



WATER AND SEWER UTILITY

A COMMITMENT TO WATER QUALITY

As our customer base diversifies, we offer the following statements to ensure Spanish and Hmong communities understand this report contains important information about drinking water and to have someone translate it or talk to someone who understands it.

“Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hable con alguien que lo entienda.”

“Dlaim ntawv tshaabzu nuav muaj lug tseemceeb heev nyob rua huv kws has txug cov dlej mej haus. Kuas ib tug paab txhais rua koj, los nrug ib tug kws paub lug thaam.”

2024 ANNUAL Oak Creek Water QUALITY REPORT

WATER QUALITY EXCEEDS REGULATORY STANDARDS

This report summarizes the water quality provided to customers in 2023. It includes details about where your water comes from, what has been detected in your water and how it compares to provided regulatory standards. This water quality report will be made public annually by July 1. The Oak Creek Water and Sewer Utility (OCWS) is committed to providing you with useful information.

OCWS produces some of the highest quality drinking water in the nation and always looks for new ways to

improve. OCWS employees conduct thousands of water quality tests annually to ensure the cleanest, safest drinking water possible flows to customers.

The Utility received three national awards for water quality performance improvements to our treatment plant and pipe distribution system. And, for the 30th consecutive year, the Utility received the prestigious Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting award.

SOURCE OF OAK CREEK'S DRINKING WATER

Oak Creek draws its drinking water from Lake Michigan, a surface water source. As water flows through rivers and lakes and over land surfaces, naturally occurring substances may be dissolved into the water. Animals and human activities also may affect the water. These substances then are called contaminants. Surface water sources may be highly susceptible to contaminants.

For example, the following contaminants might exist in "untreated" water: inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals; biological contaminants, including viruses, protozoa and bacteria; organic chemicals from industrial or petroleum use; pesticides and herbicides; and radioactive materials.

Drinking water—including bottled water—may be reason-

ably 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.



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SPECIAL HEALTH INFORMATION AVAILABLE

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 (800) 426-4791.

LEAD

Oak Creek has no lead piping or lead water-service laterals in our system. The last lead-pipe lateral was removed 30 years ago.

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. OCWS is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing compo-

nents. 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.

TREATED WATER QUALITY

Listed on the next page are contaminants detected in Oak Creek's drinking water during 2023. Not listed are the other compounds that were tested with no detectable results.

The state allows OCWS to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our

data, though representative, are more than one year old.

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.

TURBIDITY MONITORING

In accordance with s. NR 810.29 (1), Wisconsin Administrative Code, the treated surface water is monitored for turbidity to confirm that the filtered water is less than 0.3 NTU in at least 95% of the measurements taken each month and no single sample over 1 NTU. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water. We monitor for it

because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. During the year, the highest single entry point turbidity measurement was 0.07 NTU. The range of all samples was 0.03 NTU – 0.07 NTU, therefore all of the monthly samples met the turbidity limits.

MONITORING ERROR

DESCRIPTION	CONTAMINANT GROUP	SAMPLE LOCATION	COMPLIANCE PERIOD STARTING	COMPLIANCE PERIOD ENDING
DBP Monitoring/Reporting	Toc_Raw	2	9/1/23	9/30/23

During the compliance period noted in the above table, the contracted lab used an incorrect procedure for alkalinity testing. Another sample was tested resulting in valid results, but outside the compliance period. Our water meets all water quality standards. The external lab has put into place procedures to prevent the use of the incorrect test procedure in the future.

DEFINITIONS

AL = Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant that triggers treatment or other requirements, which a water system must follow. Action levels are reported at the 90th percentile for homes at greatest risk.

HAL: Health Advisory Level: is a concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, poses a health risk and may require a system to post a public notice. Health Advisories are determined by US EPA.

LRAA = Locational Running Annual Average: Highest sample result averaged over a running annual period and not a calendar year.

MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant allowed by law in drinking water.

MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk.

MRDL = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level: 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.

MRDLG = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal: The level of drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected link to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

nd = No detect

NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units: A measurement unit of turbidity, or water cloudiness, which is a good indicator of water quality.

pCi/L: Picocuries per liter measure the level of radioactivity in water.

ppb: Parts per billion.

ppm: Parts per million.

ppt: Parts per trillion.

RPHGS: Recommended Public Health Groundwater Standards:

Groundwater standards proposed by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, poses a health risk and may require a system to post a public notice.

