City of Champlin

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# 2014 Drinking Water Report

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The City of Champlin is issuing the results of monitoring done on its drinking water for the period from January 1 to December 31, 2014. The purpose of this report is to advance consumers' understanding of drinking water and heighten awareness of the need to protect precious water resources.

## Source of Water

The City of Champlin provides drinking water to its residents from a groundwater source, seven wells ranging from 291 to 700 feet deep, draw water from the Franconia-Mt. Simon and Tunnel City-Wonewoc aquifers.

The Minnesota Department of Health has determined that the source(s) used to supply your drinking water is not particularly susceptible to contamination. If you wish to obtain the entire source water assessment regarding your drinking water, please call 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 (and press 5) during normal business hours. Also, you can view it on line at www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/swa.

Call 763-421-8100 if you have questions about the City of Champlin drinking water or would like information about opportunities for public participation in decisions that may affect the quality of the water.

# Results of Monitoring

No contaminants were detected at levels that violated federal drinking water standards. However, some contaminants were detected in trace amounts that were below legal limits. The table that follows shows the contaminants that were detected in trace amounts last year. (Some contaminants are sampled less frequently than once a year; as a result, not all contaminants were sampled for in 2014. If any of these contaminants were detected the last time they were sampled, they are included in the table along with the date that the detection occurred.)

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. City of Champlin 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.

Monitoring may have been done for additional contaminants that do not have MCLs established for them and are not required to be monitored under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Results may be available by calling 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 during normal business hours.

Monitoring for unregulated contaminants as required by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency rules (40 CFR 141.40) was conducted in 2014. Results of the unregulated contaminant monitoring are available upon request from Cindy Swanson, Minnesota Department of Health, at 651/201-4656.

## Key to abbreviations:

**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.

**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.

**MRDL-** Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level.

**MRDLG-** Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal.

**AL-** Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirement which a water system must follow.

**90th Percentile Level-** This is the value obtained after disregarding 10 percent of the samples taken that had the highest levels. (For example, in a situation in which 10 samples were taken, the 90th percentile level is determined by disregarding the highest result, which represents 10 percent of the samples.) Note: In situations in which only 5 samples are taken, the average of the two with the highest levels is taken to determine the 90th percentile level.

**ppm-** Parts per million, which can also be expressed as milligrams per liter (mg/l).

**ppb-** Parts per billion, which can also be expressed as micrograms per liter ($\mu$g/l).

**nd-** No Detection.

**N/A-** Not Applicable (does not apply).

| Contaminant (units) | Level Found | | | | Typical Source of Contaminant |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | MCLG | MCL | Range (2014) | Average/ Result* | |
| Barium (ppm) (05/13/2013) | 2 | 2 | N/A | .08 | Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits. |
| Fluoride (ppm) | 4 | 4 | .8-1.2 | .96 | State of Minnesota requires all municipal water systems to add fluoride to the drinking water to promote strong teeth; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. |
| Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm) | 10.4 | 10.4 | nd-.29 | .29 | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits. |
| TTHM (Total trihalomethanes) (ppb) | 0 | 80 | 2.1-5.4 | 5.4 | By-product of drinking water disinfection. |

**This is the value used to determine compliance with federal standards. It sometimes is the highest value detected and sometimes is an average of all the detected values. If it is an average, it may contain sampling results from the previous year.*

| Contaminant (units) | MCLG | MCL | Highest & Lowest Monthly Average | Highest Quarterly Average* | Typical Source of Contaminant |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chlorine (ppm) | 2 | 2 | N/A | .08 | Water additive used to control microbes. |

| Contaminant (units) | MCLG | AL | 90% Level | # sites over AL | Typical Source of Contaminant |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Copper (ppm) (08/07/2013) | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1 | 0 out of 30 | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits. |
| Lead (ppb) (08/07/2013) | 0 | 1.3 | 1 | 0 out of 30 | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits. |

# Compliance with National Primary Drinking Water Regulations

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 U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations which 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 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 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 at 1 800 426 4791.

