THE CITY OF ROCKFORD ILLINOIS, USA

2007 WATER QUALITY REPORT

Rockford Water Division

" In this country we expect and demand safe drinking water. The City of Rockford takes pride in our continuing efforts to provide high-quality water and the best available information on water quality."

- Larry Morrissey,
Mayor

Excellence Everywhere

The Rockford Water Division is pleased to provide you this Water Quality Report. If, upon its review, you should have questions or concerns please contact us (see back page for list of contacts). For other information and updates to activities at the Water Division, please visit our web site at www.ci.rockford.il.us.

Source Water

The Illinois EPA considers the source water of Rockford's water supply to be susceptible to contamination. This determination is based on a number of criteria including:

- Monitoring conducted at wells
- Monitoring conducted at the entry point to the distribution system
- Available hydrogeologic data of the wells
- Land-use activities in the recharge area of the wells

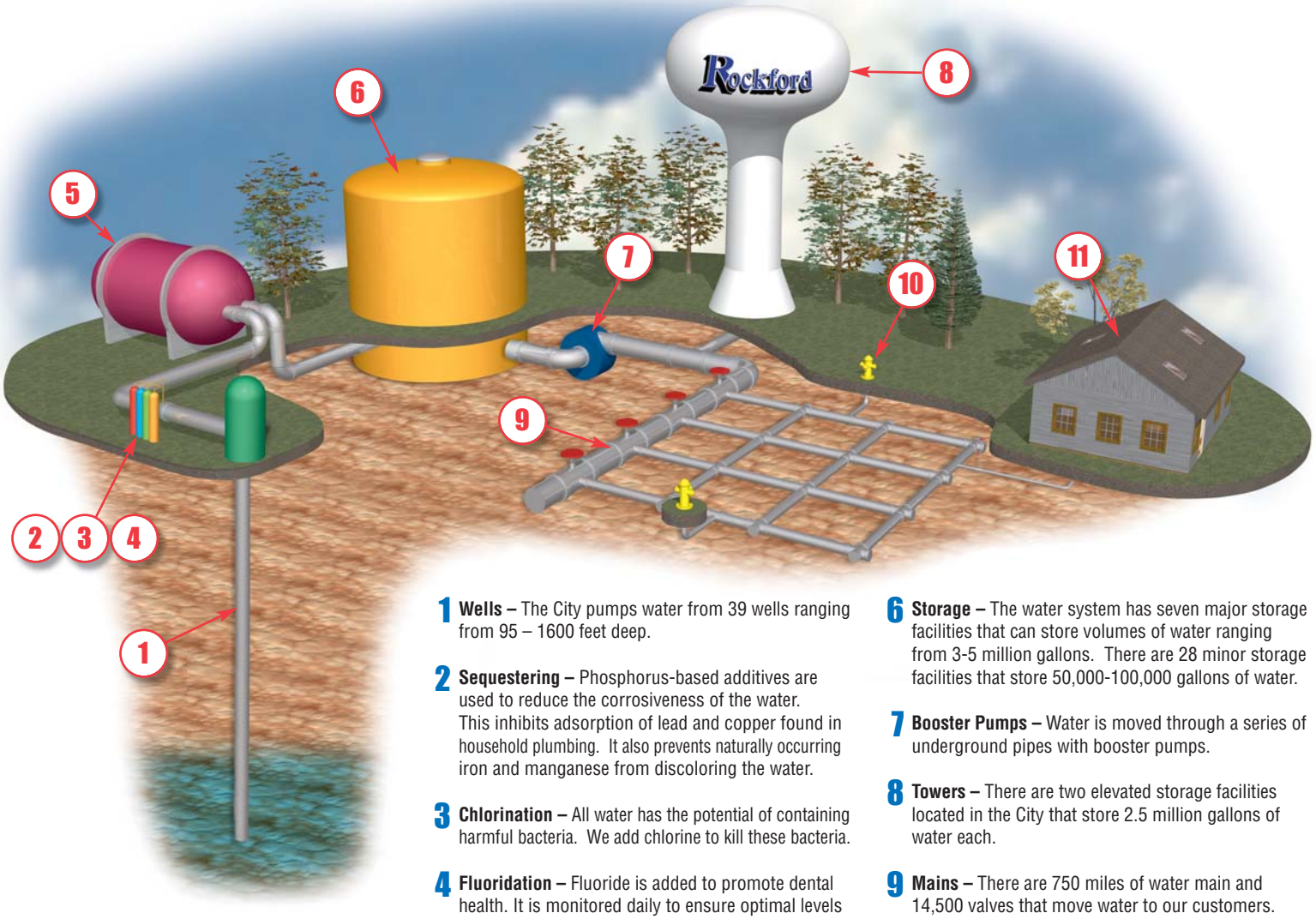
A Source Water Assessment summary is available on request.

