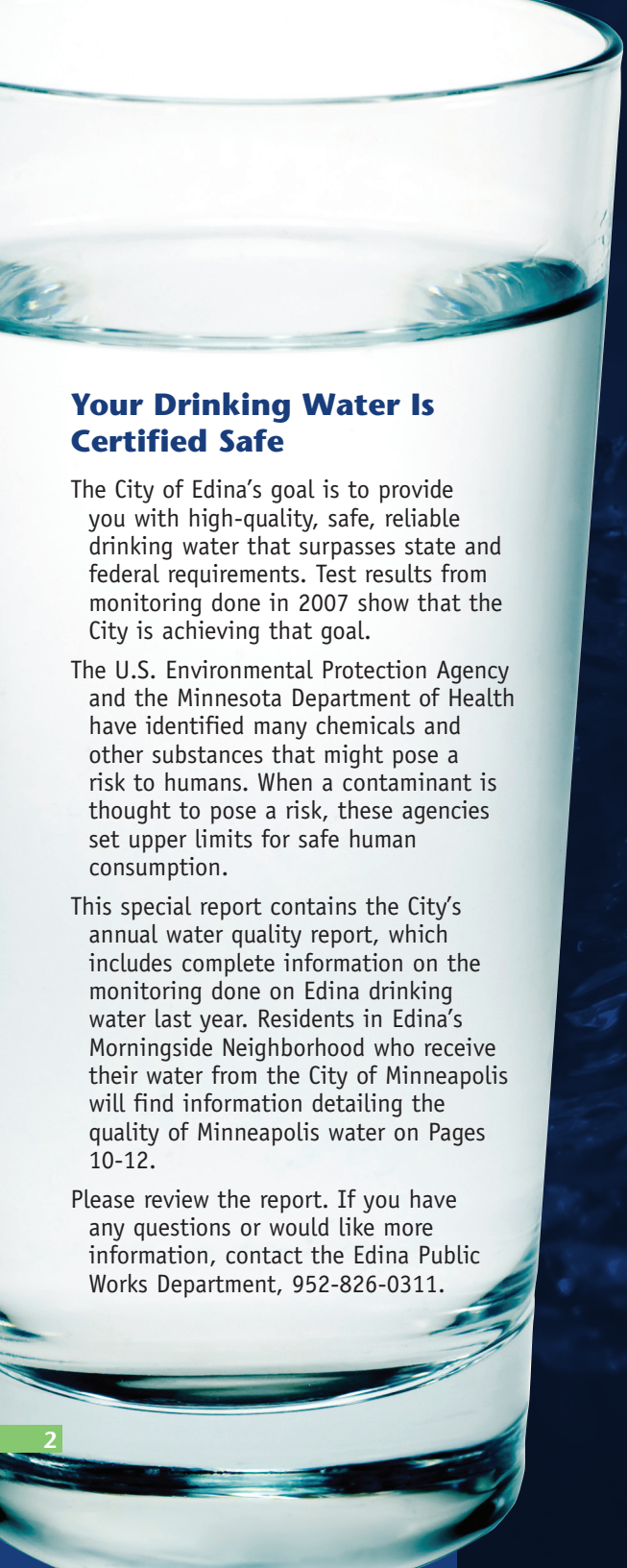


2008 Water Report
For the year 2007





Your Drinking Water Is Certified Safe

The City of Edina's goal is to provide you with high-quality, safe, reliable drinking water that surpasses state and federal requirements. Test results from monitoring done in 2007 show that the City is achieving that goal.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Minnesota Department of Health have identified many chemicals and other substances that might pose a risk to humans. When a contaminant is thought to pose a risk, these agencies set upper limits for safe human consumption.

This special report contains the City's annual water quality report, which includes complete information on the monitoring done on Edina drinking water last year. Residents in Edina's Morningside Neighborhood who receive their water from the City of Minneapolis will find information detailing the quality of Minneapolis water on Pages 10-12.

Please review the report. If you have any questions or would like more information, contact the Edina Public Works Department, 952-826-0311.

Hydrant Maintenance Is In Everyone's Interest

During a fire, every second counts and firefighters need fire hydrants to be ready when they arrive on the scene of a fire.