## "Flushable Wipes" Wreak Havoc on City Pipes

A modern convenience that is increasingly popping up in the bathrooms across America is causing big problems for wastewater utilities. So-called "flushable wipes" are moist towelettes that are primarily marketed to adults. Unfortunately, since they're designed to be strong, the wipes do not break down as easily as toilet paper. Consumers may not be aware of the issues because they see the wipes disappear down their drains with no problem. "The more wipes and other inappropriate items that get flushed, the greater the probability that a utility is going to have to fix a major clog, and many utilities have documented increasing costs. Wipes can also contribute to a service connection backup, which the homeowner is typically responsible for fixing. These are preventable problems that have real cost impacts." Explains Scott Schaefer, AE2S Wastewater Practice Leader. Schaefer says pumps, screens, and grinders have been updated or redesigned in the past few years to better combat the issue.

In late April, the Star Tribune newspaper reported the City of Wyoming, Minnesota, filed a lawsuit against six manufactures of flushable wipes because they are clogging the City's pipes and costing a lot of money to fix. Elsewhere in Minnesota, the Wadena Public Works Director, Dan Kovar, recently posted an open letter to residents on the City's Facebook page. His message says in part, "If this product does make it through the sanitary sewer system, which most of it does, it ends up at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and is removed by the mechanical screen, and then needs to get disposed of in the landfill. These types of products along with other hygiene products are very convenient and are labeled flushable but are creating a huge problem nationwide. There is a huge cost to city residents as a result of these products in disposal feeds, extra sewer cleaning and insurance claims, along with the effect they have on our landfills."

As of this spring, a group of five associations that represent the water sector and the nonwoven fabrics industry are working collaboratively on new guidelines that will influence product design and support the marketing of nonwoven products as "flushable," with no adverse effects on wastewater systems. The association includes the Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry (INDA); the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA); American Public Works Association (APWA); Water Environment Federation (WEF); and the Canadian Water & Wastewater Association (CWWA).

The group intends to complete the "Fourth Edition Guidance Document for Assessing the Flushability of Nonwoven Disposable Product" by July 2016. The associations would like to see improved product labeling, increased public education, and better consumer information regarding product flushability. Depending on the directions developed during the product stewardship process, the initiative could be expanded to include other consumer products that are commonly flushed and cause problems in wastewater systems, such as paper towels, feminine hygiene product, cotton swabs, and other materials. "Toilets are not trash cans, and reducing the amount of inappropriately flushed products will save utilities millions of dollars each year," says Ken Kirk, NACWA Executive Director.

"The burden created by non-flushable product for public wastewater utilities must be reduced," says Water Environment Federation (WEF) Executive Director Eileen O'Neill. "The new flushability guidelines and collaborative efforts to improve product design and increasing consumer awareness about what should and should not be flushed."

While the updated guidance for assessing flushability is being developed, educating utility customers is perhaps the best way to encourage them to throw used wipes in the trash instead of flushing them. WEF has a short public education video that illustrates how long it takes toilet tissue, facial tissue, and wipes to break down in the sewer system. WED also has a list of items that should never be flushed on its website, as well as bill stuffers that are available for purchase.

**Watch the YouTube video: "Will it Flush?" for a free educational video on this topic. You can find the video at: www.youtube.com/watch?y=SLTVqkXVvNk**

## Setting Up a New Water Softener

If you are setting up a softener for the first time or just want to adjust the softness of your water, you can use the following information to guide you. The water hardness in the City of Champlin is 17 grains per gallon and contains negligible amounts of iron (Fe).

If you are installing a new softener a good set point to begin with is 17 grains per gallon. Try it there for a week or so and if you desire a change, adjust the set point up or down depending on your personal preference for water softness. Adjusting the set point up (higher number) will make the water softer. Conversely, if you want your water to be harder, adjust the set point down (lower number).

# Tap vs. Bottled

Thanks in part to aggressive marketing, the bottled water industry has successfully convinced us all that water purchased in bottles is a healthier alternative to tap water. However, according to a four-year study conducted by the National Resources Defense Council, bottled water is not necessarily cleaner or safer than most tap water. In fact, about 25 percent of bottled water is actually just bottled tap water (40 percent according to government estimates).

The Food and Drug Administration is responsible for regulating bottled water, but these rules allow for less rigorous testing and purity standards than those required by the U.A. EPA for community tap water. For instance, the high mineral content of some bottled waters makes them unsuitable for babies and young children. Further, the FDA completely exempts bottled water that's packaged and sold within the same state, which accounts for about 70 percent of all bottled water sold in the United States.

