



2009

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

New Richmond Utilities

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We are pleased to present this year's Annual Quality Water Report. This report is a requirement of the Federal Environmental Protection Agency, and is designed to inform you about the quality of 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. The source water assessment for New Richmond Utilities is available by contacting our office.

The City of New Richmond's water supply is obtained from five wells located within the city. These wells draw water from the Trempealeau sandstone aquifer. Three are 802 ft. deep, and the other two are 350 ft. deep. We have two water towers: one has a capacity of 300,000 gallons and the other 250,000 gallons. There are approximately 64 miles of water main ranging in size from 4 to 16 inches in diameter with approximately 3,900 service connections. We are updating the system when the older streets are being resurfaced by replacing some of the older hydrants and the galvanized service lines.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact **Rick Powers, Water Superintendent at 243-0436**. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Utility Commission meetings. They are held on the **first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 a.m. in the City Administrator's office, 156 East First Street, New Richmond, WI.**

Our municipal water supply monitoring schedule is based in part on a source water vulnerability assessment prepared by the City. A copy of this study is available at the Utility Office. The municipal well water is vulnerable to contaminant sources in close proximity to the well.

You can help assure that our municipal water supply is safe by properly abandoning unused, unsafe and non-complying private wells. For more information please contact the Water Department.

The New Richmond Water Utilities routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The tables, on back, show the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2009. The state allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of the contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year.

In the tables, located on the reverse side of this report, 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:

Term	Definition
AL	Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
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.
TCR	Total Coliform Rule
ppm	parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)
ppb	parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l)
MFL	Million fibers per liter
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 radioactivity)
ppt	Parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter
ppq	Parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter
TT	Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

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. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which 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. In our continuing efforts to maintain a safe and dependable water supply it may be necessary to make improvements in your water system. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments may be necessary in order to address these improvements.

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 in drinking water may 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 and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Inorganic Contaminants	MCL	MCLG	LEVEL-FOUND	RANGE	SAMPLE DATE (IF PRIOR TO 2007)	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE OF CONTAMINANT
Barium (ppm)	2	2	.020	.003-.020	9/9/2008	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	AL=1.3	1.3	.0320	0 of 20 results were above the action level	4/22/2008	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	.1	nd—.1	9/9/2008	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead (ppb)	AL=15	0	5.00	1 of 20 results were above the action level	5/15/2008	*	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (NO3 -N) (ppm)	10	10	3.70	nd-3.70		No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppb)	50	50	2	nd—2	9/9/2008	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines
Sodium (ppm)	n/a	n/a	2.66	1.82—2.66	9/9/2008	No	n/a
Radioactive Contaminants							
Gross Alpha, Excl. R & U (pCi/l)	15	0	6.1	nd—6.1		No	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha, Incl. R & U (n/a)	n/a	n/a	6.1	nd—6.1		No	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta Particle Activity (pCi/l)	n/a	n/a	2.4	nd—2.4		No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits. MCL units are in millicrem/year. Calculation for compliance with MCL is not possible unless level found is greater than 50 pCi/l.
Radium, (226 + 228) (pCi/l)	5	0	2.7	.3—4.1		No	Erosion of natural deposits
Volatile Organic Contaminants							
Styrene (ppb)	100	100	.2	nd—.4		No	Discharge from rubber and plastic factories; leaching from landfills.

***Systems exceeding a lead and/or copper action level must take actions to reduce lead and/or copper in the drinking water. The lead and copper values represent the 90th percentile of all compliance samples collected. If you want information on the NUMBER of sites or the actions taken to reduce these levels, please contact our water department.**

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.

Number of contaminants required to be tested: This includes all contaminants that were required to be tested in the last 5 years. The CCR may contain up to five years worth of water quality results. If a water system tests annually, or more frequently, the results from the most recent year are shown on the CCR. If testing is done less frequently, the results shown on the CCR are from the past five years.

- Disinfection Byproducts: 2
- Inorganic Contaminants: 16
- Microbiological Contaminants: 2
- Synthetic Organic Contaminants including Pesticides and Herbicides: 23
- Unregulated Contaminants: 4
- Volatile Organic Contaminants: 20
- Radioactive Contaminants: 4

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 or flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap 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. 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 microbial contaminants are available from the EPA. 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.

Please call our office if you have questions. The New Richmond Water Department is constantly striving to provide top quality water to every tap. 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 is dependent on those sources.

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water.

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