

## Public Notice Important Information About Your Drinking Water

Stoughton Waterworks has exceeded the secondary Maximum Contaminant Level for Fluoride.

This is an alert about your drinking water and a cosmetic dental problem that might affect children under 9 years of age. At low levels, fluoride can help prevent cavities, but children drinking water containing more than 2 milligrams per liter (mg/l) of fluoride may develop cosmetic discoloration of their permanent teeth known as dental fluorosis. The drinking water provided by your community water system Stoughton Utilities had a fluoride concentration of 2.7 mg/l at one well, on one day in 2014. Dental fluorosis, in its moderate or severe forms, may result in a brown staining and/or pitting of the permanent teeth. This problem occurs only in developing teeth, before they erupt from the gums. Children under 9 should be provided with alternative sources of drinking water or water that has been treated to remove the fluoride to avoid the possibility of staining and pitting of their permanent teeth. You may also want to contact your dentist about proper use by young children of fluoride-containing products. Older children and adults may safely drink the water.

Drinking water containing more than 4 mg/L of fluoride, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's drinking water standard, can increase your risk of developing bone disease. **Your drinking water does not contain more than 4 mg/l of fluoride**, but we are required to notify you when we discover that the fluoride levels in your drinking water exceed 2 mg/l because of this cosmetic dental problem.

Some home water treatment units are also available to remove fluoride from drinking water. To learn more about available home water treatment units, you may call NSF International at 1-877-8-NSF-HELP.

This exceedance was recorded at one of our four production wells and does not represent the actual value at your home's tap. Daily testing shows that Stoughton Utilities did not exceed fluoride end-user limits in 2014 and that no customers were at risk. This reporting is required and mandated by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

For more information, please call Robert P. Kardasz, P.E. of Stoughton Utilities at (608) 877-7423.

### Additional Health Information

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. Stoughton Waterworks is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but 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, at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead), or at [www.stoughtonutilities.com/pb-pep.aspx](http://www.stoughtonutilities.com/pb-pep.aspx).

### Ongoing system improvement efforts:

Like most water systems across the country, Stoughton Utilities has underground infrastructure that is aging, and some critical elements have exceeded their service lifespan and are scheduled for repair or replacement.

Stoughton Utilities water main replacement project is an ongoing program to replace aged pipelines each year. Each year, the new larger water mains that are installed improve fire-fighting capabilities, deliver more water, and help to avoid potential flood damage to homes, businesses and streets.

In 2015, scheduled projects include Hults Road north from Jackson Street extended, Washington St from Division Street to Fifth Street and Fifth Street from North Street to Main Street.

### How do I report a water problem?

If you experience any problems with your water, or if you witness anything suspicious at our facilities, call the emergency line for our customer service department anytime, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at (608) 873-3379.

### How to contact us:

We welcome you to attend the monthly Stoughton Utilities Committee meetings at the administrative office located at 600 S. Fourth Street. Meeting notices, agendas, and past meeting minutes are available at [www.stoughtonutilities.com](http://www.stoughtonutilities.com).

If you have, any questions concerning this report your water utility, or Stoughton Utilities in general, please contact us at (608) 877-7423 or at [www.stoughtonutilities.com](http://www.stoughtonutilities.com).

If you have a water emergency, please contact us anytime, 24-hours per day, seven days per week, at (608) 873-3379.



## 2014 Drinking Water Quality Report

### For more information on:

- Automatic payment plans
- Billing inquiries
- Budget-billing plans
- Credit card payments
- Online E-Pay
- Paperless E-Billing
- RoundUP Community Donation
- Water conservation
- Water, wastewater and electric rates

600 S. Fourth Street  
Stoughton, WI 53589

(608) 873-3379

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

### Educational Information

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 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 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 stormwater runoff and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (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.

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

## Introduction:

Once again, the employees of Stoughton Utilities are pleased to provide you with this year's annual Drinking 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.

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.

## 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 manmade. Those constituents can be microbes, organic or inorganic chemicals, or radioactive materials.

## About Stoughton Utilities:

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. In 2014, Stoughton Utilities pumped 516,356,000 gallons of water.

Stoughton Utilities is nonprofit and is owned directly by the City of Stoughton. All operations are funded entirely by the water, electric, and wastewater rates paid for our services by SU customers. In lieu of taxes for 2014, Stoughton Utilities paid \$742,404 to the City of Stoughton, making it the largest taxpayer in the city.

## Information from the EPA:

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 and 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, 2014, through December 31, 2014 (unless otherwise noted). Please note that 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 us.

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

## How much water does a toilet or shower use?

Flush the toilet: 3.5 - 7 gallons per flush, 6 flushes a day= up to 2,520 gallons a month. 1.6 gallons with a water saving toilet= up to 268 gallons a month.

10-minute shower: 3.0 gallons a minute 3 showers a day = up to 2,520 gallons a month. 1.2 gallons with a low-flow showerhead = up to 1,008 gallons a month.

**TABLE A:**

### Microbiological

Contaminant (units):	MCL:	MCLG:	Count of Positives:	Violation:	Sample Date: (if prior to 2014)	Source of Contaminant:
Coliform (TCR)	≥ 5% of monthly samples	0	1	No		Naturally present in the environment.

### Disinfection Byproducts:

Contaminant (units):	MCL:	MCLG:	Level Found:	Range:	Sample Date: (if prior to 2014)	Source of Contaminant:
TTHM (ppb)	80	0	6.0	6.0		Byproduct of drinking water chlorination.
TTHM (ppb)	80	0	2.0	2.0		Byproduct of drinking water chlorination.

### Inorganic Contaminants:

Contaminant (units):	MCL:	MCLG:	Level Found:	Range:	Sample Date: (if prior to 2014)	Source of Contaminant:
Barium (ppm)	2	2	.041	.020 - .041		Drilling waste; erosion of natural deposits.
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	1	0 - 1		Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper (ppm)	AL=1.3	1.3	.1200	0 of 30		Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	2.7	.1 – 2.7		Water additive; erosion of natural deposits.
Lead (ppb) <sup>1</sup>	AL=15	0	19.00	4 – 30		Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits.
Nickel (ppb)	100		1.9000	.6800 – 1.9000		Naturally occurring in soils and ground / surface waters.
Nitrate (NO3-N)(ppm)	10	10	5.0	0 - 5.00		Fertilizer use; erosion of natural deposits.
Sodium (ppm)	n/a	n/a	15.00	2.80 – 15.00		n/a
Arsenic (ppm)	10	n/a	1	0-1		Erosion of natural deposits
Thallium (ppm)	2	.5	.3	.2-.3		Leaching from ore-processing sites; discharge from electronics, glass, and drug factories

### Radioactive Contaminants:

Contaminant (units):	MCL:	MCLG:	Level Found:	Range:	Sample Date: (if prior to 2014)	Source of Contaminant:
Gross Alpha excl. (pCi/l)	15	0	9.7	0-9.7		Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross Alpha incl. (pCi/l)	n/a	n/a	9.7	0 – 9.7		Erosion of natural deposits.
Radium (pCi/l)	5	0	4.6	1.0 – 4.6		Erosion of natural deposits.

### Unregulated Contaminants:

Contaminant (units):	MCL:	MCLG:	Level Found:	Range:	Sample Date: (if prior to 2014)	Source of Contaminant:
Trimethylbenzene (ppb)	n/a	n/a	.11	.11	9/16/2010	n/a
Sulfate (ppb)	n/a	n/a	22.0	13.00-22.00		n/a

<sup>1</sup> 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 Stoughton Utilities.