


Working Hard For You

Under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), US EPA is responsible for setting national limits for hundreds of substances in drinking water and also specifies various treatments that water systems must use to remove these substances. Each system continually monitors for these substances and reports to the Illinois EPA if the substances were detected in the drinking water. Illinois EPA uses these data to ensure that consumers are receiving clean water.

This publication conforms to the regulation under SDWA requiring water utilities to provide detailed water quality information to each of their customers annually. We are committed to providing you with this information about your water supply because customers who are well informed are our best allies in supporting improvements necessary to maintain the highest drinking water standards.

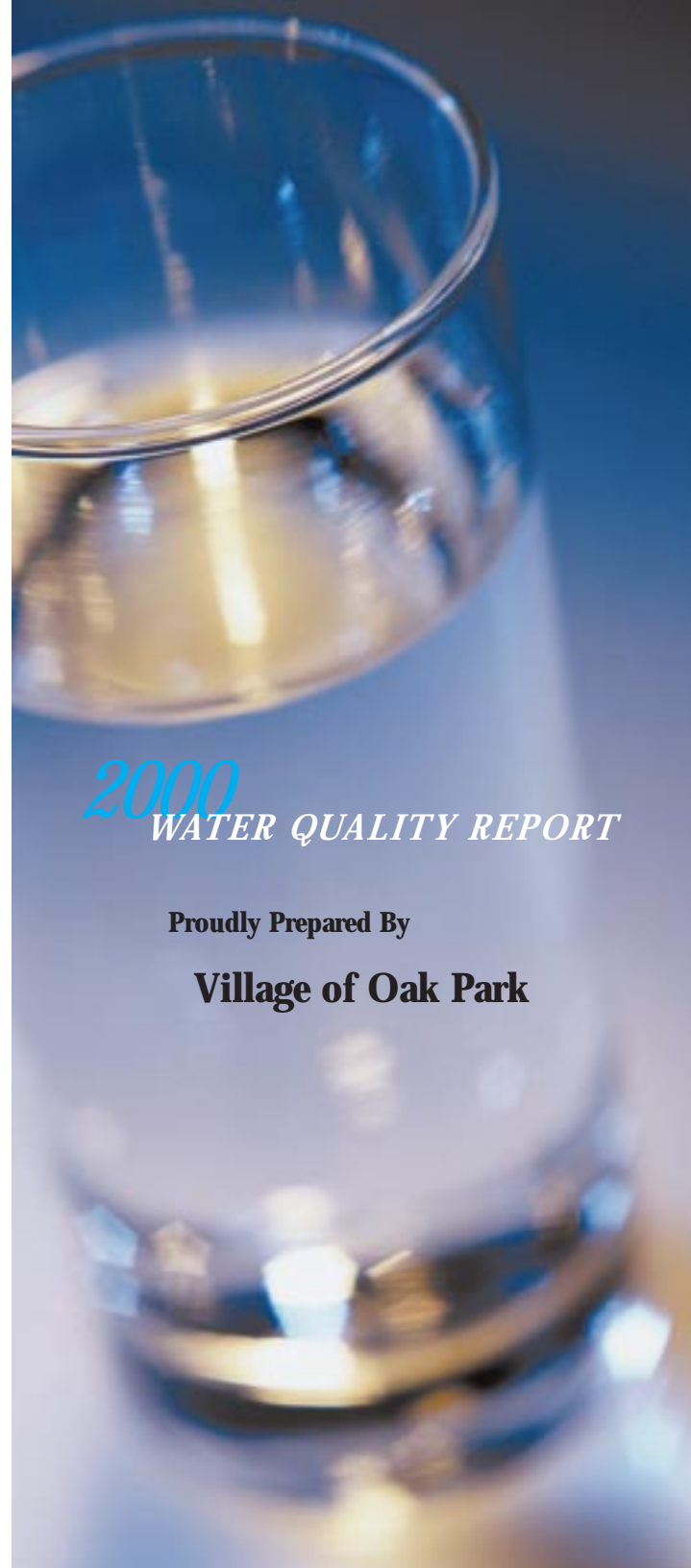
Community Participation

Village Board Meetings are held on the first and third Mondays at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Village Hall, Madison Street and Lombard Avenue. For information on board agendas, call the Village Manager's Office at (708) 358-5770, or visit our Web page at <http://www.vil.oak-park.il.us>.

