



# 2013 WATER QUALITY REPORT

CHIPPEWA FALLS WATER DEPARTMENT

JUNE 2014

We're pleased to present you with the 2013 Water Quality Report. This annual report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continuously improve water quality and protect our water resources. We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards. This report reflects results only those contaminants that were detected in your water, we test for many more contaminants that were not detected.

The City of Chippewa Falls has been recognized since 1996 as a Groundwater Guardian Community. The Groundwater Guardian's activities address the community's groundwater protection by education and awareness, pollution prevention, public policy, conservation and best management practice. Contact the Utility Office if you would like to join our Groundwater Team or to participate in any activities.

The severe winter of 2013/2014 brought with it a record number of frozen water and sewer laterals. Utility employees worked round the clock for several weeks thawing services. The City Council directed the Utility to adjust residential customers utility bills for excess water used to prevent freeze ups.

Visit the Your Government, Utilities tab on our web site to view current utility rates.

## Where Does our Water Come From?

Chippewa Falls relies exclusively on groundwater from drilled wells for its' municipal water supply. The wells are drilled to a depth between 53' and 97' into a sand and gravel drift formation. The West Well Field has three wells that are located at 100 Tilton Road and 1821 Nelson Road. The East Well Field has six wells and is located at 1350 Pumphouse Road. To obtain a summary of the source water assessment, please contact Connie Freagon at 715-726-2741.

## 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 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, 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.

## Detected Contaminants

Your water was tested for many contaminants last year. We are allowed to monitor for some contaminants less frequently than once a year. The following tables list only those contaminants which were detected in your water. If a contaminant was detected last year, it will appear in the following tables without a sample date. If the contaminant was not monitored last year, but was detected within the last 5 years, it will appear in the tables below along with the sample date. It's important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk.

### Substances Detected in Chippewa Falls Water

#### Disinfection Byproducts

Contaminant (units)	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date if prior to 2013	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
TTHM (ppb)	80	0	9.8	4.6 - 9.8		NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 (ppb)	60	60	5	3 - 5		NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination

#### Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date if prior to 2013	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Arsenic (ppb)	10	n/a	1	nd-1	9/19/2011	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2	2	.018	.013-.018	3/9/2011	NO	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	AL=1.3	1.3	90th Percentile 0.1100	0 of 30 results were above the action level.	7/27/2011	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	.1	.1-.1	3/09/2011	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead (ppb)	AL=15	0	90th Percentile 3.60	0 of 30 results were above the action level.	7/27/2011	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Nickel (ppb)	100		1.1000	1.0000-1.1000	9/19/2011	NO	Nickel occurs naturally in soils, ground water and surface waters and is often used in electroplating, stainless steel and alloy products
Nitrate (NO <sub>3</sub> -N) (ppm)	10	10	6.13	1.60-7.30		NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Cyanide (ppb)	200	200	23	23	3/09/2011	NO	Discharge from steel/metal factories; Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories
Sodium (ppm)	n/a	n/a	20.00	14.00-20.00	3/09/2011	NO	n/a

#### Radioactive Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date if Prior to 2013	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Radium, (226 + 228) (pCi/l)	5	0	1.5	1.0 – 1.5	7/28/2009	NO	Erosion of natural deposits

## Synthetic Organic Contaminants including Pesticides and Herbicides

Contaminant (units)	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date if Prior to 2013	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
DI(2-Ethylhexyl) Phthalate (ppb)	6	0	.7	0-.7	4/13/2011	NO	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories

## Unregulated Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date if Prior to 2013	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Sulfate (ppm)	n/a	n/a	11.00	7.20-11.00	3/09/2011	NO	n/a

Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. EPA required us to participate in this monitoring.

## Definition of Terms

Term	Definition
AL	Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level: 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.
MCLG	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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.
pCi/l	picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
ppm	parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)
ppb	parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l)
ppt	parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter
TCR	Total Coliform Rule

## Health Information

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 Environmental Protection Agency's safe drinking water hotline at 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 systems 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 Environmental Protection Agency's safe drinking water hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

**Nitrate** in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than 6 months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant you should ask advice from your health care provider. 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. Chippewa Falls 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 or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

Our water system did not monitor our water for **cryptosporidium** or **radon** during 2013. We are not required by State of Federal drinking water regulations to do so.

**Visit our website at [www.chippewafalls-wi.gov](http://www.chippewafalls-wi.gov)**



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### Questions or Comments

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Connie Freagon, Utility Office Manager at 715-726-2741, Rory Olson, Water Supervisor at 715-720-6981 or Rick Rubenzer, Utility Manager at 715-726-2736 or email us at [utility@chippewafalls-wi.gov](mailto:utility@chippewafalls-wi.gov).

### Cross Connection Program

DNR Regulation NR810.15 requires the City to develop and implement a comprehensive control program for the elimination of all existing cross –connections and prevention of all future cross-connections. DNR NR810.15 requires a visual inspection of every building in the City to ensure that contaminated or polluted water cannot backflow into clean drinking water.

The City of Chippewa Falls has partnered with Hydro Designs, Inc. (HDI) to assist in managing the program. HDI will perform the initial inspections of commercial, industrial and public buildings throughout the next two years. City Water personnel will perform residential inspections. HDI and City personnel will make recommendations for the installation of backflow prevention devices or assemblies where necessary. Inspections will be required after the proper devices are installed.

HDI will contact commercial, industrial and public building by letter to set up appointments for the inspection.

Public Service Commission requires each meter in the City to be exchanged and tested periodically based on size of the meter. The Water Department will contact residential customers to set up an appointment for the meter change with the cross connection inspection done at that time. The Water Department will identify any non compliant connections within the home and direct the owner to correct the connection and notify the utility for a return visit. The utility will provide one outside and one inside hose bib for those in non-compliance, hose bibs will be available for purchase from the utility if needed.

Visit the Cross Connection tab under Your Government, Utilities on the City website. [www.chippewafalls-wi.gov](http://www.chippewafalls-wi.gov)