# Utility Bill Payment

There are choices for making your utility bill payment, including: automatic withdrawal, credit card payment, USPS, and use of a drop-box. Customers can choose the option that work best for them.

- **Automatic Withdrawal**
  There is no fee to set up automatic withdrawal of your utility bill payment from your checking or savings account. The sign-up forms are available on the City's website and at City Hall.

  Within two months of signing up you will receive your first City of Champlin utility bill saying, "BANK PMT". Until you see the direct pay plan message, you will need to make your payments as usual. Once the direct pay plan is in effect, you will continue to receive your monthly City of Champlin utility bill. With the direct pay plan you have two records of payment, your City of Champlin bill and your bank statement. You can cancel at any time by notifying the City in writing.

- **Credit Card Payment**
  Champlin utility customers now have the option to pay their bill using a credit/debit card. Payment is accepted in-person at City Hall during normal business hours and online. Please note there is a convenience fee. The amount is listed online.

  Online users will have the option to make a one-time payment or to register their account. If you choose to register that will minimize the amount of information you need to enter for future transactions.

- **United States Post Office**
  The City partners with its financial institution to process the receipt of utility bills. The mailing address is City of Champlin, PO Box 856814, Minneapolis, MN 55485-6814.

- **Drop-Box**
  Drop boxes are located at City Hall and Cub Foods (8600 114th Avenue North).

## Utility Billing Questions

**You can contact the Utility Billing Department at hfox@ci.champlin.mn.us or 763-923-7135.**

**Questions about your bill should be mailed to the City of Champlin, 11955 Champlin Drive, Champlin, MN 55316 (Do not send inquiries to the PO Box used for making payment as that is sent directly to the bank).**

**The City's website address for credit card payment and signing up for automatic withdrawal is www.ci.champlin.mn.us**

# Well Protection

Private wells in Champlin, either for consumption or irrigation, need to be properly maintained to protect everyone's water supply. Listed below are several best practices for well owners. Private wells are required to be registered with the City's Utility's Department.

### Well Landscaping & Building Considerations

- When landscaping your yard, keep the top of the well at least 1 foot above the soil surface. Slope the soil away from the well casing to allow surface water to drain away from your well.
- Do not pile snow, leaves, or other materials around the well. This will help keep the insects, dirt, and other contaminants from entering your well.
- Consider the location of your well when making physical changes to your property. Setback requirements from buildings and potential contaminant sources can be found at: www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/noom/mnappendireg.pdf

### Well Management & Maintenance

- Seal unused wells. Unused or abandoned wells that have not been properly sealed can provide a direct pathway for contaminants to enter into the groundwater.
- When working near your well, be careful not to disturb or damage the well casing.
- Inspect your well regularly for physical changes or damage. Be sure the well cover or well cap on top of the casing is properly attached and in good condition. All connections to the cap should be watertight. If damage is detected, contact a licensed well driller to determine steps needed to repair the well.
- Do not mix or work with hazardous chemicals like pesticides, fertilizers paints of motor oil, near your well. Immediately clean up spills to prevent groundwater contamination.
- Take steps to prevent back-siphonage of material into our plumbing system and well. This can occur when there is a drop in water pressure and water or liquids are sucked back into the plumbing system and into your well. Situations to avoid include: 1) When connecting a hose to the faucet, do not submerge the hose in a laundry tub, chemical tank, container, or sprayer, and 2) When filling pesticide tanks or containers with water, avoid placing the hose inside the tank or container.

## Lawn Sprinkling Restrictions

Please take an active role in conserving our water resources. High demand periods are hard on our production equipment as well as our water resources. If all Champlin residents do their part and follow the odd/even sprinkling ban, the City's water production facilities will be better able to provide water without further watering restrictions. The mandatory odd/even sprinkling ban becomes effective May 1 and continues through Labor Day each year.

Customers whose house numbers end in an odd number may water on the off numbered calendar days and customer whose house numbers end in an even number may water on the even numbered calendar days.

Property owners with private wells are not affected by the watering ban. New sod that has not taken root, and newly seeded areas are exempt from the ban, and trees and shrubs may be watered with a handheld hose. Most automatic sprinkler controls can be programmed to follow the odd/even format. If you have any questions or comments, please call the Utility Department at 763-421-0154.