

Milwaukee Water Works

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EPA Endorses Milwaukee Drinking Water Quality

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has endorsed Milwaukee's drinking water as among the highest quality in the nation, according to the Milwaukee Water Works (MWW) annual Safe Drinking Water Report.

Milwaukee's decision to invest in ozone disinfection and to continually monitor water quality has also paid off for consumers who rely on a low-cost supply of safe drinking water, said MWW Superintendent Carrie Lewis. The EPA notified the Water Works in January that its water treatment and monitoring systems are in full compliance – five years ahead of time – with new regulations to control disinfection byproducts.

The Milwaukee Safe Drinking Water Report is being distributed by mail to the utility's customers. The Consumer Confidence Report is required by the EPA to encourage consumers to consider the challenges and costs of delivering safe drinking water, and to help protect their water source and the environment. The report indicates Milwaukee's water quality exceeds all state and federal health standards for drinking water, without exception.

While many public water suppliers must promptly set up and pay for additional water quality monitoring to meet new EPA regulations that go into effect in 2012, Milwaukee has only to continue to report data from its monitoring program that was put in place nearly 10 years ago. The waiver of additional testing means the utility has already earned the right to continue its current practices of periodic testing of its distribution system.

The Water Works treats Lake Michigan water with a multiple-step process to protect public health. Ozone gas, one of the most powerful disinfectants available, destroys microorganisms, reduces chlorinated disinfection byproducts, and removes taste and odor. Coagulation, settling, and filtration remove additional particles. Fluoride is added for dental health. The water is fresh and pure every day.

The Safe Drinking Water Report, in English and Spanish, also is available at city government offices, health centers, libraries, and community centers. It can be found on the Milwaukee Water Works' website, <http://water.mpw.net/files/O6MWW-CCR.pdf>

Only tap water delivers public health protection, water for fire suppression, and support for the economy and the quality of life we enjoy in Milwaukee.

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Safe, Abundant Drinking Water.