

# VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST 2004 WATER QUALITY REPORT/ CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT (CCR)

The Village of River Forest is proud to present our annual Water Quality Report for the period January 2004 through December 2004. This report will inform and educate you about the source and quality of water in River Forest, and to provide you with information so that you can make informed decisions. If you have questions about this report or regarding the quality of water in River Forest, do not hesitate to contact the Village's Public Works Department at (708) 366-8500.

## Where does our water come from?

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.

## What can we reasonably expect in our 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. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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 (Center for Disease Control) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap 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 materials, and pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity. Possible contaminants consist of:

- **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewerage 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 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 & 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; and

- **Radioactive contaminants**, which may be naturally occurring or be the result of oil/gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the USEPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Federal Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

### **Source Water Assessment Summary**

The Illinois EPA (IEPA) completed the Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) for our supply. The IEPA implemented a 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 IEPA 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 for 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's water supply SWAP is available by calling the City of Chicago, Department of Water Management at (312) 744-6635.

### **Were there any violations in 2004?**

There were no drinking water quality violations recorded in River Forest or the City of Chicago during the year 2004. Although the substances listed on the next page are under the Maximum Contaminant Levels established by the USEPA, and are not expected to cause any health risks, River Forest believes it is important that you know what was detected and how much.

### **Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation**

Chicago's water system was required to monitor for the contaminants required under the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR). All of the 2004 UCMR results were non-detected. Inquiries & results may be obtained by calling the Water Quality Division office at (312) 744-7733.

## **Definition of Terms (reference table on next page)**

**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 MCLG's 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.

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

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

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

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

**Lead:** 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 and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. More information is available from the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

**n/a:** Not applicable.

**nd:** Not detectable at testing limits.

**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

**%<0.5 NTU:** Percent samples less than 0.5 NTU

**% pos/mo:** percent positive samples per month

**pCi/l:** PicoCuries per liter, used to measure radioactivity

## **Water Quality Data Table Footnotes (reference table on next page)**

**Turbidity:** Is a measure of the cloudiness of the water, and is monitored because it's a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration system and disinfectants.

**Unregulated Contaminants:** An 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.

**Sodium:** No state or federal MCL for Sodium. Monitoring is required to provide information to consumers and health officials that are concerned about sodium intake due to dietary precautions. If you are on a sodium-restricted diet, you should consult a physician about this level of sodium in the water.

**Fluoride:** Added to the water supply to help promote strong teeth. The Illinois Dept. of Public Health recommends an optimal fluoride range of 0.9 mg/l to 1.2 mg/l.

## 2004 CITY OF CHICAGO WATER QUALITY DATA

	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>MCL</u>	<u>Level Found</u>	<u>Range of Detections</u>	<u>Typical Source of Contamination</u>
<u>Microbial Contaminants</u>					
Turbidity (%<0.3 NTU)	n/a	TT	100.000%	n/a	Soil runoff
Turbidity (NTU)	n/a	TT=1NTUmax	0.11	0.09–0.18	Soil runoff
<u>Inorganic Contaminants</u>					
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.018	0.017-0.019	Discharge of drilling wastes and metal refineries, erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	10	10	0.380	0.340–0.420	Fertilizer runoff, leaching sewage, erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate & Nitrite (ppm)	10	10	0.380	0.340–0.420	Fertilizer runoff, leaching sewage, erosion of natural deposits
<u>Disinfectants/Disinfections By-Product</u>					
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	n/a	80	18.55	11.500-26.800	By-product of drinking water disinfection
HAA5 [Haloacetic Acids] (ppb)	n/a	60	8.900	6.000-11.800	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine (as Cl <sub>2</sub> ) (ppm)	4.0	4.0	0.692 (Highest Average Monthly Value)	0.0-0.692	Drinking water disinfectant
TOC [Total organic carbon]: The percentage of TOC removal was measured each month and the system met all IEPA TOC removal requirements.					
<u>Unregulated Contaminants</u>					
Sulfate (ppm)	n/a	n/a	18.650	17.000–20.300	Erosion of naturally occurring natural deposits
<u>State Regulated Contaminants</u>					
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.951	0.900– 1.04	Water additive which promotes strong teeth
Sodium (ppm)	n/a	n/a	7.00 (highest value)	6.900 – 7.000	Erosion of naturally occurring deposits, used as a water softener
<u>Radioactive Contaminants</u>					
Beta/Photon Emitters (pCi/l)	0	50	2.000	nd-2.000	Decay of natural and man-made deposits (date of sample: 11/5/01)

## 2004 VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST WATER QUALITY DATA

<u>Inorganic Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>AL</u>	<u>90<sup>th</sup> Percentile</u>	<u># of Sites over AL</u>	
Lead (ppb) <i>collected 9/30/02</i>	0	15	9 ppb	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm) <i>collected 9/30/02</i>	1.3	1.3	0.001	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
<u>Disinfectants/Disinfections By-Product</u>					
HAA5 [Total Haloacetic Acids] (ppb)	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>MCL</u>	<u>Violation?</u>	<u>Range of Detections</u>	
	n/a	60*	No	0.00-23.50	Highest Level Detected=23.50 By-product of water chlorination
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	n/a	80*	No	11.30-40.89	Highest Level Detected=40.89 By-product of water chlorination

\*MCL Statement: The maximum contaminant levels (MCL) for TTHM and HAA5 is 80 ppb and 60 ppb respectively and is currently only applicable to surface water supplies that serve 10,000 or more people. These MCLs will become effective 01/01/2004 for all groundwater supplies and surface supplies serving less than 10,000 people. Until 01/01/2004, surface water supplies serving less than 10,000 people, any size water supply that purchase from a surface water source, and groundwater supplies serving more than 10,000 people must meet a state imposed TTHM MCL of 100 ppm. Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years experience problems with their livers, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have increased risk of getting cancer.

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