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GENERAL WATER INFORMATION

Chaska's water supply comes from ground water wells. As water travels 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 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 storm water 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 storm water 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 storm water 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 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 800-426-4791.

Chaska's water is of good quality and meets these EPA standards. The water is monitored by City staff on a daily basis. Again, if you have any questions about drinking water supplied by Chaska or information in this brochure, please call the Chaska Utility Department at 448-4335.

Other secondary contaminants that may be causing aesthetic problems:

IRON AND MANGANESE

Iron and manganese occur naturally in water, especially in ground water. Neither of the elements causes adverse health effects, they are, in fact, essential to the human diet. However, water containing excessive amounts

of iron and manganese can stain clothes, discolor plumbing fixtures, and sometimes add a "rusty" taste and look to the water. Chaska operates a treatment plant to reduce iron and manganese levels from its six deep wells. The water system is also flushed annually to address localized problem areas.

LEAD

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 2 minutes before using tap water. [Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.](#)

RADON

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 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 (MCL) of 300 pCi/l may apply. Minnesota plans to adopt an Indoor Air Program once the Radon Rule is finalized.

HARDNESS

Water becomes hard by being in contact with calcium and magnesium. The elements are also non-hazardous but do create certain system problems such as bathtub ring and dingy laundry while feeling unpleasant on the skin (red, itchy, or dry skin). The best way to deal with hardness issues involves use of an in-line water softener. The hardness of the water is 29 grains per gallon.

IN SUMMARY

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established national drinking water standards. These standards contain federally enforceable maximum contaminant level (MCL) standards for substances known to be hazardous to public health.

Water quality parameters are defined and regulated by two sets of standards – Primary and Secondary. Primary Standards are set for those substances known to be a hazard to public health. Secondary Standards are set for those substances that, although not hazardous to public health, may cause drinking water to have objectionable aesthetic qualities, such as taste and odor.

WATER CONSERVATION

Consistent with provisions of a State mandated water conservation plan, and to ensure an adequate water supply for fire protection, Chaska has implemented an **odd-even** lawn watering program. This program greatly reduces the City's peak water demand during the heavy usage between **May 1 thru September 30**. Unestablished seed and unrooted sod areas are exempt from the program. Violators are subject to a \$100 fine.

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TO: CURRENT RESIDENT

**Drinking Water
Consumer Confidence Report**
July 2006
City of CHASKA
One City Hall Plaza
Chaska, MN 55318-1962

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act, the City of Chaska 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 customers' understanding of drinking water and heighten awareness of the need to protect water resources. Call the Chaska Utility Department at 448-4335 if you have questions about the drinking water or would like information about opportunities for public participation in decisions that may affect the quality of the water.

WATER SYSTEMS

Chaska has 6 ground water wells that pump water from wells that are 330 ft to 817 ft deep. Water is drawn from the following aquifers: Mt. Simon, Hinkley, Franconia, Ironton, Galesville, Jordan, and Glacial Drift aquifers. Chaska has recently completed the construction of the new Water Treatment Plant that is capable of treating 12.6 gallons per day, for iron and manganese removal to only trace levels by gravity filtration. Sodium hypochlorite is used to disinfect the water for bacteria and fluoride is added to enhance tooth protection, as required by state law. Water is pumped to the distribution system after treatment and is stored in 3 elevated towers that have the capacity to hold 3.3 million gallons.



RESULTS OF MONITORING

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in public water systems. *In 2005, no contaminants were detected in Chaska's water supply at levels that exceeded these federal standards.* However, some contaminants were detected in trace amounts that were below legal limits. The table included in this report 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 2005. 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 detection occurred.)

| Contaminant (units) | MCLG | MCL | Level Found | | Typical Source of Contaminant |
|------------------------------------|------|------|-------------|------------------|--|
| | | | Range 2005 | Average/Result * | |
| Alpha Emitters (pCi/l) | 0 | 15.4 | Nd-6.6 | 6 | Erosion of natural deposits. |
| Arsenic (ppb) (07/16/2003) | 0 | 50.0 | NA | 1.01 | Erosion of natural deposits; Run off from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes. |
| Barium (ppm) (07/16/03) | 2.0 | 2.0 | NA | 0.17 | Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits. |
| Combined Radium (pCi/l) | 0 | 5.4 | Nd-3.5 | 3.27 | Erosion of natural deposits. |
| Fluoride (ppm) | 4.0 | 4.0 | 1-1.2 | 1.35 | 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 | 1.6 | By-product of drinking water disinfection. |
| Nitrate (ppm) (as Nitrogen) | 10.0 | 10.0 | nd -.17 | .17 | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits. |
| TTHM (ppb) (total trihalomethanes) | 0 | 80 | NA | 10 | By-product of drinking water disinfection. |

* This is the value used to determine compliance with federal standards. It sometimes is the highest value detected & sometimes is an average of all the detected values.

| Contaminant (units) | MRDLG | MRDL | **** | ***** | Typical Source of Contaminant |
|---------------------|-------|------|--------|-------|--|
| Chlorine (ppm) | 4 | 4 | .3-1.4 | 1.27 | 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 |
|---------------------------|------|-----|-----------|-----------------|---|
| Lead (ppb) (06/11/2004) | NA | 15 | 11.0 | 1 out of 30 | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits. |
| Copper (ppm) (06/11/2004) | NA | 1.3 | 0.90 | 0 out of 30 | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits. |

The Minnesota Department of Health has determined that one or more sources of your drinking water is potentially susceptible to contamination. If you wish to obtain the entire source water assessment regarding your drinking water, please call 651-215-0800 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. 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 | |
| Sulfate (ppm) | 9-72 | 72 | Erosion of natural deposits. |
| Sodium (ppm) | 6-22 | 22 | Erosion of natural deposits. |

| Contaminant (units) | Level Found 2003 | | Typical Source of Contaminant |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| | Range 2005 | Average/Result * | |
| Radon (pCi/l) (10/15/2001) | NA | 264.0 | Erosion of natural deposits. |

* 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. 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.

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.
- 90% Level This is the value obtained after disregarding 10% of the samples taken that had the highest levels. (Example: In a situation where 10 samples were taken, the 90% level is determined by disregarding the highest result, which represents 10% 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 90% level.
- pCi/l Pico Curies per liter (a measure of radioactivity).
- ppb Parts per billion, which can also be expressed as micrograms per liter (ug/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).