It takes 20 turns with a two- or three-foot wrench to open a fire hydrant. Because of this, Fire Code requires a clear three-foot radius around a fire hydrant.

Some homeowners plant trees or landscape by a fire hydrant to make the area more attractive, but residents need to keep this area clear. If there is a fire, firefighters need to be able to reach and use the hydrant. Plants will be trampled and a tree or a fence too close will be cut down.

In the winter, the Fire Department asks that residents who have a hydrant on their property shovel around it to maintain the three-foot radius. When there is a fire, firefighters don't have time to find and dig out a hydrant.

In addition to keeping the area around fire hydrants clear, Edina residents can help firefighters and the Public Works Department by volunteering to paint a hydrant. There are 1,800 fire hydrants in the City of Edina. Public Works crews try to paint one-third of them each year.

Public Works will give paint to anyone interested in re-painting a fire hydrant – or two – whether it is in your lawn, down the street or four blocks away. It takes one can of fire-hydrant-red spray paint to paint a hydrant and a resident can arrange to pick up the paint at the Public Works Building, 5146 Eden Ave.

It's a great project for a Boy Scout or Girl Scout troop, too, said Utilities Foreman Jerry Hershey. "Public Works will never get completely away from painting hydrants," Hershey said. "But the help we get will help us make sure one-third are painted each year."

To volunteer to paint a hydrant or to inquire about whether one on your property should be painted, call Utilities Foreman Jerry Hershey at 952-826-0312.



Follow City's Guidelines For Lawn-Watering

Spring rainfall can be unpredictable.

To ensure an adequate water supply for late summer, the City of Edina has an odd-even sprinkling policy. Homes with even-numbered addresses may water their lawns before 11 a.m. or after 5 p.m. on even-numbered dates of the week. Homes with odd-numbered addresses may water before 11 a.m. or after 5 p.m. on odd-numbered dates. So, the family living at 4532 Parkside Lane could water their lawn on even-numbered dates – July 18, 20, 22 and so on.

To ensure adequate water supply and promote water conservation, the City has a daytime irrigation ban. Watering is banned from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, reducing water wasted through evaporation and allowing pumps to refill water storage facilities for evening peak use.

Permits are available to allow proper watering of new sod or seeded areas. Daily watering of new sod and seed is recommended for the first 14 days to establish root growth. After two weeks, normal watering should be sufficient for establishing a new lawn. The planting of new sod or seed during very dry times of the year is discouraged.

Surcharges for violating the irrigation ban are determined based on the number of water restriction violations issued to the property owner in a three-year period. A written warning



Water Smart!

will be issued for a first offense. Second offense is \$50; third offense, \$100; fourth, \$200; and each additional offense, \$300.

Residents who live in Edina's Morningside Neighborhood and receive their water from the City of Minneapolis or those with private wells are not affected. Morningside Neighborhood residents must adhere to any restrictions issued by Minneapolis.

Utilities Superintendent Roger Glanzer reminds property owners that some automatic sprinkler systems must be reset at the end of months that have 31 days because there are two odd-numbered dates in a row.

Glanzer points out that rain sensors can be purchased for automatic sprinkler systems. A rain sensor is a device that shuts off a sprinkler system if rain is detected. Quickly repairing or disabling broken water heads can also minimize utility bills.

Glanzer also offers the following tips for effective watering:

- *Do your lawn sprinkling early in the morning, between 4 and 6 a.m., when water demand is low. After about 10 a.m., both heat and evaporation go up, robbing the lawn of moisture.*
- *Water your lawn when it needs it, rather than on a set schedule. One sign that a lawn needs water is when it lacks enough moisture to spring back after you walk on it. If it stays flat, it is time to water.*
- *Adjust lawn watering to the weather. Following a heavy rain, skip your regular watering day until the grass needs it again.*
- *Check sprinkler heads periodically to make sure they haven't shifted direction to spray water on the side of a building, parking lot or sidewalk instead of the lawn.*

Because the City is not using one of its seasonal wells this year, further water restrictions might be put into place if the weather becomes exceptionally dry for an extended period of time. Further restrictions could include an all-out watering ban.