 **Questions?**
Call U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791

 **Oak Park**
Village of Oak Park
Village Hall
123 Madison Street
Oak Park, IL 60302-4209

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2000 WATER QUALITY REPORT

Proudly Prepared By

Village of Oak Park

What is the Source of My Water?

Lake Michigan is a surface water supply that provides drinking water for Chicago and 121 suburban communities - including ours. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has found that the quality of Lake Michigan has improved dramatically over the past 20 years. Lake Michigan, by volume, is the second largest Great Lake and the only one located totally within the United States. It serves as a source of drinking water, as a place for swimming and fishing, and as a scenic wonderland. Sources of drinking water can pick up contaminants as water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground. The drinking water source is vulnerable to industrial waste and runoff from surrounding lands. Possible contaminants to include pesticides, herbicides, radioactive materials, and organic and inorganic

The Village of Oak Park Public Works Department wants you to know that your drinking water currently meets or exceeds all water quality standards set by the United States and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. These agencies developed the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) that sets standards for water quality and monitors compliance.

petroleum and gas production by-products. We do not have indications of the presence of these contaminants at this time, mainly because of restrictions that prohibit industri-

al effluents from entering Lake Michigan. Sewage treatment plant effluents are not discharged into the lake, thereby reducing the threat of microbial contamination. All 63 miles of shoreline within Illinois are now considered to be in good condition.

The Illinois EPA Office of Groundwater will be doing a source water assessment throughout the state in the next few years. When the assessment is completed for Lake Michigan, all sources of pollutants into the watershed will be identified. There will be information regarding the source water's susceptibility to contaminants based on the findings of the assessment. Since the quality of the raw water source is good, conventional treatment methods of disinfection, coagulation and sedimentation, and sand filtration are adequate for producing a water that is free of harmful contaminants. As of the date of this report, this summary has not been completed. The Illinois EPA must complete all source water assessments by May 2003. As this assessment becomes available, our supply will summarize the results and incorporate the information into this report, as required. Further information on our community water supply's source water assessment is available on the USGS Web site at <http://il.water.usgs.gov>, or by calling the Groundwater Section of the Illinois EPA at 217-785-4787.

Mark of Excellence

The goal of the Village of Oak Park is to produce the highest quality drinking water for all of its customers. We are proud of our history of quality service. To maintain our commitment to you, our analysts routinely collect and test water samples every step of the way - from the source waters right to your home - checking purity and correcting potential problems. Our treatment plant is constantly maintained, evaluated and upgraded to stay abreast of advancements in technology, health science and government regulations. Our water quality testing is the heart of our quality assurance program. Testing is performed by highly trained scientists and technicians. The state-certified lab that performs our tests has the latest, most sophisticated instruments, and can measure substances down to one part in a billion! Through foresight and planning, efficiency in operations, and focus on excellence in customer service, we will provide you the best quality drinking water at an economical price well into the 21st century.



The Village is able to report that there were no violations during this Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) reporting period. For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Dan McGlooin, Water and Sewer Supervisor, at 708.358.5700.

What's Inside?

This report outlines the processes involved in delivering to you the highest quality drinking water available. In it, we will answer two important questions:

- What is the source of my water?
- What is in my drinking water?

Also, we will provide you with information about available resources that will answer other questions on water quality and health effects.

Special Health Information



Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised people such as people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people 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 (Centers for Disease Control) 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).

What's In My Water?

