

# CITY OF STOUGHTON WATER UTILITY ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT March 2001

## I. INTRODUCTION

The Stoughton Water Utility is very pleased to provide you with this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. We want to keep you informed about the excellent water quality that has been delivered to you over the past year. Our goal is, and always has been since 1886, to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water.

We are proud to report that our drinking water is safe and meets Federal and State requirements.

The source of our water supply is deep sandstone wells that draw water from the Mt. Simon aquifer from five wells. The wells are located in the following areas: Well 3 is located in Bjoin Park, Well 4 is located at 921 N. Van Buren Street, Well 5 is located at 1424 W. South Street, Well 6 is located at 1215 S. Academy Street and Well 7 is located in Virgin Lake Park. We are pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets all Federal and State requirements. This report shows our water quality and what it means.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact:

**Mr. Robert Kardasz P.E., Director of Utilities**  
**(608) 873-3379 Ext. 23**  
**bkardasz@stoughtonutilities.com**

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 Utilities Committee meetings held every third Tuesday of the month at the Stoughton Municipal Utilities Building, 600 S. Fourth Street, Stoughton, Wisconsin.

## II. WATER QUALITY TESTING/RESULTS

The Stoughton Water Utility routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water in accordance with State and Federal laws. The following Table No. 1 shows the results of our monitoring for the period from January 1, 2000, through December 2000 (unless otherwise noted). Please note that the only water parameter that had a detect is listed. If you desire to see the other constituents that were tested for, but did not have any detects, please contact the Stoughton Water Utility. In this table, you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you understand these terms, we have provided the following definitions:

- **Parts per million** (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) – one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years, or a single penny in \$10,000.
- **Parts per billion** (ppb) or Micrograms per liter – one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.
- **Picocuries per liter** (pCi/l) – picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.
- **Action Level** (AL) – the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level** – the “Maximum Allowed” (MCL) is 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.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal** – the “Goal” (MCLG) is 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.

### Table No. 1

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
1. Nitrate	N	4.67	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

## III. DISCUSSION

Again, please note that the Stoughton Water Utility's drinking water complies with all State and Federal regulations, as shown in Table No. 1 “All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by constituents that are naturally occurring or are man made. 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 at 1-800-426-4791.

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

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask advice from your health care provider.

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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

#### **IV. PLANNED WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS**

In order to continue supplying you with sufficient quantities of excellent quality water, the Stoughton Water Utility shall:

- Be completing a System Study this spring;
- Continue to constantly monitor your water quality and provide you a copy of this Annual Report;
- Constantly upgrade your water supply and distribution system. Our capital improvement plan includes: our recently completed water transfer station located at Well 4, various well and transfer station upgrades, equipment replacements, a new ground storage facility at Well 7, emerging technology implementation, and future system studies; and;
- Always be available to answer your questions about our drinking water.

**PLEASE VISIT OUR WEB SITE FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR WATER UTILITY:**

**[www.stoughtonutilities.com](http://www.stoughtonutilities.com)**