For more information, contact Glanzer, 952-826-0311.

Invisible Water Leaks May Cause Visible Money Drain

By Marty Doll

“Why is my water bill so high?”

It’s a question that Edina’s Public Works Utilities Department gets from more than a handful of Edina residents each year. A sneaky water leak somewhere in a home is usually to blame.

Those of you who have not had the misfortune to receive an inflated water bill, brace yourselves. That pesky leaky faucet or running toilet could cost you anywhere from \$100 to \$1,500 more on your quarterly utility bill, depending on the size and consistency of the leak! In an attempt to conserve water—and hopefully save you a little green in the process—the Edina Public Works Utilities Department has compiled a list of checks, tips and tricks to help you keep your water leak from spreading to your pocketbook.

Did I Really Use That Much Water?

Before questioning your bill, take into account any extra water usage that may have taken place over the billing quarter. Lawn watering, accommodating overnight guests or filling a swimming pool can quickly, but legitimately, cause your water bill to go up.

Look At Your Meter

If you’re sure you have not used as much water as indicated on your bill, it’s time to take a look at your water meter. In

order to perform the following test, make sure all water sources in the house such as faucets, washing machines and dishwashers are not running.

The first step is to locate your meter. It will always be inside the house where the water line enters from outside—usually near your furnace and hot water heater. There, you will also find your main water shut-off valve, which is important should you ever need to quickly stop all water flow into the house.

Once you’ve located your meter, take a look at its face. Most meters have a small star or triangle called the low-flow indicator (See image). When no water is running in the house, the low-flow indicator should remain stationary. If all of your water sources are off and the indicator is still moving, that means water is flowing somewhere. Even the smallest water flow, like a leaky faucet, will cause the indicator to move.

Where’s the Leak?

If you’ve determined you have a leak somewhere in the house, the next step is to find out where.

Drippy Faucets

The first and most obvious culprit is a dripping faucet. Although it might not seem like much at the time, a drip every few seconds can waste up to three gallons of water a day—that

adds up to nearly 300 gallons of water down the drain over the course of three months! A leaky faucet can usually be easily fixed by replacing a seal within the fixture.

Running Toilets

The next place to look for a leak is in the tank behind the toilet. A common and easily diagnosed problem is continuous running water. If this is the case, oftentimes you will be able to actually hear the water running before even taking the lid off the tank. To be sure, remove the tank’s lid—since water should only run for the first few seconds after the toilet is flushed, seeing running water without a flush means you’ve found your problem.

Another problem that might occur in toilets is the loss of a tight seal on the tank’s rubber stopper or flapper valve. To diagnose this problem, turn off water to the toilet. If you return a few minutes later and find that all the water has drained from the tank, you have a leak. Another way to check for this is to put a few drops of food coloring into the tank behind the toilet. If colored water starts to seep into the bowl without a flush, the stopper is not sealing tight.

Water Softeners

Your water softener might be another source of an “invisible” leak. Since the softener usually drains directly into a floor drain, it’s hard to monitor how



Low-flow indicator

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: I live in the Morningside area. Why does my water smell “fishy”?

A: The water source for the Morningside area of Edina is surface water provided by the Minneapolis Utility Department. Minneapolis gets its water from the Mississippi River. Low river levels can cause the fishy odor, which is a common occurrence with surface systems. The City of Minneapolis is working toward a solution for this issue.

Q: This morning my water was discolored (yellow, orange or brown). Is the City flushing hydrants?

A: Not necessarily. Most of our City water sources are deep water wells. Water from wells contains minerals, including iron. Most of these iron particles are too small to see, but in concentration you will notice them—the more concentrated, the darker the water. These iron particles flow freely, but are heavier than the water. When the water stops flowing freely, the iron falls to the floor of the pipes. When the water is turned back on, the water is stirred up, causing a “cloud” of iron particles.