We are pleased to report that during the past year, the water delivered to your home or business complied with, or did better than, all state and federal drinking water requirements. For your information, we have compiled a list in the table below showing what substances were detected in our drinking water during 2000. Although all of the substances listed below are under the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) set by U.S. EPA, we feel it is important that you know exactly what was detected and how much of the substance was present in the water.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES									
SUBSTANCE (UNITS)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL	MCLG	CITY OF CHICAGO		VILLAGE OF OAK PARK		VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
				AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH		
Barium (ppm)	2000	2	2	0.019	0.019-0.019	NA	NA	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2000	4	4	1.04	1.04 - 1.04	NA	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate & Nitrite (ppm)	2000	10	10	0.4	0.4 - 0.4	NA	NA	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
TTHMs [Total trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2000	100	NA	NA	NA	21.2	11.0 - 34.0	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Turbidity (% <0.5 NTU) ¹	2000	TT	NA	100	NA	NA	NA	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (NTU) ¹	2000	TT=5NTU max	NA	0.200	NA	NA	NA	No	Soil runoff
State Regulated Fluoride (ppm) ²	2000	NA	NA	1.04	1.04 - 1.04	NA	NA	No	Water additive which promotes strong teeth
Sodium (ppm) ³	2000	NA	NA	7.4	6.7 - 7.4	NA	NA	No	Erosion of naturally occurring despoits; Used as water softener

LEAD AND COPPER (Tap water samples were collected from 30 homes in the service area.)

SUBSTANCE (UNITS)	YEAR SAMPLED	ACTION LEVEL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	HOMES ABOVE AL	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Lead (ppb)	2000	15	0	7	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

¹Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. City of Chicago monitors it because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of disinfectants.

²Fluoride is added to the water supply to help promote strong teeth. The Illinois DOH recommends an optimal fluoride range of 0.9 to 1.2 ppm.

³Sodium is a state-regulated contaminant with no state or federal MCL. Monitoring is required to provide information to consumers and health officials who are concerned about sodium intake due to dietary precautions. If the level is greater than 20 ppm, and you are on a sodium-restricted diet, you should consult a physician.

TABLE DEFINITIONS

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): 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 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.

NA: Not applicable.

Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU): Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water.

Parts per billion (ppb): One part per billion (or micrograms

per liter) is equivalent to one penny in \$10,000,000.

Parts per million (ppm): One part per million (or milligrams per liter) is equivalent to one penny in \$10,000.

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

Substances Expected to be in Drinking Water

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.

Substances 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, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. 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 USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Naturally Occurring Bacteria

The simple fact is, bacteria and other microorganisms inhabit our world. They can be found all around us: in our food; on our skin; in our bodies; and, in the air, soil and water. Some are harmful to us and some are not. Coliform bacteria are common in the environment and are generally not harmful themselves. The presence of this bacterial form in drinking water is a concern because it indicates the water may be contaminated with other organisms that can cause disease. Throughout 2000, we tested 720 samples (60 samples every month) for coliform bacteria. In that time, coliform bacteria were not detected in any of the samples.

Cryptosporidium is a microbial parasite found in surface water throughout the U.S. Although filtration removes *Cryptosporidium*, the most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. The City of Chicago has been performing monthly analysis on Lake Michigan water since April 1993. *Cryptosporidium* has not been detected in any of these samples. Treatment processes have been optimized to ensure that if there are *Cryptosporidium* cysts in the source water, they will be removed during the treatment process. By maintaining a low turbidity and thereby removing the particles from the water, the threat of *Cryptosporidium* organisms getting into the water system is greatly reduced. *Cryptosporidium* must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water.

Water Conservation Tips

Water conservation measures are an important first step in protecting our water supply. Such measures not only save the supply of our source water, but can also save you money by reducing your water and sewer bills. Here are a few suggestions.

Conservation measures you can use inside your home include:

- Fix leaking faucets, pipes, toilets, etc.
- Replace old fixtures; install water-saving devices in faucets, toilets and appliances.
- Wash only full loads of laundry.
- Do not use the toilet for trash disposal.
- Take shorter showers.
- Do not let the water run while shaving or brushing teeth.
- Soak dishes before washing.
- Run the dishwasher only when full.

You can conserve outdoors as well:

- Water the lawn and garden in the early morning or evening.
- Use mulch around plants and shrubs.
- Repair leaks in faucets and hoses.
- Use water-saving nozzles.
- Use water from a bucket to wash your car, and save the hose for rinsing.



Information On The Internet

The U.S. EPA Office of Water (www.epa.gov/wat/home) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov) Web sites provide a substantial amount of information on many issues relating to water resources, water conservation and public health. Also, the Illinois EPA hosts a Web site (www.epa.state.il.us) that has complete and current information on water in our own state.