

# 2009 WATER QUALITY REPORT

## Brown Deer Water Utility

### ABOUT BROWN DEER'S WATER

Brown Deer purchases its water from the City of Milwaukee. The source of our drinking water is Lake Michigan. It is treated at the Linnwood Water Treatment Plant. Water travels through a network of 65 miles of underground mains to your home. Although we purchase our water wholesale from Milwaukee, the Brown Deer Water Utility controls its distribution once it enters Brown Deer.

Lake Michigan is a surface water source. Contaminants would be expected in untreated surface water. As water flows through rivers, lakes and over land, naturally occurring substances dissolve in the water. Animal and/or human activities can also affect the water. These substances are called contaminants. Surface water sources may be highly susceptible to contaminants. Contaminants that might be expected in *untreated* water include: inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals; biological contaminants, such as viruses, protozoa and bacteria; organic chemicals from industrial or petroleum use; pesticides and herbicides; and radioactive materials.

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. Milwaukee Water Works (MWW) aggressively tests and monitors its drinking water in an effort to protect public health. MWW provides drinking water of the finest quality to 823,000 people in 14 communities. Their water meets standards more stringent than federal and state water quality requirements.

### CUSTOMER QUESTIONS WELCOME

If you are interested in learning about water quality and the treatment of our drinking water, there are several opportunities available. Please visit our website at [www.browndeerwi.org](http://www.browndeerwi.org) if you have questions about water rates, meter replacements, main or hydrant maintenance, as well as other topics. Or you can contact Brown Deer Water at (414) 371-3080. If you are interested in a water quality report in another language or tour information, you can contact the Milwaukee Water Works Customer Service Department at (414) 286-2830. Results are available for UCMR compounds by contacting the Utility. Milwaukee Water Works also has a webpage at [www.water.mpw.net](http://www.water.mpw.net).

### CRYPTOSPORIDIUM

*Cryptosporidium* is a microscopic protozoan that, when ingested, can result in diarrhea, fever, and other gastrointestinal symptoms. The Milwaukee Health Department and the Milwaukee Water Works have tested both raw and treated drinking water for *Cryptosporidium* since 1993. The organism is found in many surface water sources and comes from animal wastes in the watershed. *Cryptosporidium* is eliminated by an effective treatment combination including ozonation, coagulation, sedimentation, filtration and disinfection.

### LEAD AND COPPER

Brown Deer has no lead mains or service lines, which helps protect Village residents from a possible source of lead contamination. Corrosion of home plumbing causes copper and lead to enter the drinking water. Since 1995, none of the homes sampled in Brown Deer has tested above the action level of 15 parts per billion of lead and 1300 parts per billion of copper.

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to the effects of lead and copper in drinking water. Flush your faucet for at least 30 seconds before using tap water to help reduce lead and copper that may have entered water standing in your plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead and copper levels in your home's water you may wish to have your water tested by a local certified lab. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791

In addition to Lead and Copper sampling, the Brown Deer Water Utility also takes several monthly water samples to check chlorine levels and check for the presence of bacteria.

### IMMUNO-COMPROMISED PERSONS

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, such as persons undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly persons and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their healthcare providers. Additional information is available from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) (<http://www.cdc.gov/>).

### PHARMACEUTICAL & PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS

Milwaukee Water Works expanded its water quality testing to include organisms & contaminants not yet regulated but considered an "emerging concern". These included endocrine disrupting & pharmaceutical personal care products. Ozone, the primary disinfectant MWW uses in water treatment has been shown to destroy many of these compounds. None of the items tested for were detected in Milwaukee's drinking water. . More information is available at <http://water.mpw.net/3faqsquality.htm>.

### HYDRANT FLUSHING

The Utility will be flushing hydrants again in 2010. Called "uni-directional flushing", it involves operating system valves, as well as the fire hydrants. The process helps clean mains and brings fresher water into the neighborhood. We will start the "Big Flush" early this summer. After you see us in your area you may want to clean your private water lateral and plumbing by flushing all plumbing fixtures, cleaning faucet screens and inspecting your plumbing for leaks.

*Brown Deer Water Commissioners:* Gerald Anderson, Walter Baehr (Pres.), Zach Beanland, Ken Harmon, & Tim Schilz. *Brown Deer Water Superintendent:* Mike Rau