

## WHAT IS THIS REPORT?

Oconto Falls Municipal Utilities is pleased to present to you this year's Annual 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.

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you have any questions about this report, or concerning your water utility, please contact Greg Kuhn at 920-846-4512, or feel free to attend a Water & Light Commission meeting, held at 6 p.m. the third Monday of each month in the City of Oconto Falls Municipal Building at 500 N. Chestnut Avenue.

## WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?

The Oconto Falls Water Utility obtains groundwater from three wells. In 2023, Oconto Falls Water Utility distributed 113.1 million gallons of water to 1,204 water customers. The distribution system consists of: 28 miles of water main; 253 fire hydrants; and one 300,000 gallon, elevated storage tank.



In 2020, the Oconto Falls Water Utility replaced its SCADA system. This system controls the operations of the wells and monitors the water tower level.

The Oconto Falls Water Utility routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State regulations. The table shows the result of our monitoring for constituents that were detected for the period of January 1 – December 31, 2023.

### Ways to Save Water!!!

Fix dripping faucets – Most houses have a dozen or more faucets, turnoff valves and toilets that need periodic maintenance or they will leak. If you're dripping 60 drops per minute, that's 192 gallons of water lost per month.

Most hardware stores sell wind-up timers for water sprinklers. This may help prevent the accidental overnight lawn watering.

## ADDITIONAL HEALTH INFORMATION

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 – 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.



**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. Additional information is available from the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

**Microbiological Contaminants:** We test for coliform bacteria in our well water and at 6 locations throughout the city bi-monthly. None of our distributions systems have tested positive for any type of coliform bacteria.

**Radioactive Contaminants:** Alpha Emitters – Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation. Some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

We constantly monitor for various constituents in the water supply to meet all 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 constituents have been detected. The EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels. "All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by constituents that are naturally

occurring or are manmade. Those constituents can be microbes, organic or inorganic chemicals or radioactive materials." All 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 Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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 level for a lifetime to have a "one-in-a-million chance" of having the described health effect.



Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-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 Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Water Hardness = 14 grains

Water pH level is about 7.0

## ABBREVIATIONS

In the Table, you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms, we've provided the following definitions:

**AL** - Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**HAL** – Health Advisory Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, poses a health risk and may require a system to post a public notice

**Level 1 Assessment:** A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine, if possible, why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

**Level 2 Assessment:** A level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine, if possible, why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system, or both, on multiple occasions.

**MCL** - Maximum Contaminant Level: 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.

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

**MFL** – Million fibers per liter.

**MRDL** – Maximum residual disinfectant level: The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**MRDLG** – Maximum residual disinfectant level goal: 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.

**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 the radioactivity in water).

**ppm** - Parts per million - or milligrams per liter (mg/l).

**ppb** - Parts per billion (ppb) or micrograms per liter.

**ppt** – Parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter

**ppq** – Parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter.

**SMCL** – Secondary drinking water standards or Secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels for contaminants that affect taste, odor, or appearance of the drinking water. The SMCLs do not represent health standards.

**TCR** – Total Coliform Rule

**TT** - Treatment Technique – A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

## Detected Contaminants

Your water was tested for many contaminants last year. We are allowed to monitor for some contaminants less frequently than once a year. The following tables list only those contaminants which were detected in your water. If a contaminant was detected last year, it will appear in the following tables without a sample date. If the contaminant was not monitored last year, but was detected within the last 5 years, it will appear in the tables below along with the sample date.

### Disinfection Byproducts

Contaminant (units)	Site	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2023)	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
HAA5 (ppb)	D-7	60	60	1	1		NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHM (ppb)	D-7	80	0	0.2	0.2		NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination

### Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2023)	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
ARSENIC (ppb)	10	n/a	3	0-3		NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
BARIUM (ppm)	2	2	0.160	0.084-0.160		NO	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
COPPER (ppm)	AL=1.3	1.3	0.4100	0 of 10 results were above the action level.		NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
FLUORIDE (ppm)	4	4	0.1	0.1-0.1		NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
LEAD (ppb)	AL=15	0	11.00	1 of 10 results were above the action level.		NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
NICKEL (ppb)	100		1.5000	1.3000-1.5000		NO	Nickel occurs naturally in soils, ground water and surface waters and is often used in electroplating, stainless steel and alloy products.
SODIUM (ppm)	n/a	n/a	8.40	4.70-8.40		NO	n/a

### Radioactive Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2023)	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
GROSS ALPHA, EXCL. R & U (pCi/l)	15	0	7.8	2.2-10.3		NO	Erosion of natural deposits
GROSS ALPHA, INCL. R & U (n/a)	n/a	n/a	8.3	2.8-10.8		NO	Erosion of natural deposits
RADIUM (226 + 228) (pCi/l)	5	0	5.0	3.2-6.5		NO	Erosion of natural deposits
COMBINED URANIUM (ug/l)	30	0	0.8	0.2-0.8		NO	Erosion of natural deposits



Shared strength through WPPI Energy

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