WATER QUALITY REPORT

VILLAGE OF RIVER GROVE

Purpose
This report summarizes the quality of water that we provided last year 2015, including details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

Water
The Village of River Grove purchases water directly from the City of Chicago via., its connection on Belmont Avenue. The water is delivered to the Village’s underground reservoir. The Village then pumps the water into its distribution system. We have included with this report information from the City of Chicago pertaining to entry-point water quality monitoring performed by them.

Water Quality
The water treatment facilities of the City of Chicago control the water quality supplied to Village. The Village of River Grove provides additional chlorine to the water to maintain the quality as delivered to them.

Testing
The Village of River Grove tests the water supply for chlorine content on a daily basis in order to make sure the optimum levels required by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency are met. The Village also takes monthly bacteriological samples, lead samples taken and passed in 2014. Haloacetic Acid and Trihalomethane samples quarterly and biweekly samples at the entry point, as well as quarterly water quality samples.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water system, please contact John Bjorvik, Water Superintendent, 708.452.7055. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water quality. You may also ask questions regarding our water system at our Village Board meetings, which are held at 7:00 p.m. on the first and third Thursday of each month, at the Village Hall, 2621 Thatcher Avenue.

Water Quality Data
In addition to the informational section of the Water Quality Report, we have included for your review several tables. The tables will give you a better picture of the contaminants that were detected in your water and the contaminants that were tested for but not detected.

Educational Information
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. We 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 at or http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

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. USEPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the USEPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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 USEPA’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 wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it can dissolve naturally occurring minerals and radioactive material, and pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Possible contaminants consist of:

- 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 contaminant, 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 may 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, USEPA 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 must provide the same protection for public health.
## RIVER GROVE

### Regulated Contaminants detected in 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lead and Copper</th>
<th>Date Sampled: 8/19/2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lead MCLG</th>
<th>Lead Action Level (AL)</th>
<th>Lead 90th Percentile</th>
<th># Site Over Lead AL</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Violation</th>
<th>Likely Source of Contamination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 ppb</td>
<td>15 ppb</td>
<td>7.63 ppb</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>ppb</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regulated Contaminants</th>
<th>Collection Date 10-21-2015</th>
<th>Highest Level Detected</th>
<th>Range of Levels Detected</th>
<th>Unit of measurement</th>
<th>MCLG</th>
<th>MCL</th>
<th>Violation?</th>
<th>Likely Source of Contamination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Haloacetic Acids (HAAS)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6.24-23.4</td>
<td>ppb</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>By-product of drinking water disinfection</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TTHMs(Total Trihalomethanes)</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>14.5-53.2</td>
<td>ppb</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>By-product of drinking water disinfection</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chlorine</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>0.9-1</td>
<td>ppm</td>
<td>MRDL=4</td>
<td>MRDL=4</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Water additive used to control microbes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

Note: The state requires monitoring of certain contaminants less than one per year because the concentration of these contaminants do not change frequently. Therefore, some of this data may be more than one year old.

**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 contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety. **AL (Action Level):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements.

- **ppm:** parts per million  
- **ppb:** parts per billion  
- **ppt:** parts per trillion  
- **pCi/L:** picoCuries per liter (measurement of radioactivity)

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The Highest Level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDLG): The level of disinfectant in drinking water which there is no known of expected risk to health. MRDLG’s allow for a margin of safety.

### 2015 Violation Summary Table

This table is intended to assist you in the identification of year 2015 violation(s) that are required to be reported and explained in your CCR. The table does NOT include the required explanation of the noted violation(s) and you will need to provide this information as explained on page 11 of the CCR Guidance Manual.

### Violation Description | Start | End
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No drinking water quality violations were recorded during 2015.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Definition of terms

**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 MCLGs 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.

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

**nd:** Not detectable at testing limits  
**n/a:** Not applicable
# City of Chicago 2015 Water Quality Data

**Definition of Terms**

**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 MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**Highest level Detected:** This column represents the highest single sample reading of a contaminant of all the samples collected in 2015.

