WHAT IS THIS REPORT?

OFMU 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 Jason Valentine 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 2024, Oconto Falls Water Utility distributed 106.8 million gallons of water to 1,209 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, 2024.

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.

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).

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).

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.

Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilsons Disease should consult their personal doctor.

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. Oconto Falls Waterworks is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Oconto Falls Waterworks (Jason Valentine at (920) 846-4512). Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead. Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems.

EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

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, in some cases, 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:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife. We test for coliform bacteria in our well water and at 6 locations throughout the city bi-monthly. None of our distribution systems have tested positive for any type of coliform bacteria.

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: Can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. 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.

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.

Water Hardness = 14 grains

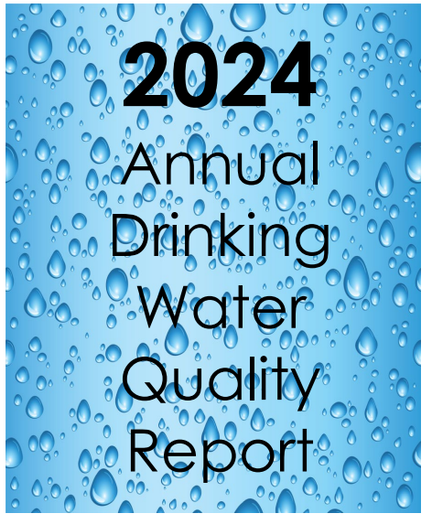
Water pH level is about 7.0

Oconto Falls Municipal Utilities

Shared strength through WPPI Energy

Utility Office
500 N. Chestnut Avenue
Oconto Falls, WI 54154

Telephone
920-846-4507



ABBREVIATIONS

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

HA and HAL – HA: Health Advisory. An estimate of acceptable drinking water levels for a chemical substance based on health effects information. HAL: Health Advisory Level is a concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, poses a health risk and may require a system to post a public notice. Health Advisories are determined by US EPA.

HI – Hazard Index: A Hazard Index is used to assess the potential heath impacts associated with mixtures of contaminants. Hazard Index guidance for a class of contaminants or mixture of contaminants may be determined by the US EPA or Wisconsin Department of Health Services. If a Health Index is exceeded a system may be required to post a public notice

Level 1 Assessment: 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 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).

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.

PHGS – Public Health Groundwater Standards are found in NR 140 Groundwater Quality. The concentration of a contaminant which, if ex ceded, poses a health risk and may require a system to post a public notice.

RPHGS – Recommended Public Health Groundwater Standards: Groundwater standards proposed by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, poses a health risk and may require a system to post a public notice.

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, if 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.

Contaminant (units)	Site	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2024)	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Disinfection Byproducts								
HAA5 (ppb)	D-7	60	60	0	0		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								
ARSENIC (ppb)		10	n/a	3	0-3	6/6/2023	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	6/6/2023	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.	8/29/2023	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
FLUORIDE (ppm)		4	4	0.1	0.1-0.1	6/14/2023	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.	8/28/2023	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
NICKEL (ppb)		100		1.5000	1.3000-1.5000	6/6/2023	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	6/6/2023	NO	n/a
Radioactive Contaminants								
GROSS ALPHA, EXCL. R & U (pCi/1)		15	0	7.8	2.4-12.9		NO	Erosion of natural deposits
GROSS ALPHA, INCL. R & U (n/a)		n/a	n/a	8.2	2.9-13.3		NO	Erosion of natural deposits
RADIUM (226 + 228) (pCi/1)		5	0	4.3	3.7-4.8		NO	Erosion of natural deposits
COMBINED URANIUM (ug/1)		30	0	0.6	0.5-0.7		NO	Erosion of natural deposits

Additional Information on Service Line Materials: We are required to develop an initial inventory of service lines connected to our distribution system by October 16, 2024 and to make the inventory publicly accessible. You can access the service line inventory at: ofmu.org/water-department.

Other Drinking Water Regulations Violations - Failed to develop an initial inventory service line materials that meets federal requirements. **Date of Violation:** 10/17/2024

We failed to develop an initial inventory for service line materials that meets all federal requirements and/or to make the inventory publicly accessible. We sent out letters to each water customer explaining the violation.

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.

Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hable con alguien que lo entienda.

Dlaim ntawv tshaabzu nuav muaj lug tseemceeb heev nyob rua huv kws has txug cov dlej mej haus. Kuas ib tug paab txhais rua koj, los nrug ib tug kws paub lug thaam.