

A woman with dark curly hair, wearing a brown patterned dress and a bracelet, is adjusting a large white and black microscope in a laboratory. She is looking upwards and to the right. The background shows wooden cabinets and a tiled wall.

**Saint Paul Regional
Water Services**

**Water Quality
Report
2009**

Chemical costs for water treatment rise

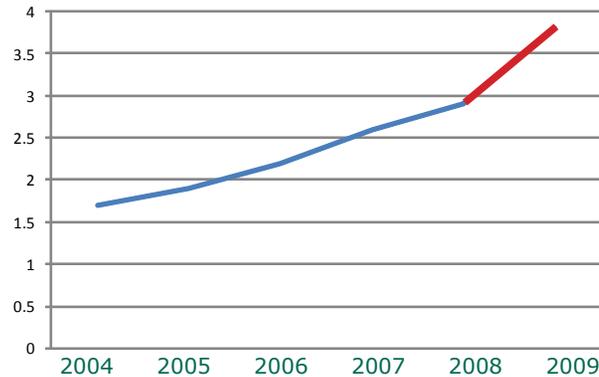
Water quality is our number one goal. We strive to provide you with quality water at a reasonable price.

Even with our efforts to be as efficient as possible, the price of the chemicals used to treat your water has risen dramatically over the past five years—nearly 125 percent.

We are projecting the cost of the chemicals used to treat the water to reach \$3.8 million this year. This is a substantial increase from the \$1.7 million we spent in 2004.

These are basic water treatment expenses that make it possible for us to provide you with the quality water essential for daily life.

Chemical Costs 2004 — 2009
(in millions of dollars)



Unfortunately, our increased costs affect your water rates.

We are committed to providing you with quality water at the most reasonable prices possible, even as we face these additional challenges.

SPRWS water samples free of Cryptosporidium

We are pleased to announce that water samples taken from our source water do not contain *Cryptosporidium*. This organism can cause gastrointestinal illness (diarrhea, vomiting, cramps, etc.)

Because no *Cryptosporidium* was found in any of the samples, SPRWS faces no additional treatment requirements.

The testing was done as part of EPA



regulations called the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule.

The rule requires water systems to monitor their incoming source water for *Cryptosporidium*.

From October 2006 through September 2008, SPRWS had 48 water samples from Vadnais Lake analyzed.

No *Cryptosporidium* was found.

SPRWS maintains Partnership for Safe Water Directors Award

Utility is one of four in the country to earn 10-year status

Saint Paul Regional Water Services once again earned the Directors Award of recognition from the Partnership for Safe Water. SPRWS has maintained the Directors Award for 10 years, an honor achieved by only three other water utilities across the country at the time of the award.

“Maintaining Directors Award status for 10 years demonstrates our philosophy of constant vigilance to improve water quality,” said Steve Schneider, general manager. “We are thrilled to receive national recognition for this ongoing commitment.”

The Partnership for Safe Water is a national volunteer initiative developed by the EPA and other water organizations representing water suppliers striving to provide their communities with drinking water quality that surpasses the required federal standards.

The Directors Award is presented to water systems that have completed a successful review in the Partnership’s Self-Assessment and Peer Review phase in which utilities examine the capabilities of their treatment plant operation and administration and then create a plan for implementing improvements.

Key to Chart

- MCL** **Maximum Contaminant Level.**
The highest level allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLG as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- MCLG** **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal.**
Below this level there is no known or expected health risk. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- NR** **Not Regulated.** Monitoring is required by the Minnesota Health Department. No limits have been set for this substance.
- R** **Regulated.**
- NA** **Not Applicable.**
- AL** **Action Level.**
An amount of a contaminant, that if exceeded, triggers a specific response that the water system must follow.
- TT** **Treatment Technique.** A required process intended to reduce the level of a substance in drinking water.
- ppb** **Parts Per Billion.** Units of a substance, in pure form, found in every billion units of water.
- ppm** **Parts Per Million.** Units of a substance, in pure form, found in every million units of water.
- NTU** **Nephelometric Turbidity Unit.**
A measure of water clarity. A good indicator of filtration effectiveness.
- MRDL** **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level.**
- MRDLG** **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal.**
- 90%** **90th Percentile Level.** This is the value obtained after disregarding the 10 percent of the samples taken that had the highest levels.
- HRL** **Health Risk Limit.** Used to assess unregulated contaminants, which do not have MCLs. If unacceptable levels of an unregulated contaminant are found, the response is the same as if an MCL has been exceeded; the utility must inform its customers and take corrective action.

* This is the value used to determine compliance with federal standards. It sometimes is the highest value detected and sometimes is an average of all detected values. If it is an average, it may contain sampling from a previous year.

2008 SPRWS Water Quality Test Results

Saint Paul Regional Water Services is issuing the results of monitoring done on its drinking water during the testing period from Jan. 1, 2008 to Dec. 31, 2008.

No contaminants were detected at levels that violated federal drinking water standards.

