



ANNUAL
**WATER
QUALITY
REPORT**

Water testing performed in 2009



Presented By:
**VILLAGE OF
ALGONQUIN**

PWS ID#: 111-00-50

Maintaining High Standards

Once again we are proud to present our annual water quality report. This report covers all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2009. The events of the past few years have presented many of us with challenges we could not have imagined. Yet, in spite of this we have maintained our high standards in an effort to continue delivering the best quality drinking water possible. There may be other hurdles in the future but know that we will always stand behind you and the drinking water we work diligently to provide.



We encourage you to share your thoughts with us on the information contained in this report. Should you ever have any questions, we are always available to assist you.

Community Participation

The public is encouraged to attend Algonquin Village Board meetings, which are held at the Village Board Room, 2200 Harnish Drive, Algonquin. The meetings are held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month beginning at 8 p.m.



Important Health Information



Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or www.epa.gov/safewater/hotline/.

“WHEN THE WELL'S DRY, WE KNOW
THE WORTH OF WATER. – Benjamin Franklin”

Where Does Algonquin's Water Come From?

The Village of Algonquin currently draws water from nine wells. Three water treatment plants treat the water for public use. Wells 5, 6, 7 and 11 are all shallow wells at less than 150 feet and are located on the east side of the Fox River. These wells provide the water that is treated at Water Treatment Plant 1, which is on Souwanas Drive.



Wells 8 and 9 are shallow wells at less than 220 feet; they provide water to Water Treatment Plant 2, which is on Wynnfield Drive on the west side of the Fox River in Willoughby Farms Subdivision. Well 10 is a deep well (approximately 1,300 feet) that also provides water for treatment at Water Treatment Plant 2.

Wells 13 and 15 are shallow wells at less than 150 feet; they provide water to Water Treatment Plant 3, which is on the corner of Square Barn Road and Academic Drive on the far west side of town. The total combined design capacity from the three water treatment facilities is 12 million gallons per day. The village is in the planning process to expand Water Treatment Plant 3, which will receive water from deep well sources.

Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

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, in some cases, radioactive material, and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances 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, or wildlife;

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may 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 may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems;

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

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Questions?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Jason Schutz, Chief Water Operator, at (847) 658-2754, ext. 421.



Q & A

Which household activity wastes the most water?

Most people would say the majority of water use comes from showering or washing dishes; however, toilet flushing is by far the largest single use of water in a home (accounting for 40% of total water use). Toilets use about 4-6 gallons per flush, so consider an ultra-low-flow (ULF) toilet, which requires only 1.5 gallons.

Should I use hot water to make baby formula?

No. Hot water may contain impurities such as rust, copper, and lead that come from the hot water heater and plumbing in your house. These impurities can generally dissolve into hot water faster than into cold water.

What type of container is best for storing water?

Consumer Reports has consistently advised that glass or BPA-free plastics such as polyethylene are the safest choices. To be on the safe side, don't use any container with markings on the recycle symbol showing "7 PC" (that's code for BPA). You could also consider using stainless steel or aluminum with BPA-free liners.

Should I be concerned about what I'm pouring down my drain?

If your home is served by a sewage system, your drain is an entrance to your wastewater disposal system and eventually to a drinking water source. Consider purchasing environmentally friendly home products whenever possible, and never pour hazardous materials (e.g., car engine oil) down the drain. Check with your health department for more information on proper disposal methods.

How much emergency water should I keep?

Typically, 1 gallon per person per day is recommended. For a family of four, that would be 12 gallons for 3 days. Humans can survive without food for 1 month, but can only survive 1 week without water.

How long can I store drinking water?

The disinfectant in drinking water will eventually dissipate, even in a closed container. If that container housed bacteria prior to filling up with the tap water, the bacteria may continue to grow once the disinfectant has dissipated. Some experts believe that water could be stored up to six months before needing to be replaced. Refrigeration will help slow the bacterial growth.

Source Water Assessment

Based on information obtained in a well site survey published in 1990 by the Illinois EPA, 12 possible problem sites were identified within the survey area of Algonquin. Furthermore, information provided by the Leaking Underground Storage Tank and Remedial Project Management Sections of the Illinois EPA indicated several additional sites with ongoing remediation that may be of concern. The Illinois EPA has determined that Algonquin Community Water Supply's source water is not susceptible to contamination. This determination is based on a number of criteria: monitoring conducted at the wells; monitoring conducted at the entry point to the distribution system; and the available hydrogeologic data on the wells. The Illinois Environmental Protection Act provides minimum protection zones of 200 feet for Algonquin's wells. The Illinois EPA regulates minimum protection zones.

To further minimize the risk to Algonquin's groundwater supply, the Illinois EPA recommends that three additional activities be assessed. First, the village may wish to enact a "maximum setback zone" ordinance. These ordinances are authorized by the Illinois Environmental Protection Act and allow county and municipal officials the opportunity to provide additional protection up to a fixed distance, normally 1,000 feet, from their wells. Algonquin has recently adopted its own set wellhead protection zone ordinance. Second, the water supply staff may wish to revisit their contingency planning documents, if available. Contingency planning documents are a primary means to ensure that, through emergency preparedness, a village will minimize its risk of being without safe and adequate water. Algonquin has a current contingency plan document on file. Finally, the water supply staff is encouraged to review their



cross-connection control program to ensure that it remains current and viable. Cross-connections to either the water treatment plant (for example, at bulk water loading stations) or in the distribution system may negate all source water protection initiatives provided by the village. This past year, the Algonquin Water Department has reviewed and updated our cross-connection control program. This effort ensures that our water system is receiving the best possible protection from contaminants that could be introduced to our system by backpressure or backsiphonage.

To receive a copy of the source water assessment, contact the Algonquin Village Water Department at (847) 658-2754.

Lead and Drinking Water

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 are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but 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 or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Sampling Results

During the past year, we have taken hundreds of water samples in order to determine the presence of any radioactive, biological, inorganic, volatile organic, or synthetic organic contaminants. The tables below show only those contaminants that were detected in the water. The state allows us to monitor for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES							
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L)	2008	15	0	1.2	1.2–1.2	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (ppm)	2009	2	2	0.12	0.12–0.12	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	2009	[4]	[4]	2.7	0.5–2.7	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Chromium (ppb)	2009	100	100	4.4	4.4–4.4	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	2008	5	0	2.3	2.3–2.3	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2009	4	4	0.66	0.66–0.66	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Haloacetic Acids [HAA] (ppb)	2009	60	NA	18	17.9–17.9	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (ppm)	2009	10	10	1	ND–1.36	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2009	80	NA	40	40–40	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH%TILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2009	1.3	1.3	0.881	1/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	2009	15	0	10.8	3/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

STATE REGULATED SUBSTANCES							
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Sodium ¹ (ppm)	2009	NA	NA	27	27–27	No	Erosion of naturally occurring deposits; used in water softener regeneration

¹Sodium is not currently regulated by the U.S. EPA. However, the state has set an MCL for this contaminant for supplies serving a population of 1000 or more.

Definitions

AL (Action Level): The concentration of a contaminant that triggers treatment or other required actions by the water supply.

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.

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.

NA: Not applicable

ND (Not detected): Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

pCi/L (picocuries per liter): A measure of radioactivity.

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).