Over time, varying layers of iron particles form in pipes (both inside your home’s pipes and in City lines). When the system is stirred up in any way, the same cloud affect happens

Things that can cause the stirring up are water softeners, water hammer (when you shut off a pipe suddenly, the water stops, flows back and forth rapidly in an enclosed pipe and finally settles down) and high flows (when large amounts of water are being used for watering lawns, when hydrant flow tests are being conducted for the Fire Department, when there is a fire, when water is used for flooding ice rinks, when water is used for sweeping streets or when we are flushing the hydrants).

Q: What are some simple ideas for conserving water?

A: Indoors: check for leaks! The smallest leak can use water very quickly. Don’t

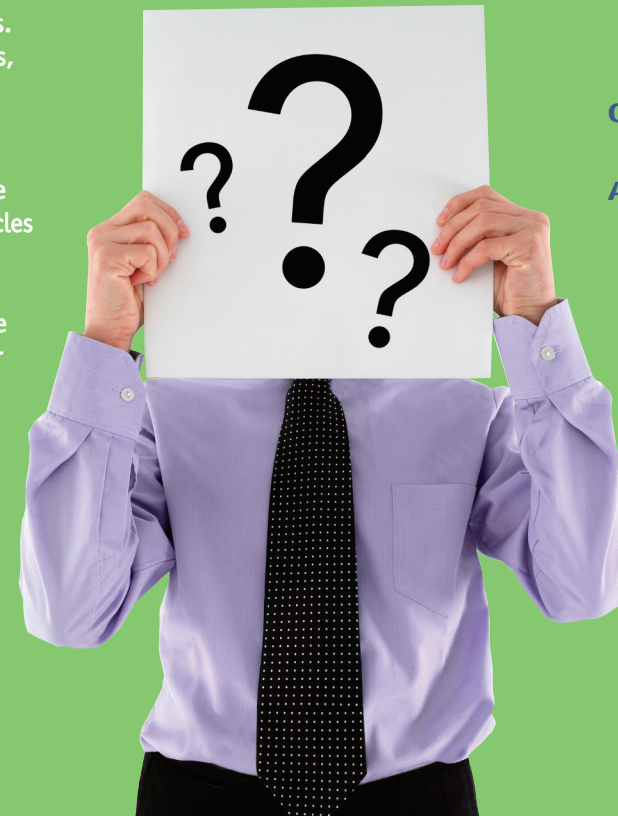
leave the water running when you brush your teeth, shave or scrub dishes. Purchase low-flow toilets and shower heads. Try to limit showers to 5 to 10 minutes. Wash only full loads when you do laundry or use your dishwasher.

Outdoors: Water your lawn only when it is absolutely necessary and follow the City’s odd/even watering schedules. Water during cooler times of day. Midday watering just evaporates in the heat. Sweep away driveway dirt rather than spraying it away. Use shut-off nozzles on hoses. Water by hand areas that need extra water (plants, new trees). Mulch plants and trees, and leave grass clippings lie after mowing to keep in soil moisture. Wash cars at a car wash that recycles water or use a bucket and hose off the car only as needed. Cover pools and spas when not in use.

Q: My sewer is backing up into my basement. What do I do?

A: Call the City of Edina Utility Department first at 952-826-0375. After hours or on weekends, call Police non-emergency at 952-826-1610. Help will be dispatched immediately and could save you lots of money! There is no charge for this service and the City will assist you in finding a solution to the problem.

For more information, contact Utilities Superintendent Roger Glanzer, 952-826-0311.



2007 City of Edina Drinking Water Report

The City of Edina is issuing the results of monitoring done on its drinking water for the period from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2007.

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 Edina provides drinking water to its residents from a groundwater source: 15 wells ranging from 380 to 1,080 feet deep, that draw water from the Mt. Simon, Jordan and Prairie Du Chien-Jordan aquifers.

The water provided to customers may meet drinking water standards, but the Minnesota Department of Health has also made a determination as to how vulnerable the source of water may be to future contamination incidents. 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 online at www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/swa.

Call **952-826-0311** if you have questions about the City of Edina 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.

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.

pCi/l: PicoCuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity).

ppb: Parts per billion, which can also be expressed as micrograms per liter (µg/l).

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

nd: No Detection.

N/A: Not Applicable (does not apply).

