

What is a Water Quality Report?

To comply with state and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) regulations, Stoughton Utilities issues a report annually describing the quality of your drinking water. The purpose of this report is to raise your understanding of drinking water sources. In 2011, we conducted tests for hundreds of contaminants. This report provides an overview of last year's (2011) water quality. It includes details about what it contains.

What is a Backflow Preventer?

Backflow preventers prevent the entry of harmful substances into drinking water supply. Contaminants or polluting substances may enter the drinking water source when the pressure of polluted source exceeds the pressure of the potable source. This action is called backflow and it is typically caused by back siphonage or backpressure. **Use one for your garden hose.** When you connect your garden hose to a fertilizer or pesticide applicator you are creating a cross connection, therefore you will need a backflow preventer. If the pressure in the main water lines drop, a vacuum is created that will pull the pesticide-laced water into your home, contaminating the water.

Water pressure drops are not uncommon. It may happen when firefighters use a fire hydrant for firefighting or a field operations crew repair a broken water main.

Conserve Water and Save Money

Turn of water while you shampoo and condition your hair and you can save more than 50 gallons a week.

Avoid using the toilet for a wastebasket. Every flush you eliminate can save between 2 and 7 gallons of water.

Run your washing machine dishwasher only when full to save 1,000 gallons a month.

Turn off water while you brush your teeth and save up to four gallons per minute. That's 200 gallons each week for a family of four.

Place a cover on your pool or spa. Left uncovered, you can lose up to 1,000 gallons of water per month.

Don't water the lawn on windy days; sidewalks and driveways don't grow well. Water before 8:00am, otherwise you can lose up to 30% of your water due to evaporation.

Use a broom to clean your driveway and sidewalks.

How Do I Report a Water Problem?

Call our Customer Service Department at 873-3379 between the hours of 8:00am to 4:00pm Monday through Friday. For emergencies after normal business hours please call 873-9322.

Ongoing Efforts

Like most water systems across the country, Stoughton Utilities water system is aging, and many critical elements have exceeded their service life span and are in need of repair or replacement. The water main replacement project is an-going program to replace failing pipelines each year. The new larger water mains installed over the years improve fire-fighting capabilities, increase water pressure, deliver more water, and avoids potential flood damage to homes, businesses and streets.

This year's projects include Eight Street and crossing the Yahara river into Mandt Park. Learn more about our service to our neighbors at www.stoughtonutilities.com

Security of Our Water System

All our lives have changed dramatically and our outlook on security has evolved since the tragic events of September 11, 2001. To this end, we want to assure all our water customers that the security of our facilities and are distribution system is our highest priority.

Throughout the past few years, several security measures have been implemented to protect our drinking water. The majority of our new precautions, however, cannot be disclosed to the public because we want to prevent those who might try to compromise the Stoughton Utilities distribution system from having access to information about how we protect our water supply. We urge all our customers to be vigilant also and even overly cautious as to any suspicious occurrences or questionable persons claiming to be SU staff. Please, if in question, request identification of any person (s) claiming to be SU personnel before allowing entrance to your home or business. All SU personnel wear identification badges. If you have any questions or concerns in this matter, please feel free to call Robert Kardasz at 877-7423 and voice your concerns or questions. If you should see or witness any suspicious activity, please do not hesitate to call 911.

We want you to rest assured that we are doing everything in our power to provide the highest level of security for our system and your safety.

How to Contact Us

We welcome you to attend our Stoughton Utilities Committee meetings at the Stoughton Utilities Administration Office located at 600 S. Fourth Street held on the third Monday of the month. Meeting agendas and past meeting minutes are available at www.stoughtonutilities.com. If you have, any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, or Stoughton Utilities in general, contact Robert Kardasz at 877-7423 or Roger Thorson at 877-7422.

If you have a water emergency, please contact our emergency number at 873-9322.



Stoughton Utilities

For more information

**Customer Service Information.....873-3379 or
www.stoughtonutilities.com
600 S. Fourth Street**

- Billing inquiries
- Water conservation
- Water, wastewater and electric rates
- Automatic payment plans
- Credit card payments
- E-Pay (Internet Payments and usage history)



**EGR WSS
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Stoughton, WI 53589**

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**Stoughton Utilities
PO Box 383 - 600 S. Fourth St
Stoughton, WI 53589**



INTRODUCTION

Once again, the employees of Stoughton Utilities are pleased to provide you with this year’s Annual Water Quality Report. We are proud to announce that we continue to meet or surpass all state and federal water quality standards under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Our goal is, and always will be, to provide you a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make continually to improve water quality and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water remains at the highest possible level.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your Stoughton Utilities, please contact:

Robert Kardasz P.E., Director of Utilities
(608) 877-7423
rkardasz@stoughtonutilities.com

DISCUSSION

Again, please note that the Stoughton Utilities drinking water complies with all state and federal regulations, as shown in Table A. 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.