Why Did You Receive This Report?

The Rockford Water Division is required to provide this report to all of our customers. Regulations of the Illinois and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribe much of the information it contains. Thus, the focus of this report is Rockford's compliance with drinking water standards. We have also included information of general interest to our water customers

2006 IEPA Tri-Annual Inspection

As a result of their tri-annual inspection in 2006, the Illinois EPA issued a violation notice requiring the repair/replacement of the most deteriorated facilities in our water system. The most significant of these were already scheduled to be addressed in our rehabilitation plan. We are working with Illinois EPA to develop a compliance agreement that is consistent with our rehabilitation project schedule.



1 Wells – The City pumps water from 39 wells ranging from 95 – 1600 feet deep.

2 Sequestering – Phosphorus-based additives are used to reduce the corrosiveness of the water. This inhibits adsorption of lead and copper found in household plumbing. It also prevents naturally occurring iron and manganese from discoloring the water.

3 Chlorination – All water has the potential of containing harmful bacteria. We add chlorine to kill these bacteria.

4 Fluoridation – Fluoride is added to promote dental health. It is monitored daily to ensure optimal levels are maintained.

5 Filtration – Three wells have activated carbon filters to remove low levels of volatile organic compounds. The City's rehabilitation project will involve construction of ten treatment facilities, which will remove iron, and of these ten facilities, three will also remove radium.

6 Storage – The water system has seven major storage facilities that can store volumes of water ranging from 3-5 million gallons. There are 28 minor storage facilities that store 50,000-100,000 gallons of water.

7 Booster Pumps – Water is moved through a series of underground pipes with booster pumps.

8 Towers – There are two elevated storage facilities located in the City that store 2.5 million gallons of water each.

9 Mains – There are 750 miles of water main and 14,500 valves that move water to our customers.

10 Hydrants – There are approximately 5,800 hydrants located in the City.

11 Customers – The City has approximately 52,500 water customers.

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Water Rehabilitation Program Update

Pilot Filtration Studies

The City tested several small-scale versions of filtration systems to evaluate the effectiveness of those systems to remove iron, manganese and radium.

Process equipment was evaluated through a series of three 30-day trials. The results of these trials will be used to complete the design for all 10 treatment plants. The study was completed in February 2007. A report has been submitted to the IEPA.

New Pumping Station

Construction of a new pumping station at the site of the Stanley Street facility (built in 1922) is underway. This project includes a new 1600 foot deep groundwater supply well.

Well Site Rehabilitation

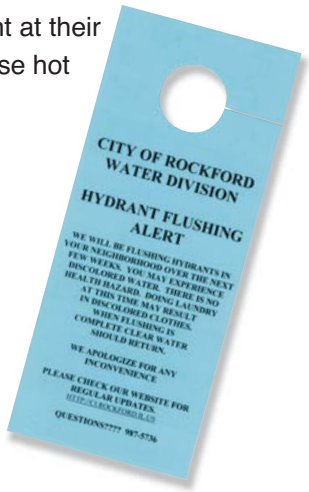
Several of the City's existing wells are undergoing rehabilitation to restore their pumping capacity. This work will continue through summer 2007.

