

# *The Water We Drink*

## *Consumer Confidence Report 2008*

### General Information

Reedsburg Utility Commission is very pleased to present this years Annual Quality Water Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our water source is six ground water wells. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. I'm pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets Federal and State requirements.

Reedsburg water utility routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The table below shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. It's important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk.

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are typically held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at 4:00 P.M. The location is the utility building at 501 Utility Court. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Dave Mikonowicz or Jon Craker at 524-4381.

We at the Reedsburg Water Utility work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life, and our children's future.

*Additional copies of this report are available at [www.reedsburgutility.com](http://www.reedsburgutility.com) and our office.*

### 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 Environmental Protection Agency's safe drinking water hotline (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. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Environmental Protection Agency's safe drinking water hotline (800-426-4791).

### Source(s) of Water

Source ID	Source	Depth (in feet)
1	Groundwater	490
2	Groundwater	368
3	Groundwater	490
4	Groundwater	400
6	Groundwater	310
7	Groundwater	515

A summary of the source water assessment for REEDSBURG WATERWORKS is available:  
[http://prodoasext.dnr.wi.gov/inter1/pk\\_swap\\_web.p\\_swap\\_summary?i\\_ro\\_seq\\_n o=136628](http://prodoasext.dnr.wi.gov/inter1/pk_swap_web.p_swap_summary?i_ro_seq_n o=136628)

### Educational Information

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 animals or from human activity.

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.

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.

## Number of Contaminants Required to be Tested

This table displays the number of contaminants that were required to be tested in the last five years. The CCR may contain up to five years worth of water quality results. If a water system tests annually, or more frequently, the results from the most recent year are shown on the CCR. If testing is done less frequently, the results shown on the CCR are from the past five years.

Contaminant Group	# of Contaminants
Inorganic Contaminants	17
Microbiological Contaminants	1
Radioactive Contaminants	2
Synthetic Organic Contaminants including Pesticides and Herbicides	29
Unregulated Contaminants	4
Disinfection Byproducts	1
Volatile Organic Contaminants	21

## Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Level Found (average)	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2008)	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
ARSENIC (ppb)	50	n/a	0	nd-1		NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
BARIUM (ppb)	2000	2000	13.55	9.1-25		NO	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
CHROMIUM (ppb)	100	100	2.28	1.8-2.6		NO	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
COPPER (ppb)	AL=1300	1300	378	70-1000		NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
FLUORIDE (ppm)	4	4	1.2	1.1-1.2		NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
LEAD (ppb)	AL=15	0	1.18	nd-13.00		NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

NICKEL (ppb)	100		1.828	.77-3.2		NO	Nickel occurs naturally in soils, ground water and surface waters and is often used in electroplating, stainless steel and alloy products.
NITRATE (N03-N) (ppm)	10	10	2.20	.047-3.8		NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
SODIUM (ppm)	n/a	n/a	4.93	1.30-15		NO	n/a

## Lead in Drinking Water 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. Reedsburg Utility Commission 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, test methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.eps.gov/safewater.lead>.

## Radioactive Contaminants

Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Level Found (average)	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2008)	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
GROSS ALPHA, EXCL. R & U (pCi/l)	15	0	2.13	1.8-2.7		NO	Erosion of natural deposits

## Volatile Organic Contaminants

TTHM(ppb)	80	n/a	5.8 avg.	1.7-11.0	7/23/07	NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination
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## Additional Chemical Analyses

Chemical	Level	Range
ALKALINITY, total (ppm)	119 avg.	100 - 200 Ideal
HARDNESS, total (ppm)	130 avg.	100 - 200 Ideal
ph Value (lab)	7.1 avg.	7 - 8.5 Ideal

## Unregulated Contaminants

Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2008)	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
BROMODICHLOROMETHANE (ppb)	n/a	n/a	1.66 avg.	nd-4.0	7/23/07	NO	n/a
BROMOFORM (ppb)	n/a	n/a	.12 avg.	nd-.32	7/23/07	NO	n/a
CHLOROFORM (ppb)	n/a	n/a	1.87 avg.	.19-5.2	7/23/07	NO	n/a
DIBROMOCHLOROMETHANE (ppb)	n/a	n/a	1.03 avg.	nd-1.9	7/23/07	NO	n/a

## Additional Health Information

**Nitrate** in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than 6 months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant you should ask advice from your health care provider.

## Additional Testing Information

Over 120 **Total Coliform** samples were taken from our system this past year. All samples were submitted to the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene, all results were **Safe**.

## Definition of Terms

Term	Definition
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
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.
nd	Not Detected