

South Stickney Sanitary District

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CONSUMER WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR 2009 For the period of January 1 to December 31, 2009

This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the South Stickney Sanitary District water system to provide safe drinking water. The source of drinking water used by South Stickney Sanitary District is Lake Michigan surface water that we purchase from our parent supplier, the Chicago Water System. This water is treated at Jardine Treatment Plant and enters our system along our town's limits.

Source of Drinking Water

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and groundwater 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.

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

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 storm water 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 storm water 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 storm water 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, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public waste systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. 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 microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791.

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. South Stickney Sanitary District 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

We are committed to providing you with this information, because informed customers are our best allies. If you should have any questions regarding this report, please contact Jeffery Wells, superintendent at South Stickney Sanitary District M-F 8:00am-5:00pm at (708) 424-6030.



SERVICE AND COURTESY TO THE PUBLIC ARE THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF THIS OFFICE
WE WELCOME YOUR SUGGESTIONS TO IMPROVE OUR SERVICE



SOUTH STICKNEY

2009 Water Quality Data

Regulated Contaminants Detected in 2009

Lead and Copper

Definitions:

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. ---- 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 <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>. ----

Action Level Goal (ALG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALG's allow for a margin of safety.

Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Lead		0	15	0	2	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

Water Quality Test Results

Definitions: The following tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the Maximum Contaminant Level Goal as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

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.

ppm: milligrams per liter or parts per million - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.

ppb: micrograms per liter or parts per billion - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.

na: not applicable.

Avg: Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of disinfectant in drinking water 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.

Regulated Contaminants

Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violations	Likely Source of Contaminant
Chlorine		1.2	0.2 - 1.2	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	ppm	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)		10	6.72 - 10.81	N/A	60	ppb	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes)		27	16.61 - 35	N/A	80	ppb	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Note: Not all sample results may have been used for calculating the Highest Level Detected because some results may be part of an evaluation to determine where compliance sampling should occur in the future.

NO DRINKING WATER QUALITY VIOLATIONS WERE RECORDED FOR SOUTH STICKNEY DURING 2009

Water Quality Data Table Footnotes

TURBIDITY

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration system and disinfectants.

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS:

A maximum contaminant level (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.

FLUORIDE

Fluoride is added to the water supply to help promote strong teeth. The Illinois Department of Health recommends an optimal fluoride range of 0.9 mg/l to 1.2 mg/l.

SODIUM

There is not a 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.

*Highest Running Annual Average Computed.

CHICAGO 2009 Water Quality Data

-Definition of Terms-

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 MCLGs 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 CCR calendar year.

Date of Sample: If a date appears in this column, the Illinois EPA requires monitoring for this contaminant less than once per year because the concentrations do not frequently change. If no date appears in the 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.