Annual Unidirectional Flushing Program

As a part of the City's preventative maintenance program to remove normal mineral buildup from the pipes that deliver water to customers, we perform a systematic annual citywide flushing of water mains. If not removed, these materials may cause water quality deterioration, taste and odor problems or discoloration of the water. Unidirectional flushing forces water at high velocities in a single direction to produce a scouring action that loosens and removes any sediment buildup including rust deposits.

The annual program runs daily Monday through Thursday during daylight hours until 4:00 pm, weather permitting starting in April and ending in October. Throughout the year localized spot flush jobs are completed to maintain water quality.

Water is safe during flushing, but customers may notice discoloration or sediment at their tap. It is best not to do laundry or use hot water until the water has cleared.



Prior to flushing, notification is provided through:

- Television
- Newspaper
- City of Rockford website
- Door tags

Contact the Water Quality Section at 815-987-5736 or 815-987-5701 with any questions or concerns.

Water Information Sources

City of Rockford
http://www.ci.rockford.il.us

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
http://www.epa.state.il.us

Illinois Department of Public Health
http://www.idph.state.il.us

2006 Water Quality Data: Detected Contaminants

Coliform Bacteria

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	Total Coliform Maximum Contaminant Level	Highest No. of Positive	Fecal Coliform or E. Coli Maximum Contaminant Level	Total No. of Positive E. Coli or Fecal Coliform Samples	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
0	5% of monthly samples are positive	2	Fecal Coliform or E. Coli MCL: A routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one is also fecal coliform or E. coli positive		No	Naturally present in the environment

Lead & Copper

Lead MCLG	Lead Action Level (AL)	Lead 90th Percentile	Number of Sites Over Lead AL	Copper MCLG	Copper Action Level (AL)	Copper 90th Percentile	No. of Sites Over Copper AL	Likely Source of Contamination
0	15 ppb	<5 ppb	1	1.3 ppm	1.3 ppm	0.99 ppm	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Regulated Contaminants

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes]	8/28/2006	4.3	Not Applicable	N/A	80	ppb	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Haloacetic Acids [HAAS]	8/28/2006	0	Not Applicable	N/A	60	ppb	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine	12/31/2006	0.8773	0.4415 - 0.8773	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	ppm		Water additive used to control microbes

Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Arsenic	2/24/2005	7.8	0 - 7.8	0	10	ppb	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from electronics production wastes
While your drinking water meets EPA"s standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA"s standard balances the current understanding of arsenic"s possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.								
Barium	2/24/2005	0.52	0.053 - 0.52	2	2	ppm	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	2/24/2005	1.51	0.35 - 1.51	4	4	ppm	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Fertilizer discharge
Mercury	2/24/2005	0.15	0 - 0.15	2	2	ppb	No	Erosion of naturally occurring deposits, discharge from refineries and factories, runoff from landfills and croplands
Nickel	2/24/2005	50	0 - 50	N/A	N/A	ppb	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching
Nitrate-Nitrite	4/18/2006	3.51	0 - 3.51	10	10	ppm	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (As N)	4/18/2006	3.5	0 - 3.5	10	10	ppm	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

Radioactive Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Alpha Emitters	1/13/2006	16	1.8 - 16	0	15	pCi/L	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Uranium	10/3/2006	3	0.3 - 3	0	30	ppb	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Alpha Emitters (Adjusted)	1/13/2006	15.7	1.1 - 15.7	0	15	pCi/L	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium	1/13/2006	10.4	1.2 - 10.4	0	5	pCi/L	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits

Volatile Organic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene	7/12/2006	15.2	0 - 15.2	70	70	ppb	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
1,1-Dichloroethylene	7/12/2006	5.38	0 - 5.38	7	7	ppb	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
1,1,1-Trichloroethane	7/12/2006	9.44	0 - 9.44	200	200	ppb	No	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
Trichloroethylene	7/12/2006	2.98	0 - 2.98	0	5	ppb	No	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
Tetrachloroethylene	2/14/2006	2.75	0 - 2.75	0	5	ppb	No	Discharge from factories and dry cleaners

