


THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS PARK 2005 Drinking Water Report

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The City of St. Louis Park is issuing the results of monitoring done on its drinking water for the period from January 1 to December 31, 2005. The purpose of this report is to advance consumers understanding of drinking water and heighten awareness of the need to protect precious water resources.

St. Louis Park drinking water is certified safe

Source of Water

The City of St. Louis Park provides drinking water to its residents from a groundwater source: 15 wells ranging from 286 to 1095 feet deep, that draw water from the Prairie Du Chien-Jordan, Mt. Simon, Jordan-St. Lawrence, and St. Peter aquifers.

Our goal is to provide you with high quality, safe, reliable drinking water that meets federal and state requirements. Test results, from monitoring done in 2005, show that we are doing just that.

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

To get the entire source water assessment regarding your drinking water, call 651-201-4670 or 1-800-818-9318 (and press 5) during normal business hours. You can view it on line at www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/swa.

If you have questions about the City of St. Louis Park drinking water or would like information about opportunities

for public participation in decisions that may affect the quality of the water, please call the St. Louis Park Utilities Division at 952-924-2558.

Results of Monitoring

No contaminants were detected at levels that violated federal drinking water standards. The report that follows shows the contaminants that were detected in trace amounts. Not all contaminants are sampled yearly; as a result, not all contaminants were sampled for in 2005. These contaminants are included in the table with the last date they were sampled.



Substances detected in St. Louis Park water

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found		Typical Source of Contaminant
			Range (2005)	Avg/Result*	
Alpha Emitters (pCi/l) (02/26/2004)	0	15.4	N/A	12.3	Erosion of natural deposits.
Arsenic (ppb) (09/30/2002)	0	50	N/A	2.4	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Barium (ppb) (09/30/2002)	2	2	N/A	0.18	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Combined Radium (pCi/l) (02/26/2004)	0	5.4	N/A	3.8	Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	.86-1.1	1.14	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	10	nd-.2	2	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
TTHM (Total Trihalomethanes) (ppb)	0	80	N/A	4.3	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Vinyl Chloride (ppb)	0	2	nd-1.5	.87	Leaching from PVC piping; Discharge from plastics factories.
cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	70	70	nd-.3	.1	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.

Chlorine

Contaminant (units)	MRDLG	MRDL	****	*****	Typical Source of Contaminant
Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	.5-1.1	0.69	Water additive used to control microbes.

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

Radon

Contaminant (units)	Level Found		Typical Source of Contaminant
	Range (2005)	Avg/Result*	
Radon (pCi/l)	75-222	160	Erosion of natural deposits.

Radon is a radioactive gas which is naturally occurring in some groundwater. It poses a lung cancer risk when gas is released from water into air (as occurs during showering, bathing, or washing dishes or clothes) and a stomach cancer risk when it is ingested. Because radon in indoor air poses a much greater health risk than radon in drinking water, an Alternative Maximum Contaminant Level (AMCL) of 4,000 picoCuries per liter may apply in states that have adopted an Indoor Air Program, which compels citizens, homeowners, schools, and communities to reduce the radon threat from indoor air. For states without such a program, the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 300 pCi/l may apply. Minnesota plans to adopt an Indoor Air Program once the Radon Rule is finalized.

Copper and Lead

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	AL	90% Level	# of sites over AL	Typical Source of Contaminant
Copper (ppm) 09/18/2003	N/A	1.3	.48	0 out of 30	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Lead (ppb) 09/18/2003	N/A	15	7	2 out of 30	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. The lead levels in your water system were found to be in compliance with drinking water standards; however, it is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to two minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

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).

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 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.

Other substances

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 (2005)	Average/Result*	
Sodium (ppm) (09/30/2002)	N/A	28	Erosion of natural deposits.
Sulfate (ppm) (09/30/2002)	N/A	36	Erosion of natural deposits.



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St. Louis Park, MN 55416-2290

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