Madison, SD- 1999 Water Quality Report

Last year, we tested for more than 8O drinking water contaminants. This brochure is a snapshot of the quality of the water that we provided last year. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

Water Source

We serve more than 6400 customers an average of 480,000 gallons of water per day. Our water is groundwater that we produce from local wells. The state of South Dakota is performing an assessment of our source water that will be completed by May 2003. We will report the results to you and tell you how to get a copy of the report when it is available.

For more information about your water and information on opportunities to participate in public meetings, or for public/educational tours of the municipal water treatment plant, call (605) 256-7515 and ask for Jerry Mikel.

Additional 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 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 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.

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 or contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessary 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 (800-426479I).

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 can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Detected Contaminants

The following table lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 1999 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1 to December 31, 1999. The state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old.

1999 Table of Detected Contaminants for Madison

Terms and abbreviations used in this table:

- Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): 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.
- Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to thc MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

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

Regulated Contaminants

Substance	Highest Level Detected	Range	Date Last Tested (If prior to 1999)	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Major Source of Contaminant
Copper	0.05	#Sites>l.3 AL - 0		AL=1.3	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead	3.40	#Sites>15 AL - 0		AL=15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
Alpha emitters	0.6		03/04/I 997	15	0	Erosion of natural deposits.

Unregulated Contaminants

Substance	Highest Level Detected	Range	Date Last Tested (If prior to 1999)
Bromodichloromethane	6.5		
Bromoform	16.8		
Chloroform	4.61		
Dibromochloromethane	22.7		

WE DON'T TAKE OUR DRINKING WATER FOR GRANTED, DO YOU?