SMCL = Secondary maximum contaminant level for contaminants that affect taste, odor, or appearance of the drinking water and do not represent health standards.

TCR = Total Coliform Rule

Trihalomethanes: Chloroform, bromochloromethane, dibromochloromethane and bromoform.

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

REGULATED CONTAMINANTS

SUBSTANCE	MCLG (Ideal Goals)	MCL (Highest Level Allowed)	LEVEL DETECTED	VIOLATION	SOURCE OF CONTAMINANT
Atrazine	3 ppb	3 ppb	0 ppb	No	Runoff from herbicide.
Barium	2 ppm	2 ppm	0.020 ppm	No	Natural deposits.
Coliform (TCR)	0	presence of coliform bacteria in <=5% of monthly samples	0 count	No	Naturally present in the environment.
Copper	1.3ppm	AL = 1.3 ppm	0.16 ppm (90th percentile value) 0 of 30 results exceeded AL	No	Natural deposits. Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Fluoride	4 ppm	4 ppm	0.6 ppm	No	Natural deposits. Water additive that promotes strong teeth.
HAA5 (Site D15)	60 ppb	60 ppb	13 ppb LRAA Range: 9 - 19 ppb	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
HAA5 (Site D9)	60 ppb	60 ppb	11 ppb LRAA Range: 9 - 11 ppb	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
Lead	0 ppb	AL = 15 ppb	2.00 ppb (90th percentile value) 0 of 30 results exceeded AL	No	Natural deposits. Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Nitrate (NO3 - N)	10 ppm	10 ppm	0.38 ppm	No	Natural deposits, fertilizer, animal, waste, sewage.
Radium, (226 +228) (4/6/2020)	0 pCi/L	5 pCi/L	0.9 pCi/L	No	Natural deposits.
Radium, combined (4/6/2020)	0 pCi/L	30 pCi/L	0.3 pCi/L	No	Natural deposits.
Sodium	N/A	Unregulated	13.00 ppm	No	Natural deposits.
Sulfate	250 ppm (SMCL)	Unregulated	21.00 ppm	No	Natural deposits.
Trihalomethanes, Total (Site D15)	0 ppb	80 ppb	26.6 ppb LRAA Range: 13.4 - 41.7 ppb	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
Trihalomethanes, Total (Site D9)	0 ppb	80 ppb	26.3 ppb LRAA Range: 13.1 - 32.8 ppb	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
Turbidity	N/A	TT = 1 NTU TT < 0.3 NTU 95% of the time	0.046 NTU average Range: 0.03 - 0.07 NTU 100% of samples below MCL	No	Natural sediment.

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS

Unregulated contaminants are those for which the federal Environmental Protection Agency (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 requires us to participate in this monitoring.

SUBSTANCE	LEVEL DETECTED
Metolachlor (dual)	0.00 ug/L average Range: 0.00 - 0.01 ug/L

PFAS CONTAMINANTS

Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a large group of human-made chemicals that have been used in industry and consumer products worldwide since the 1950. The following table list PFAS contaminants which were detected in your water and that have a Recommended Public Health Groundwater Standard (RPHGS) or Health Advisory Level (HAL). There are no violations for detections of contaminants that exceed the RPHGS or HAL. The RPHGS are levels at which concentrations of the contaminant present a health risk and are based on guidance provided by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