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found		Typical Source of Contaminant
			Range (2007)	Average/Result*	
Alpha Emitters (pCi/l)	0	15.4	nd-10.9	10.9	Erosion of natural deposits.
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	nd-1.38	1.38	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Barium (ppm)	2	2	.104-.205	.21	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Benzene (ppb)	0	5	nd-.3	.15	Discharge from factories; Leaching from gas storage tanks and landfills.
Combined Radium (pCi/l)	0	5.4	nd-5	4.4	Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	.84-1.4	1.09	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.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	0	60	N/A	8.5	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
TTHM (Total trihalomethanes) (ppb)	0	80	N/A	24	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Coliform Bacteria	0 present	>5% present	N/A	4%	Naturally present in the environment.
Trichloroethylene (ppb)	0	5	nd-.4	.35	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories.
Vinyl Chloride (ppb)	0	2	nd-.8	.4	Leaching from PVC piping; Discharge from plastics factories.
cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	70	70	nd-4.5	3.75	Discharge from industrial chemical factories.
trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	100	100	nd-.3	.25	Discharge from industrial chemical factories.

*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)	MRDLG	MRDL	****	*****	Typical Source of Contaminant
Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	1-1.2	1.15	Water additive used to control microbes.

****Highest and Lowest Monthly Average. *****Highest Quarterly Average.

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	AL	90% Level	# sites over AL	Typical Source of Contaminant
Copper (ppm)	N/A	1.3	.62	0 out of 30	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Lead (ppb)	N/A	15	4	0 out of 30	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

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 Edina 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.

Some contaminants do not have Maximum Contaminant Levels established for them.

These unregulated contaminants are assessed using state standards known as health risk limits to determine if they pose a threat to human health. If unacceptable levels of an unregulated contaminant are found, the response is the same as if an MCL has been exceeded; the water system must inform its customers and take other corrective actions. In the table that follows are the unregulated contaminants that were detected:

Contaminant (units)	Level Found		Typical Source of Contaminant
	Range (2007)	Average/Result	
Sodium (ppm)	5.5-26	26	Erosion of natural deposits.
Sulfate (ppm)	8.44-46.6	46.6	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 are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at **1-800-426-4791**.

Edina Water Chemistry

Hardness = 17 grains per gallon

Iron = less than 1 part per million

PH = 7.6

Fluoride = 0.9 to 1.1 parts per million

Chlorine = 1 to 1.2 parts per million

2007 City of Minneapolis Drinking Water Report

The City of Minneapolis is issuing the results of monitoring done on its drinking water for the period from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2007.

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 Minneapolis provides drinking water to its residents from a surface water source: surface water drawn from the Mississippi River.

The water provided to customers may meet drinking water standards, but the Minnesota Department of Health has also made a determination as to how vulnerable the source of water may be to future contamination incidents. 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 online at www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/swa.

Call **612-661-4999** if you have questions about the City of Minneapolis drinking water or would like information about opportunities for public participation in decisions that may affect the quality of the water.

Turbidity is a measure of the clarity of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	MCL	**	***	Typical Source of Contaminant
Turbidity (NTU)	N/A	TT			Soil runoff.

**Lowest Monthly Percentage of Samples Meeting the Turbidity Limits.
***Highest Single Measurement.

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 2007. If any of these contaminants were detected the last time they were sampled for, they are included in the table along with the date that the detection occurred.)

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.

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

NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Unit, used to measure clarity in drinking water.

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.

ppb: Parts per billion, which can also be expressed as micrograms per liter (µg/L).

ppm: Parts per million, which can also be expressed as milligrams per liter (mg/L).

nd: No Detection.

N/A: Not Applicable (does not apply).

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found		Typical Source of Contaminant
			Range (2007)	Average/Result*	
Fecal Coliform and E. coli	0 present	>0 present	N/A	1♥	Human and animal fecal waste.
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	.67-1.1	.98	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.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	0	60	nd-54.7	25.89	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	10	10	N/A	.38	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
TTHM (Total trihalomethanes) (ppb)	0	80	9.9-58.1	33.39	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Coliform Bacteria	0 present	>5% present	N/A	1%♥	Naturally present in the environment.