State Regulated Contaminants	Date	Detected	Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Sodium	1/24/2005	35	2.2 - 35	N/A	N/A	ppm	No	Erosion of naturally occurring deposits; used in water softener regeneration
Iron	10/13/2006	1120	0 - 1120	N/A	1000	ppb	No	Erosion of naturally occurring deposits
Manganese	4/26/2006	386	125 - 386	N/A	150	ppb	No	Erosion of naturally occurring deposits

NOTE: The state requires monitoring of certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Therefore, some of this data may be more than one year old.

EPA has reviewed the drinking water standard for arsenic because of special concerns that it may not be stringent enough. Arsenic is a naturally occurring mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations.

2006 Violation Summary Table:

Rule or Contaminant	Violation Type	Violation Duration
GROSS ALPHA, INCLUDING RA, EXCLUDING RN & U Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation. Some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.	MCL, AVERAGE, WITHOUT NO. EXCEEDANCE	1/1/2006 To 6/30/2006
RADIUM, COMBINED (226, 228) Some people who drink water containing radium 226 or 228 in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.	MCL, AVERAGE, WITHOUT NO. EXCEEDANCE	1/1/2006 To 12/31/2006

Please refer to page 4 of this brochure for actions Rockford is taking specific to the violation(s) listed above.

Definitions of Terms & Abbreviations Used in the Table

MCLG: Maximum Contamination Level Goal, or 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.

MCL: Maximum Contamination Level, or the highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available technology.

AL: Action Level, or the concentration of the contaminant which when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

n/a: Not applicable.

ppm: Parts per million or milligrams per liter or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.

ppb: Parts per billion or micrograms per liter or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.

pCi/l: Picocuries per liter, used to measure radioactivity.

MRDL: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level, or the highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water.

MRDLG: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal, or the level of disinfectant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Avg: Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.

Information About Inorganic Contaminants

Iron: This contaminant is not currently regulated by USEPA. However, the state has set an MCL for this contaminant for supplies serving a population of 1000 or more.

Manganese: This contaminant is not currently regulated by USEPA. However, the state has set an MCL for this contaminant for supplies serving a population of 1000 or more.

Sodium: There is not a state or federal MCL for sodium. Monitoring is required to provide information to consumers and health officials that are concerned about sodium intake due to dietary precautions. If you are on a sodium-restricted diet, you should consult your physician about this level of sodium in the water.

Additional 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 USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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 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. USEPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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 materials, and pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity. Possible contaminants consist of:

- **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 may 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 may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems; and
- **Radioactive contaminants,** which may 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, USEPA 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 must provide the same protection for public health.

Is our water safe to drink?

Yes, Rockford's water is safe to drink.

This past year, Rockford received a violation notice from the Illinois EPA for exceeding the drinking water standard for radium and gross alpha. In response, we notified our customers of the violation as required by law, identifying the wells that exceeded the standard.

The EPA and other health experts believe the levels found in our wells do not pose an immediate health threat. In May 2005, the City entered into an agreement with the Illinois EPA to make improvements that will reduce these levels in the drinking water.

WATER USE IT WISELY

TAP INTO QUALITY

Need help?

Service Problems, Leaks, etc.
Call Customer Service **815-987-5700**

Water Quality
Call Water Production **815-987-5736**

Billing Problems
Call Rockford Finance Dept. . . **815-987-5700**

After Hours Emergencies
Call Public Works . . . . . **.815-987-5712**

We invite public comment about water issues. Find out more about the Rockford Water Division on the Internet at www.ci.rockford.il.us or contact Water Quality at (815)-987-5736 or (815)-987-5701.

El informe contiene información importante sobre la calidad del aqua en su comunidad. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.