Information from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 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.

The EPA imposes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems to ensure that tap water is safe to drink. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

By law, SPRWS staff must take corrective action and notify our customers immediately if the utility is ever in non-compliance with federal or state drinking water standards. We continue to comply with all regulations.

For test results or questions about SPRWS drinking water, call our lab at 651-266-1635.

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 people and animals. Your water is regularly tested for the following contaminants:

• *Microbial contaminants,* such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural 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, are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production; they 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.

Mississippi River

Where our water comes from

We draw a large percentage of our water from the Mississippi River, which travels through a chain of lakes, including Charles, Pleasant, Sucker, and Vadnais before reaching our treatment plant.

Groundwater from 10 deep wells, ranging from 425 to 465 feet in depth, that tap into the Prairie du Chien-Jordan aquifer, provides a small percentage of our water supply.

An assessment of our water sources indicates that, while susceptible to contamination, SPRWS has consistently and effectively treated our source water to meet drinking water standards.

For a copy of the source water assessment, call the Minnesota Department of Health: 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 (press 5) or view it online at: www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/swa

We take pride in providing you with quality drinking water at a reasonable cost. Every day, SPRWS produces an average of 45 million gallons of drinking water and distributes it through more than a thousand miles of water main to 415,000 residents of Saint Paul and the surrounding communities. To participate in decisions that may affect the quality of the water supplied by SPRWS, the public may attend the Board of Water Commissioners meetings held at 5:00 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month in room 330 at Saint Paul City Hall., 15 Kellogg Blvd. W., Saint Paul, MN

To request additional copies of this report, please contact Customer Service.

SPRWS Customer Service
651-266-6350
SPRWS Water Quality
651-266-1635
EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline
800-426-4791
Minnesota Department of Health
651-201-4700
Email: waterinquiries@ci.stpaul.mn.us
Website: www.stpaul.gov/water

Español: Este reporte contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien se lo traduzca, o hable con alguien que lo entienda.

Somali: Warbixintan waxay wadataa macluumaad muhiim ah ee la xiriira biyaha aad cabtid. Cid ha kuu tarjunto ama la hadl cid fahmaysa.

Hmong: Dlaim ntawv tshaabxu nuav muaj lug tseemceeb heev nyob rua huv kws has txug cov dlej mej haus. Kuas ib tug paab txhais rua koj, los nrug ib tug kws paub lug thaam.

Saint Paul Regional Water Services

Water Quality Report 2014

1900 Rice Street
Saint Paul, MN
55113-6810

SAINT PAUL REGIONAL WATER SERVICES

2013 SPRWS Water Quality Test Results

Key to Chart

MCL **Maximum Contaminant Level.** *The highest level allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLG as feasible using the best available treatment technology.*

MCLG **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal.** *Below this level there is no known or expected health risk. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.*

NR **Not Regulated.** *Monitoring is required by the Minnesota Health Department. No limits have been set for this substance.*

R **Regulated.**

NA **Not Applicable.**

AL **Action Level.** *An amount of a contaminant, that if exceeded, triggers a specific response that the water system must follow.*

TT **Treatment Technique.** *A required process intended to reduce the level of a substance in drinking water. The EPA has two requirements: 1) that the maximum level found must be less than 1 NTU, and 2) that the level must be under 0.3 NTU 95% of the time.*

ppb **Parts Per Billion**. *Units of a substance, in pure form, found in every billion units of water.*

ppm **Parts Per Million.** *Units of a substance, in pure form, found in every million units of water.*

NTU **Nephelometric Turbidity Unit.** *A measure of water clarity. A good indicator of filtration effectiveness.*

MRDL **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level.**

MRDLG **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal.**

HRL **Health Risk Limit.** *Used to assess unregulated contaminants, which do not have MCLs. If unacceptable levels of an unregulated contaminant are found, the response is the same as if an MCL has been exceeded; the utility must inform its customers and take corrective action.*

***** **90th Percentile Level.** *This is the value obtained after disregarding the 10 percent of the samples taken that had the highest levels.*

** *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 detected values. If it is an average, it may contain sampling from a previous year. This may lead to an average that is outside the range indicated.*

*** *Follow-up sampling showed no contamination present.*

Saint Paul Regional Water Services is issuing the results of monitoring conducted on our drinking water during the testing period from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2013.

***No contaminants were detected at levels that violated federal drinking water standards.* Contaminants that have not been detected in the reporting period are not listed.**

Some contaminants were detected in trace amounts that were below maximum contaminant levels. These substances are shown on the table. Some contaminants are sampled less frequently than once a year; as a result, not all contaminants were sampled for in 2013. If any of these contaminants were detected the last time they were sampled, they are included in the table along with the date the detection occurred. Monitoring may have been done for additional contaminants that do not have MCLs established for them and are not required to be monitored under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Results may be available by calling 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 during normal business hours. Monitoring for unregulated contaminants as required by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency rules (40 CFR 141.40) was conducted in 2013. Results of the unregulated contaminant monitoring are available upon request from Cindy Swanson, Minnesota Department of Health, at 651/201-4656.

Total Organic Carbon, a naturally occurring substance in surface and ground water, contributes to the formation of disinfection byproducts. SPRWS is required to remove at least 25% to 30% of total organic carbon during the treatment process. In 2013, removals ranged from 44.6% to 61.1%.

Detected Substance	Meets Standards?	Amount Detected**	Allowed (MCL)	MCLG	Typical Source of Substance	Type	Monitoring Location
Trihalomethanes (Total TTHM) (ppb)	Yes	Average = 43.38 Range: 28.7– 43.9	80	0	Disinfection by-product	R	Distribution system
Nitrate as Nitrogen (ppm)	Yes	Average = 0.65	10	10	Fertilizer, sewer, natural deposits	R	Treatment plant
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	Yes	Average = 29.05 Range: 16.7 – 29	60	0	Disinfection by-product	R	Distribution system
Fluoride (ppm)	Yes	Average = 1.02 Range: .99 – 1.1	4	4	State mandated dental health additive, fertilizer, aluminum factory discharge	R	Distribution system
Chlorine (ppm)	Yes	Average = 2.63 Range: 2.4 – 2.7	4 MRDL	4 MRDLG	Microbe control additive	R	Distribution system
Lead (ppb) (09/14/2011)	Yes	13.1* (4 of 50 sites over AL)	Action Level = 15	0	Corrosion of home plumbing	R	Customers' tap
Copper (ppm) (09/14/2011)	Yes	0.04* (0 of 50 sites over AL)	Action Level = 1.3	1.3	Corrosion of home plumbing	R	Customers' tap
Turbidity (NTU)	Yes	Max 0.082 Average 0.032 (limit met 100%)	TT	NA	Soil runoff	R	Treatment plant
Total Coliform Bacteria	Yes	1%***	Present in ≤ 5 % of monthly samples	0 Present	Natural deposits	R	Distribution system

Special cases

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants found 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.

Environmental Protection Agency/Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

Concerning lead levels

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.

Saint Paul Regional Water Services 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 800-426-4791 or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.