*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.

♥Follow-up sampling showed no contamination present.

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	MCL	****	*****	Typical Source of Contaminant
Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	2.5-3	2.71	Water additive used to control microbes.

****Highest and Lowest Monthly Average.
*****Highest Quarterly Average.

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	AL	90% Level	# sites over AL	Typical Source of Contaminant
Copper (ppm) (08/14/2006)	N/A	1.3	.12	0 out of 50	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Lead (ppb) (08/14/2006)	N/A	15	5	3 out of 50	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

Contaminant (units)	Level Found		Typical Source of Contaminant
	Range (2007)	Average/Result	
Sodium (ppm) (10/19/2006)	N/A	15	Erosion of natural deposits.
Sulfate (ppm) (10/19/2006)	N/A	30.8	Erosion of natural deposits.

****Highest and Lowest Monthly Average.
*****Highest Quarterly Average.

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 Minneapolis 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.

Some contaminants do not have Maximum Contaminant Levels established for them. These unregulated contaminants are assessed using state standards known as health risk limits to determine if they pose a threat to human health. If unacceptable levels of an unregulated contaminant are found, the response is the same as if an MCL has been exceeded; the water system must inform its customers and take other corrective actions. The table on the previous page shows the unregulated contaminants that were detected:

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.

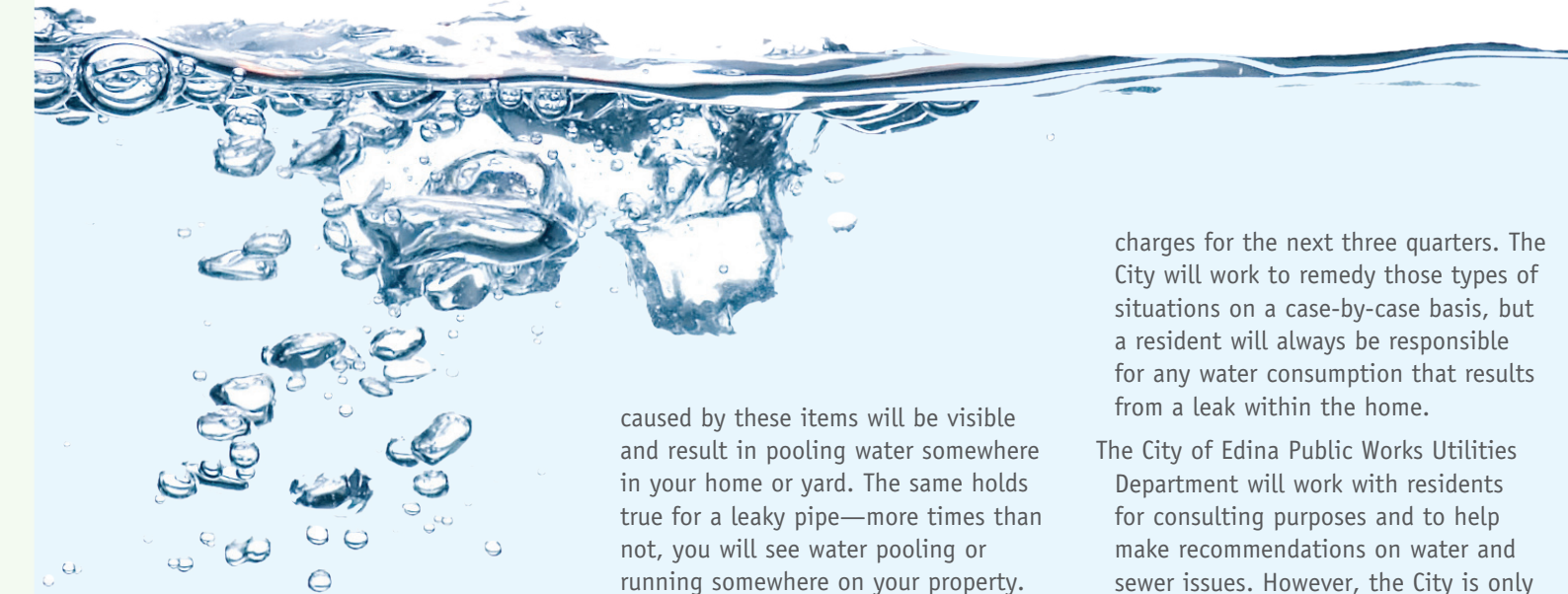
Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.