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

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

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

**nd:** Contaminant Not Detected at or above the reporting or testing limit. **n/a:** Not applicable

## Detected Contaminants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contaminant (units)</th>
<th>MCLG</th>
<th>MCL</th>
<th>Highest Level Detected</th>
<th>Range of Detections</th>
<th>Violation</th>
<th>Date of Sample</th>
<th>Typical Source of Contaminant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Turbidity Data</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TURBIDITY (NTU/lowest Monthly %&lt;0.3NTU)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>TT</td>
<td>99.7%</td>
<td>99.7% - 100.0%</td>
<td>Soil runoff.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TURBIDITY (NTU/Highest Single Measurement)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>TT</td>
<td>0.45</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Soil runoff.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Inorganic Contaminants</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BARIA (ppm)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.0201</td>
<td>0.0193 - 0.0201</td>
<td>Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NITRATE (AS NITROGEN) (ppm)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0.30</td>
<td>0.28-0.30</td>
<td>Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL NITRATE &amp; NITRITE (AS NITROGEN) (ppm)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0.30</td>
<td>0.28-0.30</td>
<td>Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Organic Carbon</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOC [TOTAL ORGANIC CARBON]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month and the system met all TOC removal requirements set by EPA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unregulated Contaminants</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SULFATE (ppm)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>27.2</td>
<td>18.8-27.2</td>
<td>Erosion of naturally occurring deposits</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SODIUM (ppm)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>8.48</td>
<td>8.04-8.48</td>
<td>Erosion of naturally occurring deposits; Used as water softener</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>State Regulated Contaminants</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FLUORIDE (ppm)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1.01</td>
<td>0.76-1.01</td>
<td>Water additive which promotes strong teeth.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Radioactive Contaminants</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combined Radium 226/228 (pCi/l)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td>0.50-0.84</td>
<td>Decay of natural and man-made deposits.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross Alpha excluding radon and uranium</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>6.1-6.6</td>
<td>Decay of natural and man-made deposits.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UCMR3 Compliance Reporting</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In compliance with the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 3 (UCMR3) as required by the EPA, the City of Chicago has monitored for 28 contaminants suspected to be present in drinking water, but that do not have health-based standards set under the Safe Drinking Water Act. The monitoring results were reported to the EPA. The list of UCMR3 contaminants that we have monitored included volatile organic chemicals, metals, perfluorinated compounds, hormones, 1, 4-dioxane and chlorate. The contaminants that were detected in this monitoring program are listed below.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHROMIUM (ppb)</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.3-0.3</td>
<td>Naturally-occurring element; used in making steel and other alloys</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOLYBDENUM (ppb)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.0-1.1</td>
<td>Naturally-occurring element found in ores and present in plants, animals and bacteria; commonly used form molybdenum trioxide</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STRONTIUM (ppb)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>110-120</td>
<td>Naturally-occurring element; has been used in cathode-ray tube TVs to block x-ray emissions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VANADIUM (ppb)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.2-0.2</td>
<td>Naturally-occurring metal; vanadium pentoxide is used as a catalyst and a chemical intermediate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHROMIUM-6 OR HEXAVALENT CHROMIUM (ppb)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>0.19</td>
<td>0.18-0.19</td>
<td>Naturally-occurring element; used in making steel and alloys</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Unit of Measurement**

- **ppm** = Parts per million or milligrams per liter
- **ppb** = Parts per billion or micrograms per liter
- **NTU** = Nephelometric Turbidity Unit, used to measure cloudiness in drinking water
- **%<0.3 NTU** = Percent of samples less than or equal to 0.3 NTU
- **pCi/l** = Picocuries per liter, used to measure radioactivity
Water Quality Data Table Footnotes

TURBIDITY  Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration system and disinfectants.

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS  A maximum contaminant level (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.

FLUORIDE  Fluoride is 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. As of November 2015, the new recommendation is an optimal fluoride level of 0.7 mg/l.

SODIUM  There is not a state or federal MCL for sodium. Monitoring is required to provide information to consumers and health officials who have concerns about sodium intake due to dietary precautions. If you are on a sodium-restricted diet, you should consult a physician about the level of sodium in the water.

City of Chicago, Department of Water Management Source Water Assesment Summary
For The 2015 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)

Source Water Location
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.

Source Water Assessment Summary
The Illinois EPA implemented a Source Water Assessment Program (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 Illinois EPA has completed the Source Water Assessment Program for our supply. Further information on our community water supply's Source Water Assessment Program is available by calling the City of Chicago, Department of Water Management at 312-744-6635.

Susceptibility to Contamination
The Illinois EPA 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 of 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 water supply's Source Water Assessment Program is available by calling the City of Chicago, Department of Water Management at 312-744-6635.
2015 Voluntary Monitoring

The City of Chicago has continued monitoring for Cryptosporidium, Giardia and E. coli in its source water as part of its water quality program. To date, Cryptosporidium has not been detected in these samples, but Giardia was detected in 2010 in one raw lake water sample collected in September 2010. Treatment processes have been optimized to provide effective barriers for removal of Cryptosporidium oocysts and Giardia cysts in the source water, effectively removing these organisms in the treatment process. By maintaining low turbidity through the removal of particles from the water, the possibility of Cryptosporidium and Giardia organisms getting into the drinking water system is greatly reduced. Also, in compliance with Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2ESWTR) Round 2, the City of Chicago has started the 24 months long monitoring program in April 2015, collecting samples from its source water once per month to monitor for Cryptosporidium, Giardia, E. coli and turbidity. Cryptosporidium and Giardia were not detected in these samples.

