

# Waukegan Annual Water Quality Report

## Reporting period January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013



*Este informe contiene información muy importante. Tradúscalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.*

This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the water system to provide safe drinking water. This report includes drinking water facts, information about violations (if applicable), and contaminants detected in your drinking water supply during calendar year 2012. Each year, we will provide you a new report. If you need help understanding this report; please contact **Julia Adamiak (Laboratory Supervisor) or Brian Andersen (Water Utilities Superintendent) at 847-599-2687**. The Public Works Committee of the Council oversees the operations of the water system and meets the first and third Mondays each month at City Hall located at 100 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue. Please call 847-599-2500 for meeting times.

Before we begin listing our unique water quality characteristics, here are some important facts you should know to help you have a basic understanding of drinking water in general.

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 can dissolve naturally occurring minerals and radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Waukegan utilizes Lake Michigan as its source water. This facility draws water through one surface water intake that is 6,700 feet into the lake. A backup intake is located 2,960 feet into the lake.

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.

### Other Facts about Drinking Water

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, USEPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

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* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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. We 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 <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

### **Source Water Assessment**

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water quality. If you would like to learn more, please feel welcome to attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. The source water assessment for our supply has been completed by the Illinois EPA. If you would like a copy of this information, please stop by City Hall or call our water operator at 847-599-2687. To view a summary version of the completed Source Water Assessments, including: Importance of Source Water; Susceptibility to Contamination Determination; and documentation/recommendation of Source Water Protection Efforts, you may access the Illinois EPA website at <http://www.epa.state.il.us/cgi-bin/wp/swap-fact-sheets.pl>.

Susceptibility is defined as the likelihood for the source water(s) of a public water system to be contaminated at concentrations that would pose a concern. The Illinois EPA considers all surface water sources of a community water supply to be susceptible to potential pollution problems. The very nature of surface water allows contaminants to migrate into the intake with no protection only dilution, which is the reason for mandatory treatment for all surface water supplies in Illinois. Waukegan's 6,200-foot intake has a low sensitivity and therefore has greater protection from shoreline contaminants due to mixing and dilution. The 2,960-foot intake is moderately sensitive to potential pollution, and although there are no potential sources within Waukegan's critical assessment zone, there are several immediately adjacent to the CAZ with a great deal more in Waukegan's local source water area. Shoreline sources in the vicinity of this intake are perceived as a potential threat to Waukegan's water quality. The combination of the land use, zoning, Waukegan Harbor, Waukegan River and NSSD treatment plant add to the susceptibility of this intake. However, it should be stressed that treatment employed by Waukegan is protective of their consumers, as noted by the facility's recent finished water history.

**Your dedicated Water Department Staff**