

## Annual Water Quality Report 2017

### Message from Steve Lubertozzi, President

Dear Utilities Services of Illinois, Inc. Customers,

I am pleased to share your Annual Water Quality Report for 2017. This report is designed to inform you of the quality of water we delivered to you over the past year. As the local President of your community water utility, we fully appreciate our role in the local community. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources.

Our team is committed to providing safe, reliable and cost effective service to our customers. All of our employees share in our commitment to act with integrity, protect the environment, and enhance the local community.

**We are proud to share this report which is based on water quality testing through December 2017. We continually strive to supply water that meets or exceeds all federal and state water quality regulations.**

Our dedicated local team of water quality experts is working in the community everyday ensuring that you, our customer, are our top priority and that we are providing the highest quality service - now and in the years to come.

Best regards,



Visit us online at [www.uiwater.com/illinois](http://www.uiwater.com/illinois) to view the Water Quality Reports. Also visit our website for e-billing sign up, water conservation tips and other educational material.

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

### The Safe Drinking Water Act

The **Safe Drinking Water Act** was passed in 1974 due to congressional concerns about organic chemical contaminants in drinking water and the inefficient manner by which states supervised and monitored drinking water supplies. Congress' aim was to assure that all citizens served by public water systems would be provided high quality water. As a result, the EPA set enforceable standards for health-related drinking water contaminants. The Act also established programs to protect underground sources of drinking water from contamination.

### Source of Drinking Water

The source of drinking water used by Oakwood is Surface Water which draws water from the Salt Fork and Oakwood Reservoir through two surface water intakes.

### Source Water Assessment (SWA)

The source water assessment for our supply has been completed by the Illinois EPA. To view a summary version of the completed SWA, including: Importance of Source Water; Susceptibility to Contamination Determination; and documentation/recommendation of Source Water Protection Efforts, you may access the Illinois EPA website at [www.epa.state.il.us/cgi-bin/wp/swap-fact-sheets.pl](http://www.epa.state.il.us/cgi-bin/wp/swap-fact-sheets.pl) or by contacting the Groundwater Section of the Illinois EPA at 217-785-4787.

Illinois EPA considers all surface water sources of community water supply to be susceptible to potential pollution problems, hence, the reason for mandatory treatment for all surface water supplies in Illinois. Mandatory treatment includes coagulation, sedimentation, filtration, and disinfection. In addition, agricultural runoff within the Vermillion River Basin contributes to the susceptibility of the Oakwood intakes.

### Help Protect our Resources

Help put a stop to the more than **1 trillion gallons of water lost annually** nationwide due to household leaks. These easy to fix leaks waste the average family the amount of water used to fill a backyard swimming pool each year. Plumbing leaks can run up your family's water bill an extra 10 percent or more, but chasing down these water and money wasting culprits is as easy as 1—2—3. Simply check, twist, and replace your way to fewer leaks and more water savings:

- ⇒ **Check** for silent leaks in the toilet with a few drops of food coloring in the tank, and check your sprinkler system for winter damage.
- ⇒ **Twist** faucet valves; tighten pipe connections; and secure your hose to the spigot. For additional savings, twist a WaterSense labeled aerator onto each bathroom faucet to save water without noticing a difference in flow. They can save a household more than 500 gallons each year—equivalent to the amount water used to shower 180 times!
- ⇒ **Replace** old plumbing fixtures and irrigation controllers that are wasting water with WaterSense labeled models that are independently certified to use 20 percent less water and perform well.

## EPA Wants You To Know

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 be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

## What measures are in place to ensure water is safe to drink?

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, U.S. EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that shall 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 necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects may be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

## Special notice from EPA for the elderly, infants, cancer patients and people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system problems

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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

## Information Concerning Lead in Water

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. Utilities Services of Illinois, 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 [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

Water that remains stationary within your home plumbing for extended periods of time can leach lead out of pipes joined with lead-containing solder as well as brass fixtures or galvanized pipes. Flushing fixtures has been found to be an effective means of reducing lead levels. The flushing process could take from 30 seconds to 2 minutes or longer until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature. Faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free," may contribute lead to drinking water. Consumers should be aware of this when choosing fixtures and take appropriate precautions. Visit the NSF Web site at [www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org) to learn more about lead-containing plumbing fixtures.

## If You Have Questions Or Want To Get Involved

Utilities Services of Illinois, Inc. does not hold regular public meetings. If you have any questions about this report or your water utility, please contact customer service at 1-800-831-2359.

## Drain Disposal Information

Sewer overflows and backups can cause health hazards, damage home interiors, and threaten the environment. A common cause is sewer pipes blocked by grease, which gets into the sewer from household drains. Grease sticks to the insides of pipes. Over time, the grease can build up and block the entire pipe. Help solve the grease problem by keeping this material out of the sewer system in the first place:

- Never pour grease down sink drains or into toilets. Scrape grease into a can or trash.
- Put strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps / solids for disposal.