In 2015, CDWM has also continued monitoring for hexavalent chromium, also known as chromium-6. USEPA has not yet established a standard for chromium-6, a contaminant of concern which has both natural and industrial sources. Please address any questions or concerns to DWM's Water Quality Division at 312-742-7499. Data reports on the monitoring program for chromium-6 are posted on the City's website which can be accessed at the following address below:


2015 Violation Summary Table

We are pleased to announce that no monitoring, reporting, treatment technique, maximum residual disinfectant level, or maximum contaminant level violations were recorded during 2015.
CITY OF CHICAGO Consumer Confidence Report Public Water Supply

2015 Water Quality Data

Definitions: MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal, or the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLs allow for a margin of safety. MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level, or 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. AL: Action Level, or the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. TF: Treatment Technique or a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Abbreviations: nd - not detectable at testing limits. n/a - not applicable. ppm - parts per million or milligrams per liter. ppb - parts per billion or micrograms per liter. ppt - parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter. ppgp - parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter. n/a - not applicable. NTU - Nephelometric Turbidity Unit, used to measure cloudiness in drinking water. % < 0.5 NTU - Percent samples less than 0.5 NTU. MFL - Million fibers per liter, used to measure asbestos concentration. mmf/m³ - millions per year, used to measure radiation absorbed by the body. pCi/l - picocuries per liter, used to measure radioactivity. # pos/mo - number of positive samples per month. % pos/mo - percent positive samples per month.

In most cases, the “Level Found” column represents an average of sample result data collected during the CCR calendar year. The “Range of Detections” column represents a range of individual sample results, from lowest to highest that were collected during the CCR calendar year. If a date appears in the “Date of Sample” column, the Illinois EPA requires monitoring for this contaminant less than once per year because the concentrations do not frequently change. If no date appears in the column, monitoring for this contaminant was conducted during the CCR calendar year.

Sources Water Information

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. Lake Michigan is a surface water supply. It is the sole source of water providing drinking water to the City of Chicago and 123 suburban communities. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has found that the quality of Lake Michigan has improved dramatically over the past 20 years. Lake Michigan, by volume, is the second largest Great Lake and the only one located totally within the United States. It serves as a source of drinking water, as a place for swimming and fishing, and as a scenic wonderland.

Sources Water Information (continued)

As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground it can pick up substances resulting from human activity or the presence of animals. The drinking water source is vulnerable to industrial waste and runoff from surrounding lands. Possible contaminants consist of:

- 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 may be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water 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 storm water runoff and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and may also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which may be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

The regulations in place restrict the industrial and sewage treatment plant effluents from entering Lake Michigan, thereby reducing the risk of having these contaminants in the water. All 63 miles of shoreline within Illinois are now considered to be in good condition. The Illinois EPA will be doing a source water assessment by May 2003. When this assessment becomes available, a summary of the results will be incorporated into the annual water quality report. All sources of pollutants into Lake Michigan will be identified.

Further information on our community water supply’s source water assessment is available on the USGS web site at http://usgs.gov or by calling the Groundwater Section of the Illinois EPA at 217-785-4787.

Voluntary testing (optional)

The Chicago Water Department monitors for contaminants which are proposed to be regulated or for which no standards currently exist but which could provide useful information in assessing the quality of the source water or the drinking water.

Cryptosporidium - Analyses have been conducted monthly on the source water since April, 1993. Cryptosporidium has not been detected in these samples. Treatment processes have been optimized to ensure that if there are cryptosporidium cysts in the source water, they will be removed during the treatment process. By maintaining a low turbidity and thereby removing the particles from the water, the possibility of cryptosporidium organisms getting into the drinking water system is greatly reduced.

Asbestos - Samples are examined for asbestos fibers in the source water on a routine basis. The EPA has determined that if asbestos fibers greater than 10 microns in length are present in great numbers, they could potentially cause cancer. We do not find fibers that are in this size category.

Taste and odor compounds - MIB and geosmin are monitored both in the source water and finished water. These analyses assist the plant personnel to determine the effectiveness of the treatment process as they strive to reduce these compounds and provide a drinking water without detectable tastes and odors.

The water department is researching methods for screening samples for toxicity from chemicals and also screening samples for the presence of endosporers. Anthrax organisms belong to the group of bacteria which can produce endospores. If samples are positive for the presence of endospores, further identification can be done to determine which bacteria are present.