



# 2008 Water Quality Report

## Neenah Water: Quality From the Tap

This is the eleventh annual report on the quality of water delivered by the Neenah Water Utility. This report meets the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requirements for "Consumer Confidence Reports", and contains information on the source of Neenah's water, its constituents, and the health risks associated with the contaminants.

### Lake Winnebago is Primary Source of Neenah Drinking Water

The Neenah Water Treatment Plant is supplied by surface water from Lake Winnebago. We also have an emergency intake in the Fox River near Riverside Park. The watershed for these sources covers a large area stretching to the far northern sections of Wisconsin. The federal government requires that a source water assessment be performed on surface water used as a source for drinking water. The DNR has completed this source water assessment, and can provide a copy.

The Plant treats water from Lake Winnebago by: lime softening, to reduce hardness; filtering, to remove particulates; granular activated carbon contactors, to reduce organic material; and ultraviolet light and chlorination, for disinfection.

### EPA Sets Limits for Contaminants in Drinking Water

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 for infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* or additional information about contaminants and potential health risks are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

### Cryptosporidium Concerns

Many microscopic organisms in water are a concern, especially if they occur in high concentrations; however, maximum safe levels have not been established, there is no reliable testing method, or they are rarely found in the water. In our area there has been concern about *Cryptosporidium*. The EPA and the DNR are requiring all surface water treatment facilities, including Neenah, to monitor for *Cryptosporidium* and change the water treatment process to provide protection against this organism.

### En Español

El informe contiene informacion importante sobre la calidad del agua en su comunidad. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

### Water Commission Meeting Schedule

The Neenah Water Commission usually meets at 4:30 on the third Monday of each month. The meetings are in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, 211 Walnut Street, Neenah. The agenda is posted five days prior to the meeting in City Hall. The public is invited to these meetings. If you need special accommodations to attend the meeting, call 886-6180.

### Plumbing Is Source Of Lead in Older Homes

The water leaving the treatment plant has no measurable lead in it. If there is lead in your drinking water, the source is most likely the plumbing in your home. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials in your home's plumbing. Older homes use lead pipe, or have copper pipe with lead solder. Newer homes use copper pipe with lead-free solder (since 1986). If you are concerned about elevated lead levels, you may wish to have your water tested by a private laboratory, or flush your tap for 30 seconds to two minutes before using tap water. Remember, infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general public. For more information call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791. Or call the Neenah Water Utility at 886-6180.

### For More Information on Any Topic in This Report, Please Call the Numbers Listed Below:

- Billing Questions, Name Changes, and Final Readings: 886-6149
- Water Quality, Treatment, Leaks and Main Breaks: 886-6190
- Engineering Office: 886-6180      Director: 886-6182      E-mail: lwettering@ci.neenah.wi.us

## What Does This Table Mean and Why Should I Read It?

The table below shows the results of our water quality analyses performed by the water treatment plant staff and by private laboratories. We looked for over 100 regulated substances, and anything we detected, even in the smallest amount, is listed here. The table contains the name of each substance, the highest level allowed by regulation (MCL), the ideal goal for public health (MCLG), the amount detected, the usual contamination sources, footnotes explaining our findings, and a key which defines some of the terms used.

Contaminant	Date Tested	Units	MCL	MCLG	Detected	Range	Violations	Major Sources
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Copper	2008	ppb	AL=1300	1	97	<10-300	No	Corrosion of household plumbing; leaching from wood preservatives.
Fluoride	*2 2008	ppm	4	4	1.1	0.0-1.1	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive for strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Lead	2008	ppb	AL=15	0	33	<0.7-105	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
<b>Unregulated Contaminants</b>								
Bromodichloromethane	11/11/2008	ppb	n/a	n/a	5.6	-	No	n/a
Chloroform	11/11/2008	ppb	n/a	n/a	33	-	No	n/a
Dibromochloromethane	11/11/2008	ppb	n/a	0.06	0.23	-	No	n/a
Dichloroacetic Acid	11/11/2008	ppb	n/a	n/a	18	-	No	n/a
<b>Disinfection Byproducts</b>								
Total Trihalomethanes	11/11/2008	ppb	80	n/a	39	-	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Haloacetic Acid (HAA5)	11/11/2008	ppb	60	60	31	-	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Trichloroacetic Acid	11/11/2008	ppb	0.3	n/a	12	-	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination.

### KEY

AL= Action Level- The concentration of a contaminant, which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements, which a water system shall follow.

MCL= Maximum Contaminant Level- The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close as possible to MCLG's using the best available technology.

MCLG= Maximum Contaminant Level Goal- The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

ppm= parts per million (also milligrams per liter).

ppb= parts per billion (also micrograms per liter).

pCi/l= picocuries per liter.

TTHM= Total Trihalomethanes.

### Footnotes:

1. Yearly sample.
2. Average of daily samples.

Although we ran over 31,000 individual tests in order to control the water treatment process and to look for the presence of other substances, only the listed substances were found. Testing requirements change from year to year, and the data shown is from the most recent testing.

### Monitoring Requirement Not Met

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific requirements on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards. Between 1/1/2008 and 9/30/2008 we failed to monitor for the Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) 2,2-Dichloropropane, from entry point #81 (the water treatment plant); and therefore could not be sure of the quality of your water at that time.

There are no special precautions you need to take at this time. The appropriate sample was taken after the deadline and the compound was not detected.

The sample was missed because of an instrument malfunction at the laboratory doing the analysis. The laboratory did not report the error to the Utility until after the deadline. Utility staff did not realize the results had not been reported to the DNR.

We have discussed the issue with the laboratory, and they have analyzed a second sample at their cost. The result of the second sample, which was "no detect", was reported to the DNR in December 2008. The "no detect" was consistent with our historical records for the VOC in question.

If you have questions regarding the safety of our drinking water, please contact Mr. Mark Zempel at 920-886-6190.