## Prescription Medication and Hazardous Waste

Household products such as paints, cleaners, oils, and pesticides, are considered to be household hazardous waste. Prescription and over-the-counter drugs poured down the sink or flushed down the toilet can pass through the wastewater treatment system and enter rivers and lakes (or leach into the ground and seep into groundwater in a septic system). Follow the directions for proper disposal procedures. **Do not flush hazardous waste or prescription and over-the-counter drugs down the toilet or drain.** They may flow downstream to serve as sources for community drinking water supplies. Many communities offer a variety of options for conveniently and safely managing these items. For more information, visit the EPA website at: [www.epa.gov/hw/household-hazardous-waste-hhw](http://www.epa.gov/hw/household-hazardous-waste-hhw).

## Key to Water Quality Terms

In order to help you understand this report, we want you to understand a few terms and abbreviations that are contained in it.

- **Action level (AL)** - action level is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **Maximum contaminant level (MCL)** - The maximum contaminant level is 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.
- **Maximum contaminant level goal (MCLG)** - The "goal" is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Goal (MRDLG):** The Level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.
- **Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)** - Nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.
- **Non-Detects (ND)** – laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.
- **Not-Applicable (N/A)** – Information not applicable/not required for that particular water system or for that particular Rule.
- **Parts per million (ppm) or milligrams per liter (mg/l)** - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

- **Parts per billion (ppb) or micrograms per liter (ug/l)** - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years or a single penny in \$10,000,000.
- **Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)** – picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.
- **Treatment Technique (TT)** - A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- **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
- **Avg** - Regulatory compliance with some MCLs is based on running annual average of monthly samples .

[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.](#)

*Utilities Services of Illinois, Inc.* routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. Unless otherwise noted, the tables that follow show the results of our monitoring for the period of **January 1st to December 31st, 2017**. As authorized and approved by EPA, the State has reduced monitoring requirements for certain contaminants to less often than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of our data [e.g., for organic contaminants], though representative, are more than one year old. Data obtained before January 1, 2017, and presented in this report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules and regulations.

*Note: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires monitoring of over 80 drinking water contaminants. Those contaminants listed in the table below are the only contaminants detected in your drinking water.*

## Water Quality Test Results

### Lead and Copper

Contaminant	Date Sampled	MCLG (ALG)	Action Level (AL)	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	2016	1.3	1.3	0.19	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead	2016	0	15	2.7	0	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

### Disinfectants & Disinfection Byproducts

Contaminant	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	12/31/2017	0.7	0.4 – 1.14	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2017	48	30.7 – 70.7*	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHM]	2017	68	33.6 – 94.2**	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination

*\*Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.*

*\*\*Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.*

### Coliform Bacteria

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	Total Coliform Maximum Contaminant Level	Highest No of Positive	Fecal Coliform or E. Coli Maximum Contaminant Level	Total No. of Positive E. Coli or Fecal Coliform Samples	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
0	1 positive monthly samples	1	TT	0	N	Naturally present in the environment

If a system collecting fewer than 40 samples per month has two or more positive samples in one month, an assessment is required. Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system.

## Water Quality Test Results

Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Barium	2017	0.027	N/A	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	2017	0.7	0.746 - 0.746	4	4	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (Measured as Nitrogen)	2017	7	1.7 – 6.9	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
<i>Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six 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.</i>								
Sodium	2017	21	N/A	N/A	N/A	ppm	N	Erosion from naturally occurring deposits; used in water softener regeneration
Atrazine	2017	0.9	0 – 0.9	3	3	ppb	N	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Total Organic Carbon (TOC)	2014	2.5 (AVG)	1.8 – 3.3	N/A	TT	ppm	N	Naturally present in the environment
<i>The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month and the system met all TOC removal requirements set by IEPA.</i>								
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>								
Combined Radium 226/228	2/4/2015	0.507	N/A	0	5	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium	2/4/2015	0.503	N/A	0	15	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>State Regulated Contaminants</b>								
Iron	2015	0.011	N/A	N/A	N/A	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Turbidity</b>								
Turbidity	Collection Date	Level Detected	Limit (Treatment Technique)	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination			
Highest single measurement	2017	0.405 NTU	1 NTU	N	Soil runoff			
Lowest monthly % meeting limit	2017	100%	0.3 NTU	N	Soil runoff			
<i>Turbidity is a measurement of the cloudiness of the water caused by suspended particles. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of the filtration system and disinfectants.</i>								

### Water Quality Footnotes:

**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 1000 or more. Excessive iron in water may cause staining of laundry & plumbing fixtures & may accumulate as deposits in the distribution system. The utility treats the water with an iron sequestering agent to alleviate this aesthetic characteristic.

**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.

### Violations

In 2017, Utilities Services of Illinois, Inc. performed all required monitoring for contaminants and did not exceed any allowable levels of these contaminants. In addition, Utilities Services of Illinois, Inc. received no violations and was in compliance with applicable testing and reporting requirements.

