



Water Quality

The quality and safety of our public water system is paramount to the Village of Waunakee Water Utility.

Recent media reports have highlighted water quality concerns in a nearby public water system regarding manganese. This letter explains what manganese is and addresses the level of manganese in our water system. This letter also explains what we do on a routine basis to monitor the quality of the water supply.

Be assured, the level of manganese in Waunakee's drinking water is well below the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) guidelines.

What is Manganese and How Does it Get in the Water?

Manganese is a naturally occurring mineral found in many types of rock. It is an essential nutrient in all forms of life and is necessary for good health. Manganese is found in numerous food items, including grains and cereals, and is found in higher amounts in other things we consume, such as multivitamins and tea.

Our drinking water comes from an aquifer below the village that contains manganese and other minerals such as calcium and iron. Manganese enters our water system when water is drawn from this aquifer.

What Levels of Manganese are Unhealthy?

Health problems have been shown to occur among people with long-term exposure to drinking water with manganese levels above 1,000 parts per billion (ppb). The EPA has established a general guideline for the level of manganese in drinking water at 300 ppb. The level of manganese that potentially could cause staining of laundry and provide bad tasting water is 50 ppb.

What Level of Manganese Exists in the Waunakee Water System?

We are pleased to report that the Village of Waunakee Water Utility has never had a water sample with manganese levels greater than 50 ppb.

High-risk people, defined by the EPA as those with liver problems or children under six months old, are encouraged to contact their physicians or the Dane County Public Health Department with specific questions. Additional information is available from the EPA website at www.epa.gov/safewater.

What Testing is Done to Ensure the Water System is Safe?

The Village of Waunakee Water Utility performs weekly tests on water taken from the water system to ensure quality and safety. Results of these tests can be found in our Consumer Confidence Report located on our website at www.waunakeeutilities.com. Our latest report indicates there have been no samples taken which exceed water quality limits as defined by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Please contact the utility at 849-8111 with any utility concerns.