

2008 Water Quality Report
Northern Hills Utilities, Inc. - Northern Hills Subdivision
PWS# 1775050

We are pleased to provide you with the 2008 Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you of the quality of water we delivered to you over the past year. Our goal is to provide you a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. Our wells draw from the sandstone, red shale, and limestone aquifer in Stephenson County. An aquifer is a geological formation that contains water.

Northern Hills Utilities, Inc. routinely monitors for components in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This report covers the period of January 1 to December 31, 2008. Since there were no violations for this period, we are pleased to report that our drinking water meets all federal and state requirements.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. 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: (A) *Microbial contaminants*, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife. (B) *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. (C) *Pesticides and herbicides*, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses. (D) *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. (E) *Radioactive contaminants*, which can be naturally-occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

All 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 the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

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.

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. Northern Hills Utilities, Inc. 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 <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Northern Hills Utilities, Inc. does not have regularly scheduled meetings. If you have any questions about this report or your water utility, please contact customer service at 1-800-831-2359. We want our customers to be informed. 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.

2008 Source Water Assessment

Based on information obtained in a Well Site Survey published by the Illinois EPA, there are no potential sources within 1,000 feet of the wells.

The Illinois EPA has determined that the Northern Hills community water supply's source water is susceptible to contamination. This determination is based on a number of criteria including; monitoring conducted at the well; monitoring conducted at the entry point to the distribution system; and available hydro geologic data on the well. The Illinois Environmental Protection Act provides minimum setback zones of 400 feet for your wells. The Illinois EPA regulates these minimum setback zones.

To further minimize the risk to the facility's groundwater supply, the Illinois EPA recommends that four additional activities be assessed. First, the water supply may wish to enact a "maximum setback zone" ordinance. These ordinances are authorized by the Illinois Environmental Protection Act and allow Stephenson County officials the opportunity to provide additional protection up to a fixed distance, normally 1,000 feet from their wells. Second, the water supply staff may wish to revisit their contingency planning documents. Contingency planning documents are a primary means to ensure that, through emergency preparedness, a community will minimize their risk of being without safe and adequate water. Third, the water supply staff is encouraged to review their cross connection control program to ensure that it remains current and viable. Cross connection to either the water treatment plant (for example, at bulk water loading stations) or in the distribution system may negate all source water protection initiatives provided by the community. Finally, Northern Hills' community water supply should obtain aquifer property data and groundwater flow direction information so the recharge areas for wells #1 and #2 can be mapped. This information can be obtained by completing pump tests on your wells and completing mass water level measurements on wells finished in the aquifer being utilized.

Further information on our community water supply's source water assessment is available on the USGS web site at <http://il.water.usgs.gov> the Groundwater Section of the Illinois EPA at 217-785-4787.

2008 Water Quality Data

Lead and Copper Definitions: Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. Action Level Goal (ALG): the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALG's allow for a margin of safety.								
Lead MCLG	Lead Action Level (AL)	Lead 90th Percentile	# Sites Over Lead AL	Copper MCLG	Copper Action Level (AL)	Copper 90th Percentile	#Sites Over Copper AL	Likely Source of Contamination
0 ppb	15 ppb	3.34 ppb	0	1.3 ppm	1.3ppm	0.403 ppm	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Definition of Terms:

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

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

Highest Level: This column represents the highest sample result data collected during the CCR calendar year.

Range of Detections: This column represents a range of individual sample results; from lowest to highest that were collected during the CCR calendar year.

Date of Sample: If a date appears in this column, the Illinois EPA requires monitoring for this contaminant less than once per year because the concentrations do not frequently change. If no date appears in the column, monitoring for this contaminant was conducted during the CCR calendar year.

mg/l: milligrams per liter or parts per million - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.

ug/l: micrograms per liter or parts per billion - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.

pCi/l – picocuries per liter, used to measure radioactivity

nd: Not detectable at testing limits.

n/a: Not applicable.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MDL): The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of disinfectant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCDLG's allow for a margin of safety.

TEST RESULTS (Collected in 2005 unless noted)								
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Date Collected	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Likely Source of Contamination
Radioactive Contaminants								
Gross Alpha	N	10/2/2008	0.9	n/a	0	15	pCi/L	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta	N	10/2/2008	0.9	n/a	0	4	mR/Yr	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226	N	10/2/2008	0.9	n/a	0	n/a	pCi/L	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228	N	10/2/2008	2.0	n/a	0	n/a	pCi/l	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium	N	10/2/2008	2.9	n/a	0	5	pCi/l	Erosion of natural deposits
Inorganic Contaminants								
Barium	N	1/3/2008	0.031	n/a	2	2	ppm	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	N	Daily	1.4	0.9-1.4	4	4	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; fertilizer discharge
State Regulated Contaminants								
Nitrite as N	N	10/2/2008	0.34	0.34	n/a	10	ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use ;leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate as N	N	10/2/2008	0.30	02-0.3	n/a	10	ppm	
Iron	N	1/3/2008	500	n/a	n/a	1000	ppb	Erosion from naturally occurring deposits
Sodium	N	1/3/2008	3.5	n/a	n/a	n/a	ppm	Erosion of naturally occurring deposits; used as water softener regeneration

Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products								
TTHM's (Total trihalomethanes)	N	6/14/2006	<2	n/a	n/a	80	ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA ₅ (Haloacetic Acids)	N	6/14/2006	<14	n/a	n/a	60	ppb	By-products of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine	N	Daily	1.3	0.4-1.3	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	ppm	Water additive used to control microbes

Water Quality Data Table Footnotes

Unit of Measurement:

ppm – parts per million, or milligrams per liter
 ppb – parts per billion, or micrograms per liter

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 1,000 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 1,000 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 a physician about this level of sodium in the water. You should consult a physician about this level of sodium in the water.

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.

2008 Violation Summary Table

<i>Violation Description</i>	<i>Start</i>	<i>End</i>
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No drinking water quality violations were recorded during 2008.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua beber. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.