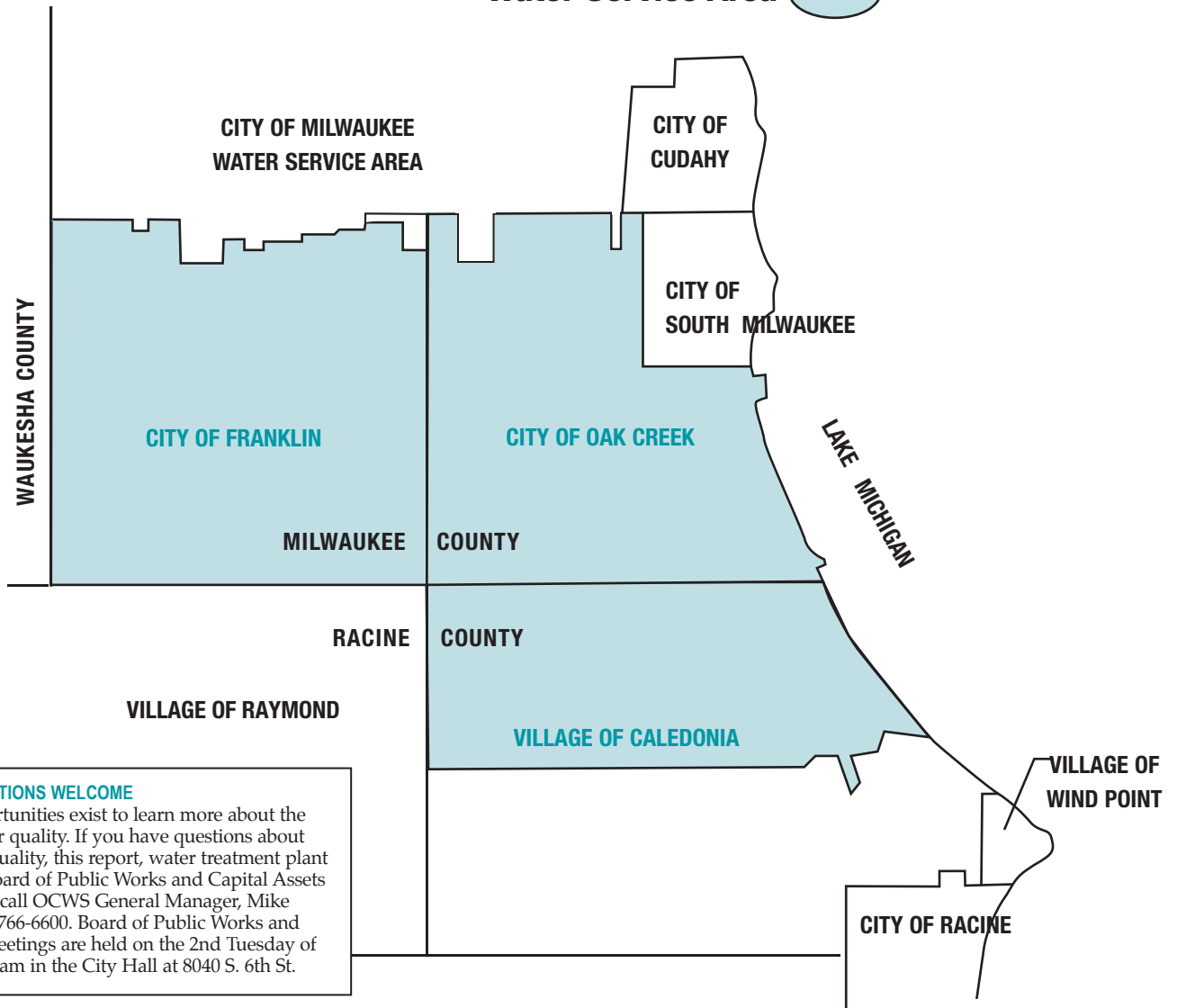
SUBSTANCE	RPHGS or HAL	LEVEL DETECTED	VIOLATION	SOURCE OF CONTAMINANT
PFBS	450000 ppt	0.51 ppt Range: 0.39 - 0.62 ppt	No	Used in industry and consumer products.
PFHXS	40 ppt	0.94 ppt Range: 0.88 - 1.00 ppt	No	Used in industry and consumer products.
PFHXA	150000 ppt	1.75 ppt Range: 1.30 - 2.20 ppt	No	Used in industry and consumer products.
PFOS	20 ppt	2.15 ppt Range: 2.00 - 2.30 ppt	No	Used in industry and consumer products.
PFOA	20 ppt	2.20 ppt Range: 1.80 - 2.60 ppt	No	Used in industry and consumer products.
PFOA and PFOS Total	20 ppt	4.35 ppt Range: 3.80 - 4.90 ppt	No	Used in industry and consumer products.

"PROUD TO BE A CHARTER MEMBER"



OAK CREEK WATER UTILITY SERVICE AREA

Water Service Area 



CUSTOMER QUESTIONS WELCOME
 Numerous opportunities exist to learn more about the OCWS and water quality. If you have questions about drinking water quality, this report, water treatment plant tours or water Board of Public Works and Capital Assets meetings, please call OCWS General Manager, Mike Sullivan at (414) 766-6600. Board of Public Works and Capital Assets meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 9am in the City Hall at 8040 S. 6th St.

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