nd: Not detectable at testing limits **n/a:** Not applicable

Detected Contaminants

Contaminant (unit of measurement) Typical Source of Contaminant	MCLG	MCL	Highest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Violation	Date of Sample
Microbial Contaminants						
TOTAL COLIFORM Bacteria (% pos/mo) Human and animal fecal waste.	0	5%	0.39% in Aug	n/a		
FECAL COLIFORM AND E. COLI (% pos/mo) Human and animal fecal waste.	0	0	2	n/a		
TURBIDITY (%<0.3 NTU) Soil runoff. Lowest monthly percent meeting limit.	n/a	TT	98.900%	98.900% - 100.000%		
TURBIDITY (NTU) Soil runoff. Highest single measurement.	n/a	TT=1NTUmax	0.68	n/a		
Inorganic Contaminants						
BARIUM (ppm) Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.	2	2	0.0208	0.0201 - 0.0208		
COPPER (ppm) Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.	1.3	AL = 1.3	0.032 (90 th percentile)	0 sites exceeding AL		
LEAD (ppb) Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.	0	AL = 15	6.07 (90 th percentile)	1 site exceeding AL		
NITRATE (AS NITROGEN) (ppm) Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.	10	10	0.384	0.381 - 0.384		
TOTAL NITRATE & NITRITE (ppm) Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.	10	10	0.384	0.381 - 0.384		
Disinfectants/Disinfection By-Products						
TTHMs [TOTAL TRIHALOMETHANES] (ppb) By-product of drinking water disinfection.	n/a	80	19.900*	11.100 - 22.700		
HAA5 [HALOACETIC ACIDS] (ppb) By-product of drinking water disinfection.	n/a	60	8.940*	4.800 - 12.200		
CHLORINE (as C12) (ppm) Drinking water disinfectant. TTHMs, HAA5, and Chlorine are for the Chicago distribution system. *Highest Running Annual Average Computed.	4.0	4.0	1.15	0.07 - 1.15		
TOC [TOTAL ORGANIC CARBON] The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month and the system met all TOC removal requirements set by IEPA.						
Unregulated Contaminants						
SULFATE (ppm) Erosion of naturally occurring deposits.	n/a	n/a	29.200	26.000 - 29.200		
State Regulated Contaminants						
FLUORIDE (ppm) Water additive which promotes strong teeth.	4	4	1.28	1.24 - 1.28		
SODIUM (ppm) Erosion of naturally occurring deposits; Used as water softener.	n/a	n/a	7.82	7.43 - 7.82		
Radioactive Contaminants						
20MBINED RADIUM (226/228) (pCi/l) .Decay of natural and man-made deposits.	0	5	1.38	1.300 - 1.380		3-17-2008
GROSS ALPHA excluding radon and uranium (pCi/l) Decay of natural and man-made deposits.	0	15	0.88	0.090 - 0.880		3-17-2008
Unit of Measurement						
ppm - Parts per million, or milligrams per liter			%<0.5 NTU - Percent samples less than 0.5 NTU			
ppb - Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter			pCi/l - Picocuries per liter, used to measure radioactivity			
NTU - Nephelometric Turbidity Unit, used to measure cloudiness in drinking water						

2009 Violation Summary Table

No drinking water quality violations were recorded during 2009.

Source Water Assessment

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

Throughout history there have been extraordinary steps taken to assure a safe source of drinking water in the Chicagoland area. From the building of the offshore cribs and the introduction of interceptor sewers to the lock-and-dam system of Chicago's waterways and the city's Lakefront Zoning Ordinance. The city now looks to the recently created Department of the Water Management, Department of Environment and the MWRDGC to assure the safety of the city's water supply. Also, water supply officials from Chicago are active members of the West Shore

Water Producers Association. Coordination of water quality situations (i.e., spills, tanker leaks, exotic species, etc) and general lake conditions are frequently discussed during the association's quarterly meetings. Also, Lake Michigan has a variety of organizations and associations that are currently working to either maintain or improve water quality. In compliance with the new provisions of the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2ESWTR), the Chicago Department of Water Management monitored for Cryptosporidium E. coli, and turbidity, a process that began in October 2006 and ended in November 2008. The goal of LT2ESWTR is to require water systems, whose source water is susceptible to Cryptosporidium contamination, to improve control of the pathogen. Monitoring performed during this time period did not detect any Cryptosporidium or Giardia in source water samples collected. The Chicago water system was also required to monitor for all contaminants required under the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule II (UCMR II). All of the 2009 UCMR II results were non-detected. Inquiries and results may be obtained by calling the Water Quality Division office at (312) 742-7499.

Finally, one of the best ways to ensure a safe source of drinking water is to develop a program designed to protect the source water against potential contamination on the local level. Since the predominant land use within Illinois' boundary of Lake Michigan watershed is urban, a majority of the watershed protection activities in this document are aimed at this purpose. Citizens should be aware that everyday activities in an urban setting might have a negative impact on their source water. Efforts should be made to improve awareness of storm water drains and their direct link to the lake within the identified local source water area. A proven best management practice (BMP) for this purpose has been the identification and stenciling of storm water drains within a watershed. Stenciling along with an educational component is necessary to keep the lake a safe and reliable source of drinking water.

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