INFORMATION FROM THE EPA

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 (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.

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 at (800)-426-4791.

WATER QUALITY TESTING/RESULTS

Stoughton Utilities routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water in accordance with state and federal laws. The following Table A shows the results of our monitoring for the period from January 1, 2011, through December 31, 2011 (unless otherwise noted). Please note that the only water parameters that had a detect are listed. If you would like to see the other constituents that were tested for, but did not have any detects, please contact Stoughton Utilities. 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** (MCL) “Maximum Allowed” 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** (MCLG) – the “Goal” 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
- **(TCR)-Total Coliform Rule**

Stoughton Utilities water comes from four wells located throughout the city and is pumped directly into the system and into three storage facilities. The water is treated with chlorine and fluoride as it leaves the wells and storage facilities. Last year we pumped 531,053,000 gallons of water.

Did you know that in lieu of taxes, Stoughton Utilities pays \$656,551.00 annually to the City? Stoughton Utilities is the largest tax payer in the city.

Stoughton Utilities is owned directly by the City of Stoughton and funded entirely by the water, electric and wastewater rates paid for our services by SU customers.

TABLE A
Disinfection Byproducts

| Contaminant (units) | MCL | MCLG | Level Found | Range | Sample Date (if prior to 2011) | Source of Contaminant |
|---------------------|-----|------|-------------|--------|--------------------------------|---|
| TTHM (ppb) | 80 | 0 | 1.7 | .2-1.7 | | By-product of drinking water chlorination |

Inorganic Contaminants

| Contaminant (units) | MCL | MCLG | Level Found | Range | Sample Date (if prior to 2011) | Source of Contaminant |
|----------------------|--------|------|-------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Barium (ppm) | 2 | 2 | 0.035 | .019-.035 | | Drilling waste;Erosion of natural deposits |
| Chromium (ppb) | 100 | 100 | 1 | nd-1 | | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Copper (ppm) | AL=1.3 | 1.3 | .15 | 0 of 30 were above the level | | Corrosion of household plumbing Erosion of natural deposits |
| Fluoride (ppm) | 4 | 4 | 1.1 | .1-1.1 | | Water additive; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Lead (ppb) | AL=15 | 0 | 8.4 | 1-30 were above the level | | Corrosion of household plumbing Erosion of natural deposits |
| Nickel (ppb) | 100 | | 3.2000 | 1.5000-3.2000 | | Natural occurs in soils, ground/ surface waters |
| Nitrate(N03-N) (ppm) | 10 | 10 | 5.30 | nd-5.30 | | Fertilizer use; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Sodium (ppm) | n/a | n/a | 12.00 | 2.80-12.00 | | n/a |

Radioactive Contaminants

| Contaminant (units) | MCL | MCLG | Level Found | Range | Sample Date | Source of Contaminant |
|-----------------------------|-----|------|-------------|---------|-------------|---|
| Gross Alpha excl. (pCi/1) | 15 | 0 | 5.3 | 3.8-5.3 | | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Gross Alpha, incl. | n/a | n/a | 5.3 | 3.8-5.3 | | Decay of natural and man made deposits. |
| Radium (pCi/1) | 5 | 0 | 3.9 | 1.9-3.9 | | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Gross Beta Particle (pCi/1) | n/a | n/a | 1.2 | 1.2 | 3/25/09 | Decay of natural and man made deposits. |

Unregulated Contaminants

| Contaminant (units) | MCL | MCLG | Level Found | Range | Sample Date | Source of Contaminant |
|----------------------|-----|------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| (ppb) | | | | | | (if prior to 2011) |
| Trimethylbenzene | n/a | n/a | .11 | .11 | 9/16/10 | n/a |
| Bromodichloromethane | n/a | n/a | .21 | nd -.21 | | n/a |
| Bromoform (ppm) | n/a | n/a | .75 | nd -.75 | | n/a |
| Chloroform (ppb) | n/a | n/a | .21 | .17 -.21 | | n/a |
| Dibromochloromethane | n/a | n/a | .52 | nd -.52 | | n/a |
| Sulfate | n/a | n/a | 25.00 | 15.00-25.00 | | n/a |

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 your water supply operator.