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 are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.



much water is being used. If the softener gets "hung up" during the regeneration cycle, water may continually run through the softener and out through the drain. Actually seeing water run out of the softener, or using up more softener salt than usual, may be a sign that your problem lies there.

Furnace Humidifiers

A furnace humidifier is another unit that drains directly into a floor drain. If water is draining from the humidifier when the furnace is not in use, you likely have a leak. Also, keep in mind that when your humidifier is turned on, it is using water every time the furnace kicks in, which in itself may cause an increase in your water bill.

Other Water Sources

Things like lawn sprinklers, outside water sources, dishwashers, washing machines or hot tubs and pools may also be to blame for leaks. Most of the time, leaks

caused by these items will be visible and result in pooling water somewhere in your home or yard. The same holds true for a leaky pipe—more times than not, you will see water pooling or running somewhere on your property.

By following these steps, you may be able to prevent the unwanted arrival of another enormous utility bill. When reviewing your bill, keep in mind that your winter quarter water bill determines your sewer charges for the entire year. If you have a leak that results in an unusually high bill for the winter quarter, it will affect your sewer

charges for the next three quarters. The City will work to remedy those types of situations on a case-by-case basis, but a resident will always be responsible for any water consumption that results from a leak within the home.

The City of Edina Public Works Utilities Department will work with residents for consulting purposes and to help make recommendations on water and sewer issues. However, the City is only responsible for water issues from the curb stop to the City water main, so it's your responsibility to make sure that your home is leak free!

If you have followed all of these steps and you still have a problem diagnosing a leak or with your utility bill, call the Utilities Hotline at 952-826-0375.

Waste per quarter at 60 psi water pressure

Diameter of stream	Gallons	Cubic Feet	Cost per quarter
1/4"	1,181,500	158,000	\$1,564.20
3/16"	666,000	89,031	\$881.41
1/8"	296,000	39,400	\$390.06
1/16"	74,000	9,850	\$97.52

↑ A continuous leak from a hole this size would, over a three month period, waste water in the amounts shown above



(Photo by Polly Norman)

A Day In The Life Of Edina's Longest-Serving Utilities Maintenance Worker

By Marty Doll

A lot of things have changed since 1968.

Over that 40-year span, the world's population has nearly doubled, eight different Presidents have led the nation and the space program has progressed from racing to put the first man on the moon to putting space stations into orbit that accommodate life for months at a time.

But one thing hasn't changed. Over that same 40-year span, one of the City's longest-serving employees, Dick Oestreich, has been fixing busted pipes, flushing sewer lines and monitoring water quality as a member of Edina's Public Works Department.

"The Vietnam War was going on and there weren't many people to choose from in the workforce at the time," said Oestreich, modestly recalling his December 1968 hire. "It was a weird economy for awhile, and I was lucky to get a good full-time job because a lot of my friends had trouble finding work after the war."

Oestreich began in the Department as a water meter repairman, but he soon transitioned over to utilities maintenance. Forty years later, it's still his responsibility to help make sure that the City's water supply and sewer systems stay in top working order.

Routine tasks, such as the periodic cleaning of sections of the City's sewer lines, Oestreich says, are an ongoing process. For this job, he and his

colleagues use a machine with a long hose that operates with hydraulic and water pressure and is fed down into the City's sewer lines. The hose then sucks out debris and dirt, and as it is pulled back, jets on the hose spray water to wash down the sewer line walls. It's a dirty job, but Oestreich knows that someone has to do it.

"We try to get a quarter of the City's sewers cleaned every year," said Oestreich, "but that doesn't always happen. There are some trouble spots that need to be cleaned twice a year."

On any given day—no matter what the schedule says—these routine tasks can be put on the back burner in order to respond to utility emergencies. In fact, because of a steady influx of emergency calls both day and night, Oestreich says that there really is no such thing as a typical day in the Utilities Department—something that hasn't changed much in his 40 years of service.

