with watershed protection of public drinking water supplies. The SWAP inventories potential sources of contamination and determined the susceptibility of the source water to contamination.

The IEPA considers all surface water sources of community water supply to be susceptible to potential pollution problems. The very nature of surface water allows contaminants to migrate into the intake with no protection only dilution. This is the reason for mandatory treatment for all surface water supplies in Illinois. Chicago's offshore intakes are located at a distance that shoreline impacts are not usually considered a factor on water quality. At certain times of the year, however, the potential for contamination exists due to wet-weather flows and river reversals. In addition, the placement of the crib structures may serve to attract waterfowl, gulls and terns that frequent the Great Lakes area, thereby concentrating fecal deposits at the intake and thus compromising the source water quality. Conversely, the shore intakes are highly susceptible to storm water runoff, marinas and shoreline point sources due to the influx of groundwater to the lake.

Further information on our community's water supply SWAP is available by calling the City of Chicago, Department of Water Management at (312) 744-6635.

Were there any violations in 2008?

There were no drinking water quality violations recorded in the Village of River Forest in 2008.

Definition of Terms (reference Data Tables)

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (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.

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

Level Found: This column represents an average of sample result data collected during the CCR calendar year. In some cases, it may represent a single sample if only one sample was collected.

Range of Detections: This column represents a range of individual sample results, from lowest to highest that were collected during the Consumer Confidence Report calendar year.

Date of Sample: If a date appears in this column, the IEPA requires monitoring for this contaminant less than once per year because the concentrations do not frequently change. If no date appears in this column, monitoring for this contaminant was conducted during the Consumer Confidence Report calendar year.

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant that triggers treatment or other required actions by the water supply.

Action Level Goal (ALG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALG's allow for a margin of safety.

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Lead: Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. More information is available from the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

n/a: Not applicable.

nd: Not detectable at testing limits.

ppm: Parts per million or milligrams per liter.

ppb: Parts per billion or micrograms per liter.

mg/l: milligrams per litre or ppm – or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.

ug/l: micrograms per litre or ppb – or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.

NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Unit, used to measure cloudiness in drinking water

%<0.5 NTU: Percent samples less than 0.5 NTU

% pos/mo: percent positive samples per month

pCi/l: PicoCuries per liter, used to measure radioactivity

Avg: Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average or monthly samples

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of a drinking water disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Water Quality Data Table Footnotes

Turbidity: Is a measure of the cloudiness of the water, and is monitored because it's a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration system and disinfectants.

Unregulated Contaminants: An MCL for this contaminant has not been established by either state or federal regulations, nor has mandatory health effects language. The purpose for monitoring this contaminant is to assist USEPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water, and whether future regulation is warranted.

Sodium: No state or federal MCL for Sodium. Monitoring is required to provide information to consumers and health officials that are concerned about sodium intake due to dietary precautions. If you are on a sodium-restricted diet, you should consult a physician about this level of sodium in the water.

Fluoride: Added to the water supply to help promote strong teeth. The Illinois Department of Public Health recommends an optimal fluoride range of 0.9 mg/l to 1.2 mg/l.

2008 CITY OF CHICAGO WATER QUALITY DATA TABLE

	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>MCL</u>	<u>Level Found</u>	<u>Range of Detections</u>	<u>Typical Source of Contamination</u>
<u>Microbial Contaminants</u>					
Total Coliform Bacteria (% pos/mo)	0	5%	0.76% in Sept	n/a	Human & animal fecal waste
Fecal Coliform & E. Coli (# pos/mo)	0	0	3	n/a	Human & animal fecal waste
Turbidity (%<0.3 NTU)	n/a	TT	100%	n/a	Soil runoff. Lowest monthly percent meeting limit.
Turbidity (NTU)	n/a	TT=1NTU _{max}	0.14	n/a	Soil runoff. Highest single measurement.
<u>Inorganic Contaminants</u>					
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.0194	0.0191-0.0194	Discharge of drilling wastes and metal refineries, erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	10	10	0.320	0.304-0.320	Fertilizer runoff, leaching sewage, erosion of natural deposits
Total Nitrate & Nitrite (ppm)	10	10	0.320	0.304–0.320	Fertilizer runoff, leaching sewage, erosion of natural deposits
TOC [Total organic carbon]: The percentage of TOC removal was measured each month and the system met all TOC removal requirements set by the IEPA.					
<u>Unregulated Contaminants</u>					
Sulfate (ppm)	n/a	n/a	28.9	27.7-28.9	Erosion of naturally occurring natural deposits
<u>State Regulated Contaminants</u>					
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.05	0.92-1.05	Water additive which promotes strong teeth
Sodium (ppm)	n/a	n/a	8.85	8.13-8.85	Erosion of naturally occurring deposits, used as a water softener
<u>Radioactive Contaminants</u>					
Combined Radium (226/228) (pCi/l)	0	5	1.38	1.3-1.38	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Gross Alpha excluding radon & uranium	0	15	0.88	0.090-0.880	Decay of natural and man-made deposits

2008 VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST WATER QUALITY DATA TABLE

<u>Inorganic Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>AL</u>	<u>90th Percentile</u>	<u># of Sites over AL</u>	
Lead (ppb), date sampled June 2008	0	15	nd	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm), date sampled June 2008	1.3	1.3	nd	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
<u>Microbial Contaminants</u>					
Total Coliform Bacteria – no positive test results during 2008					
<u>Disinfectants/Disinfections By-Product</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>MCL</u>	<u>Violation?</u>	<u>Range of Detections</u>	
HAA5 [Total Haloacetic Acids] (ppb)	n/a	60	No	7.89-18.19	Highest Level Detected = 17 By-product of water chlorination
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	n/a	80	No	14.29-43.3	Highest Level Detected = 28 By-product of water chlorination
Chlorine (ppm)	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	No	0.28-1.18	Highest Level Detected = 1.18 Water additive to control microbes

Not all sample results may have been used for calculating the Highest Level Detected because some results may be part of an evaluation to determine where compliance sampling should occur in the future.