

2014 Consumer Confidence Report Data

Superior Water Light & Power Company, PWS ID: 81601476

Water System Information

If you would like to know more about the information contained in this report, please contact Donald Vollmer at (715) 398-4421.

Opportunity for input on decisions affecting your water quality

Superior Water, Light & Power (SWL&P) is a private utility. Public meetings to voice concerns regarding water quality and/or usage is not offered. However, should you have a question or concern regarding the quality or usage of your drinking water, please feel free to contact SWL&P's Lead Water Plant Operator-In- Charge, Donald Vollmer.

Health Information

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 (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 systems 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 and other microbial contaminants are available from the Environmental Protection Agency's safe drinking water hotline (800-426-4791).

Source(s) of Water

Source ID	Source	Depth (ft)	Waterbody Name	Status
1	Surface Water		Lake Superior	Active

To obtain a summary of the source water assessment, please contact Donald Vollmer.

Educational Information

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, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which shall provide the same protection for public health.

Definitions

- AL** Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- 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.
- MCLG** Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- MFL** Million fibers per liter.
- MRDL** Maximum Residual Disinfection Level: The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- MRDLG** Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal: The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- mrem/year** Millirems per year: A measure of radiation absorbed by the body.
- NTU** Nephelometric Turbidity Units.
- pCi/l** Picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity).
- ppm** Parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l).
- ppb** Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l).
- ppt** Parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter.
- ppq** Parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter.
- TCR** Total Coliform Rule.
- TT** Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Detected Contaminants Your water was tested for many contaminants last year. We are allowed to monitor for some contaminants less frequently than once a year. The following tables list only those contaminants which were detected in your water. If a contaminant was detected last year, it will appear in the following tables without a sample date. If the contaminant was not monitored last year, but was detected within the last 5 years, it will appear in the tables below along with the sample date.

DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS								
Contaminant (units)	Site	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2014)	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
HAA5 (ppb)	SM-4	60	60	27	13 - 51		NO	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
TTHM (ppb)	SM-4	80	0	49.6	19.8 - 108.2		NO	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 (ppb)	SM-5	60	60	28	13 - 55		NO	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
TTHM (ppb)	SM-5	80	0	57.3	24.3 - 118.8		NO	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 (ppb)	SM-6	60	60	7	1 - 17		NO	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
TTHM (ppb)	SM-6	80	0	42.2	22.7 - 77.3		NO	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 (ppb)	SM-7	60	60	27	12 - 51		NO	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
TTHM (ppb)	SM-7	80	0	52.4	13.7 - 117.4		NO	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination

INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS								
Contaminant (units)	Site	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2014)	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Barium (ppm)		2	2	0.010	0.010		NO	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Cyanide (ppb)		200	200	9	9		NO	Discharge from steel/metal factories; Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories
Fluoride (ppm)		4	4	0.6	0.6		NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nickel (ppb)		100		0.5300	0.5300		NO	Nickel occurs naturally in soils, ground water and surface waters and is often used in electroplating, stainless steel and alloy products.
Nitrate (NO3-N) (ppm)		10	10	0.38	0.38		NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)		n/a	n/a	4.50	4.50		NO	n/a
Contaminant (units)	Action Level	MCLG	90th Percentile Level Found	# of Results	Sample Date (if prior to 2014)	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant	
Copper (ppm)	AL=1.3	1.3	0.0720	0 of 30 results were above the action level		NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives	
Lead (ppb)	AL=15	0	5.90	2 of 30 results were above the action level		NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	
SYNTHETIC ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS INCLUDING PESTICIDES AND HERBICIDES								
Contaminant (units)	Site	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2014)	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Hexachlorocyclopentadiene (ppb)		50	50	0.0	0.0-0.0		NO	Discharge from chemical factories
UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS								
Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. EPA required us to participate in this monitoring.								
Contaminant (units)	Level Found			Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2014)			
Sulfate (ppm)	4.50			4.50				
UCMR3								
Contaminant (units)	Site		Average (ppb)		Range			
Hexavalent Chromium	EPTDS		0.04		.033-.046			
Strontium	EPTDS		25		24-25			
Chromium	Field Blank		0.11		0.11			
Strontium	DSMRT		25		24-25			
Hexavalent Chromium	DSMRT		0.034		0.034			

Health effects for any contaminants with MCL violations or Action Level Exceedances

Contaminant Health Effects

LEAD: Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

Additional Health Information

Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

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. Superior Water Light & Power Company 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.

Information on Monitoring for Cryptosporidium and Radon

Our water system did not monitor our water for cryptosporidium or radon during 2014. We are not required by State or Federal drinking water regulations to do so.

Other Compliance

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards. During the compliance period noted in the table below, we did not complete all monitoring or testing for the contaminant(s) noted, and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during that time.

MONITORING AND REPORTING VIOLATIONS				
Description	Containment Group	Sample Location	Compliance Period Beginning	Compliance Period Ending
DBP Monitoring/Reporting	Dbp	Distribution System	10/10/2014	10/20/2014

Actions Taken

The violation that occurred in October of 2014 was due to the shipping company not getting the sample to the laboratory on time. Since then SWL&P has changed their collection practices so that any time-sensitive sample is collected on the first days of the collection timeframe and shipped with a new overnight carrier that provides tracking numbers for the samples, so they can be monitored when they arrive at the laboratory.

Turbidity Monitoring

In accordance with s. NR 810.29, Wisconsin Administrative Code, the treated surface water is monitored for turbidity to confirm that the filtered water is less than 0.1 NTU/0.3NTU. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water. We monitor for it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. During the year, the highest single entry point turbidity measurement was .22 NTU. The lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting the turbidity limits was 100 percent. [Systems with water from membrane filtration plants do not need to include the last sentence]