

# BARABOO WATER UTILITY

## 2015 WATER QUALITY REPORT

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We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Quality Water Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of water we deliver to you every day. If you have any questions about this report, please feel free to contact Utility Superintendent, Wade D. Peterson, or the staff at the Water Utility office at 608-355-2740.

Our goal at the Baraboo Water Utility is to provide you with the safest, most dependable supply of water possible. To that end we have spent many thousands of dollars on sampling our water, improving our treatment processes, and safeguarding our water resources. As you'll see in the following pages, Baraboo's water is safe and meets all Federal and State drinking water requirements.

### *Water Utility Information*

#### General Information

The original water facilities were constructed by a private company in 1886 and purchased by the City in 1904. Our facilities currently include 5 wells, 6 storage facilities, and 2 booster stations. The Utility is overseen by the City's Public Safety Committee and their monthly meeting is the last Monday of each month. These meetings are open to the public and customers are encouraged to attend.

### *Municipal Drinking Water*

#### Substances in Drinking Water

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, reservoirs, springs, and groundwater. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals, radioactive materials, and substances resulting from human activity. All drinking water, including bottled water, may be reasonably expected to contain minerals and other constituents. It's important to remember that the presence of these materials does not necessarily pose a health risk. More information about contaminants and their respective potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791). The State of Wisconsin requires us to regularly test our water for certain contaminants at varying intervals, some of which are less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants is not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Accordingly, some of our data, though representative, is more than one year old. The data in the Test Results tables provides a summary of the sample results over the past five years.

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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

### *Baraboo's Water*

All of our water is supplied from five groundwater wells that draw water from sandstone and gravel formations hundreds of feet below the surface of the ground. Although the water from each well has different characteristics due to the makeup of the aquifer formation it draws water from, the water is blended together as it moves throughout the distribution system. In 2015 these wells pumped just over 711,121,000 gallons of water, an average of around 1,948,277 gallons per day for use by our customers. To obtain a summary of the source water assessment, please contact us at 608-355-2740.

<i>Well #</i>	2	4	6	7	8
<i>Depth (ft)</i>	300	377	351	185	450

Hardness in water at the wells has a range of 135 mg/l to 342 mg/l (average 231 mg/l) and in the system, it ranges from 138 mg/l to 353 mg/l (average 248 mg/l) (17-18 grains/gal.). pH in water at the wells has a range of 7.12 to 7.86 (average 7.37) and in the system, it ranges from 7.22 to 7.52 (average 7.35).

### **Water Additives**

We currently add chlorine as a disinfectant, fluoride to promote healthy development of teeth, and phosphate for lead and copper control.

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 metal, which can be natural-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.

### **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 2015)	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
HAA5 (ppb)	D-1	60	60	4	4		No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHM (ppb)	D-1	80	0	3.5	3.5		No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 (ppb)	D-9	60	60	5	5		No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHM (ppb)	D-9	80	0	3.9	3.9		No	By-product of drinking water chlorination

#### **RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS**

Contaminant (units)	Site	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2015)	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
GROSS ALPHA, EXCL. R & U (pCi/l)		15	0	4.6	0.7 - 4.6	5/27/2014	No	Erosion of natural deposits
RADIUM, (226 + 228) (pCi/l)		5	0	3.9	1.2 - 3.9	5/27/2014	No	Erosion of natural deposits
GROSS ALPHA, INCL. R & U (n/a)		n/a	n/a	4.6	0.7 - 4.6	5/27/2014	No	Erosion of natural deposits

## 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 2015)
SULFATE (ppm)	16.40	5.15 - 16.40	4/8/2014

## INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS

Contaminant (units)	Site	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2015)	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
ARSENIC (ppb)		10	n/a	1	0 - 1	4/8/2014	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
BARIUM (ppm)		2	2	0.056	0.014 - 0.056	4/8/2014	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
CHROMIUM (ppb)		100	100	2	0 - 2	4/8/2014	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
FLUORIDE (ppm)		4	4	0.5	0.0 - 0.5	4/8/2014	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
MERCURY (ppb)		2	2	0.1	0.1	4/8/2014	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from refineries and factories; Runoff from landfills; Runoff from cropland
NITRATE (N03-N) (ppm)		10	10	4.75	0.31-5.29		No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
SELENIUM (ppb)		50	50	1	0 - 1	4/8/2014	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines
SODIUM (ppm)		n/a	n/a	7.98	2.78 - 7.98	4/8/2014	No	n/a

Contaminant (units)	Action Level	MCLG	90th Percentile Level Found	# of Results	Sample Date (if prior to 2015)	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
COPPER (ppm)	AL=1.3	1.3	0.8610	0 of 30 results were above the action level.	8/19/2014	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
LEAD (ppb)	AL=15	0	7.82	0 of 30 results were above the action level.	8/19/2014	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

## ADDITIONAL HEALTH INFORMATION

*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. Baraboo Waterworks 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](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).*

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.

**Definition of Terms**

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
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 a 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 disinfectant 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.