Some contaminants were detected in trace amounts that were below legal limits. These substances are shown on the table.

Some contaminants are sampled less frequently than once a year; as a result, not all

contaminants were sampled for in 2008.

If any of these contaminants were detected the last time they were sampled, they are included in the table along with the date the detection occurred.

Contaminants that have not been detected in the reporting period are not listed.

The purpose of this report is to advance consumers' understanding of drinking water and heighten awareness of the need to protect precious water resources.

Detected Substance	Amount Detected*	Allowed (MCL)	MCLG	Typical Source of Substance	Type	Meets Standards?
Total Coliform Bacteria	1.0 %	Present in ≤ 5% of monthly samples	0 present	Naturally present in the environment	R	Yes
Trihalomethanes (Total TTHM) (ppb)	Avg. = 34.6 18.4 – 53.3	80	0	Disinfection by-product	R	Yes
Nitrate as Nitrogen (ppm)	0.66	10	10	Fertilizer, sewer, natural deposits	R	Yes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	Avg. = 18.2 6.6 – 27.4	60	0	Disinfection by-product	R	Yes
Fluoride (ppm)	Avg. = 1.23 1.0 – 1.3	4	4	State mandated dental health additive, fertilizer, aluminum factory discharge	R	Yes
Chlorine (ppm)	Avg. = 2.61 2.2 – 2.8	4 MRDL	4 MRDLG	Microbe control additive	R	Yes
Lead (ppb)	11 (4 of 52 sites over AL)	Action Level = 15	NA	Corrosion of home plumbing	R	Yes
Copper (ppm)	0.044 (0 of 52 sites over AL)	Action Level = 1.3	NA	Corrosion of home plumbing	R	Yes
Turbidity (NTU)	Max 0.07 (limit met 100%)	TT	NA	Soil runoff	R	Yes
Sodium (ppm) (3/02/2006)	12.0	200 HRL	NR	Natural deposits	NR	Yes
Sulfate (ppm) (3/02/2006)	20.4	250 HRL	NR	Natural deposits	NR	Yes

Information from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 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.

The EPA imposes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems to ensure that tap water is safe to drink. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

By law, SPRWS must take corrective action and notify our customers immediately if it is ever in non-compliance with federal or state drinking water standards. We continue to comply with all regulations.

For test results or questions about SPRWS drinking water, call our lab at 651-266-1635.

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 people and animals. Your water is regularly tested for the following contaminants:

- *Microbial contaminants*, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural 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, are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production; they 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.



Mississippi River

Where our water comes from

We draw a large percentage of our water from the Mississippi River, which travels through a chain of lakes, including Charles, Pleasant, Sucker, and Vadnais before reaching our treatment plant. Groundwater from six deep wells, ranging from 438 to 465 feet in depth, that tap into the Prairie du Chien-Jordan aquifer, provides a small percentage of our water supply.

An assessment of our water sources indicates that, while susceptible to contamination, SPRWS has consistently and effectively treated our source water to meet drinking water standards.

For a copy of the source water assessment, call the Minnesota Department of Health: 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 (press No. 5) or view it online at: www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/swa

Special cases

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants found 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.

Environmental Protection Agency/ Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

Concerning lead levels

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.

Saint Paul Regional Water Services 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 800-426-4791 or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

We take pride in providing you with quality drinking water at a reasonable cost. Every day, SPRWS produces an average of 50 million gallons of drinking water and distributes it through a thousand miles of water main to 415,000 residents of Saint Paul and the surrounding communities.

To participate in decisions that may affect the quality of the water supplied by SPRWS, the public may attend the Board of Water Commissioners meetings held at 5:00 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month in room 330 at Saint Paul City Hall., 15 Kellogg Blvd. W., St. Paul, MN.

To request additional copies of this report, please contact Customer Service.

SPRWS Customer Service

651-266-6350

SPRWS Water Quality

651-266-1635

EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline

800-426-4791

Minnesota Department of Health

651-201-4700

Email: waterinquiries@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Website: www.stpaul.gov/water

SPRWS Public Information:

651-266-6308



1900 Rice Street
Saint Paul, MN
55113-6810

Español

Este reporte contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien se lo traduzca, o hable con alguien que lo entienda.

Somali

Warbixintan waxay wadataa macluumaad muhiim ah ee la xiriira biyaha aad cabtid. Cid ha kuu tarjunto ama la hadl cid fahmaysa.

Hmong

Dlaim ntawv tshaabxu nuav muaj lug tseemceeb heev nyob rua huv kws has txug cov dlej mej haus. Kuas ib tug paab txhais rua koj, los nrug ib tug kws paub lug thaam.

Is a career in the water industry right for you?



St. Cloud Technical College's Water Environmental Technologies (WETT) program

provides you with the skills you need to land a great job in this growing industry.

There are many benefits to this program:

- Hands-on learning
- 12-month program
- Eden Prairie and St. Cloud locations
- 94 percent placement rates

Call St. Cloud Technical College today at 320-308-5952