Town of Menasha Utility District
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TOWN OF MENASHA UTILITY DISTRICT PRESENTS THE WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR 2009 – WEST SIDE

The Town of Menasha Utility District's standards continue to provide you and your family with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. Our water is safe, and meets all State and Federal Requirements. This report covers the water service area for the Town of Menasha to the West of Little Lake Butte Des Morts, including portions of the Town of Neenah.

The source of water for the Utility District's West Side water system is four deep wells, located at 2340 American Drive, and at 919 East Shady Lane. The wells have an average depth of 475 feet, and draw water from sandstone type formations called Tunnel City and Elk Mound. The water is then softened at the treatment plants, and chlorine is added for disinfecting purposes, along with sodium silicate for a corrosion control agent, and to help keep iron from settling out in low flow areas.

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by constituents that are either naturally occurring or manmade. These constituents can be microbes, organic or inorganic chemicals, or radioactive materials. 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 Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

The Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL's) are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect. The Utility District routinely monitors for contaminants according to State and Federal laws. The following charts describe the results of the testing from January 1st through December 31st, 2009. As you may not be familiar with some of the terms used, the following definitions will help you understand the chart.

Non-Detects (ND) Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.
Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per Liter (mg/L) One part per million is equal to one minute in 2 years, or one penny in $10,000
Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per Liter (ug/L) One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in $10,000,000.
Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) A measure of radioactivity in water.
Action Level (AL) If the concentration of a contaminant exceeds this level, the water system must take steps for treatment/correction.
Treatment Technique This is the required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) 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 (MCLG) The "Goal" (MCLG) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. Although MCLGs allow for a margin of safety, MCLs are set at very stringent levels.
Microbiological Contaminants The contaminant in this category that the Utility District tests for is Coliform bacteria, naturally present in the environment, and tested for weekly. The Total Coliform Rule requires water systems to meet a stricter limit for coliform bacteria. When coliform bacteria are found, special follow-up tests are done to determine if harmful bacteria are present in the water supply. If this limit is exceeded, the water supplier must notify the public by newspaper, television, or radio. All Utility District weekly samples tested safe, zero detection.

Well No. 6, American Drive, and Well No. 4, E. Shady Lane, were scheduled for testing for the following Volatile Organic contaminants. Results of testing for each contaminant were ND.

Volatile Organics

Benzene	1,1-Dichloroethylene	Ethyl Benzene	1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene
Carbon Tetrachloride	1,2-Dichloroethylene CIS	Chlorobenzene	1,1,1-Trichloroethane
1,2-Dichlorobenzene (O-)	1,2-Dichloroethylene, TRA	Styrene	1,1,2-Trichloroethane
1,4-Dichlorobenzene (P-)	Dichloromethane	Tetrachloroethylene	Trichloroethylene
1,2-Dichloroethane	1,2-Dichloropropane	Toulene	Vinyl Chloride
			Xylene Total

Three other Volatile Organics were detected in the water samples:

Contaminant	*Unit*	*MCL*	*Results*	*Typical source of contamination*
Bromodichloromethane	ug/L	80	1.1	n/a
Chloroform	ug/L	80	1.8	n/a
Dibromochloromethane	ug/L	80	0.45	n/a

West side wells were also tested for Nitrates, results were ND.

Water entering the distribution system was tested at both plants #3 and #4 for Radium and Gross Alpha and Gross Beta activity.

Analysis Method:	Result	Unit	MCL	
Plant #3				
Total Radium 226 & 228	0.21+/- 0.35	pCi/L	5	Naturally occurring
EPA 903.1 Radium 226	0,21+/- 0.05	pCi/L	5	Naturally occurring
EPA 940.0 Radium 228	0.25+/-0.35	pCi/L	5	Naturally occurring
Gross Alpha Activity	6.69+/-1.97	pCi/L	15	
Gross Beta Activity	0.85+/-0.38	pCi/L	n/a	MCL units are in millirem/year. Calculation is not possible unless level found is greater than 50 pCi/L
Plant #4				
EPA 904.0 Radium 228	0.33+/-0.33	pCi/L	5	Naturally occurring
Gross Alpha Activity	2.34+/-1.71	pCi/L	15	
Gross Beta Activity	1/14+/-0.47	pCi/L	n/a	MCL units are in millirem/year. Calculation is not possible unless level found is greater than 50 pCi/L.

Lead in drinking water is rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning, but it can add to a person's total lead exposure. 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, especially if the home is older. 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. All potential sources of lead in the household should be identified and removed, replaced, or reduced. Additional information is available from the Save Drinking Water Hotline. Historically, all lead samples taken from the West side were either Very Low, or None Detected.

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 at 1-800-426-4791.

It is our goal to assure you that your drinking water will always be safe. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. It is our sincere hope this publication has been helpful and informative. 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.

Thank you for taking the time to read this article. If you have any questions, please feel free to phone or stop in the Town of Menasha Utility District office, 2340 American Drive, (920) 720-7175. Superintendent Jeff Roth will be happy to answer your questions regarding your drinking water. You are also invited to attend the Utility District meetings, held at the Town of Menasha Town Hall, 2000 Municipal Drive, at 5:00 pm, on the second and fourth Mondays of each month.