"There are so many different things we do," said Oestreich. "Things change from one day to the next, even from one hour to the next. We'll go from fixing a water main break to unplugging a sewer line to fixing a fire hydrant. Whenever an emergency comes up, we'll get pulled from whatever routine task we're working on to respond."

Since a water or sewer emergency has the potential to cause major problems to affected areas, the Utilities Department has to keep someone ready to respond at all hours. For that reason, even seniority doesn't get Oestreich out of a week-

long, 24-hour on-call rotation that comes around once every three months.

Oestreich says it's this variety, along with the evolution of technology in the Department that has helped keep his job fresh for so many years. The automation of many time-consuming tasks has helped make his job a little easier over the years as well. For example, today, the Utilities Department uses a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system that monitors the City's storm and sanitary lift stations, water stations, reservoirs and water towers. If there are problems with water pressure, pump failure or electricity, SCADA triggers an alarm that is transmitted to the cell phone of the staff member who is on call. It's then his job to figure out how to respond, and to determine whether or not there is a major problem that needs to be dealt with.

"It used to be that staff would have to spend a lot of time checking these stations and towers to make sure everything was working properly," said Oestreich. "Now, they don't need to be checked nearly as often because SCADA will let us know if something is wrong. That leaves us with time to work on other things."

Even with the help of automation, Oestreich and the 11 other members of Edina's Utilities Department are never at a loss of "other things" to do. On top of water and sewer maintenance, they are also asked to help out the City's Street Department in the winter months with street and ramp plowing. Working in such a visible position year-

round, Oestreich has also learned the importance of good public relations.

"We get a lot of residents calling for all kinds of water and sewer-related things," said Oestreich. "The City is responsible for the water service from the residents' curb stops to our water mains, but everything inside or underneath the house is their responsibility. We have to do a lot of PR work when helping them understand what is our responsibility and what is theirs, but we are always willing to consult or make a recommendation."

Oestreich says that the biggest change he's seen in the last 40 years is how the Department itself has progressed.

"For the first 25 years I worked in the Department, we did a lot of patch-and-repair work," said Oestreich. "Recently, we've been doing major repairs on a lot of infrastructure and adding things like new wells. Also, since our Department is twice the size it was when I started, it's easier for us to help each other out. If someone needs a hand, we are all willing to lend one."

Over his 40 years in Edina Public Works, Oestreich has seen water regulations, equipment and co-workers come and go, but the importance of the services he and his colleagues provide to residents has remained constant. They've set a standard that would be well-served to live on for the next 40 or more years to come.

□ *Dick Oestreich has been on Edina's Public Works Department staff for 40 years.*

*****ECRWSS***
POSTAL PATRON**

Photocopy or cut on the dotted line and mail bottom portion back to us.

Trivia Contest

How much do you know about Edina's utility system and water quality? Read this Consumer Confidence Report thoroughly and send in your answers to the following questions. You could win a gift certificate to pay for part of your next utility bill or another great prize!

- 1.** How large should the clear radius be around a fire hydrant?
 - A. 3 inches
 - B. 1 foot
 - C. 3 feet
 - D. 10 feet
- 2.** When is the best time of day to water a lawn?
 - A. Between 4 and 6 a.m.
 - B. Between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.
 - C. Between 10 a.m. and noon
 - D. Any time of the day is appropriate
- 3.** Which is not a common cause of a water leak in a house?
 - A. Drippy faucet
 - B. Running toilet
 - C. Water softener
 - D. They are all common causes
- 4.** Where is a residential water meter located?
 - A. Near the water main shut off
 - B. At the kitchen faucet
 - C. In the street
 - D. At the back door
- 5.** What is the City of Edina's primary water source?
 - A. Mississippi River
 - B. Deep water wells
 - C. Lake Cornelia
 - D. Water towers

Name _____

Street Address _____

Telephone Number _____

Mail your completed form to Edina Public Works – Utility Department, 5146 Eden Ave., Edina, MN 55436. Entries must be received by July 31, 2008.

