

**Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre el agua que usted bebe. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.**

**Dear Water Customer;**

The Justice-Willow Springs Water Commission, in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), is issuing the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) for the monitoring period of January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. The Justice-Willow Springs Water Commission, in conjunction with the City of Chicago and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) are issuing this report to you with important information concerning the quality and source of your drinking water. During 2023, the Justice-Willow Springs Water Commission has provided water that meets all the requirements of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the Illinois EPA drinking water standards.

**Source Water Assessment Summary:** The Illinois EPA implemented a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) to assist with watershed protection of public drinking water supplies. The SWAP inventories potential sources of contamination and determined the susceptibility of the source water to contaminations. Further information regarding the Source Water Assessment Program is available by calling the City of Chicago, Department of Water Management at 312-744-6635 or by going online at <http://dataservices.epa.illinois.gov/swap/factsheet.aspx>.

The Illinois EPA considers all surface water sources of community water supply to be susceptible to potential pollution problems. The very nature of surface water allows contaminants to migrate into the intake with no protection only dilution. This is the reason for mandatory treatment of all surface water supplies in Illinois.

Chicago's offshore intakes are located at a distance that shoreline impacts are not usually considered a factor on water quality. At certain times of the year, however, the potential for contamination exists due to wet-weather flows and river reversals. In addition, the placement of the crib structures may serve to attract waterfowl, gulls and terns that frequent the Great Lakes area, thereby concentrating fecal deposits at the intake and thus compromising the source water quality. Conversely, the shore intakes are highly susceptible to storm water runoff, marinas and shoreline point sources due to the influx of groundwater to the lake.

**Questions or Comments**

We prioritize in keeping our valued customers informed about their water quality. Feel free to attend to any of our regularly scheduled meetings at 7000 S Archer Rd in Justice, Illinois. The board meets at 9:30 AM every fourth Thursday of the month. These meetings are opened to the public and residents and business owners are encouraged to participate.

If there are any questions or if additional information is needed, please contact Colleen H. Kelly, Responsible Operator in Charge at 708-458-7010.

**Please share** this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail. Copies of this report will be available at our office, 7000 S. Archer Rd in Justice, Illinois.

**Justice-Willow Springs Water Commission meetings are free and open to the public:**

The board meets at 9:30 a.m. every fourth Thursday of the month at the Water Commission Office (7000 S. Archer).

Every other month, you will receive a postcard bill from the Justice-Willow Springs Water Commission, and we offer several ways for you to pay your water bill.

**We accept** payment in the form of cash, check, money orders and credit cards. Please make checks payable to: Justice-Willow Springs Water Commission

**Mail or drop off your payment.** The office is open Monday thru Friday from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. A drop box is located outside the building for your convenience when the office is closed. Payments can be mailed to: Justice-Willow Springs Water Commission, 7000 S. Archer Road, Justice, IL 60458

**Sign up for automatic payment (ACH Debit)** through your checking or savings account. You will receive a bill, but the payments will be made from your bank automatically. ACH Debit is a secure transaction.

Check our website at <https://www.jswsc.org> for more details

**Where does our water come from?**

In 2023, the Justice-Willow Springs Water Commission purchased approximately 800 million gallons of water directly from the City of Chicago. The City of Chicago utilizes Lake Michigan as its source water via two water treatment plants. The Jardine Water Purification Plant serves the northern areas of the city and suburbs, while the Sawyer Water Purification Plant serves the southern areas of the city and suburbs. Lake Michigan is the only Great Lake that is entirely contained within the United States. It borders Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin, and is the second largest Great lake by volume with 1,180 cubic miles of water and third largest by area.

The water extraction process for our community involves tapping into offshore structures known as Cribs, situated along the lakebed. Once extracted, the water undergoes rigorous treatment at the Jardine Water Purification Plant, strategically positioned north of Navy Pier. From there, treated water is pumped through expansive transmission lines to the northern areas of the city and suburbs, including the Justice-Willow Springs Water Commission.

Upon reaching the JWSWC, the water enters our reservoir and pumping station complex located at 7000 S Archer Ave. From there, it is channeled through the JWSWC extensive water main grid system, spanning nearly 85 miles of piping, to serve both local and retail customers.

**Mandatory Water Testing**

The JWSWC and the City of Chicago conduct water sampling as mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Chicago, as the source water provider, tests for a broader range of contaminants, in accordance with EPA specifications.

The JWSWC tests the water supply for chlorine content daily to maintain the optimum levels for the consumers' needs. On a monthly basis, bacteriological samples are taken. On a yearly basis, samples are submitted for Total Trihalomethane (TTHM) Analysis. Samples are also provided for lead and copper monitoring on a schedule established by the IEPA. All testing and reports are performed according to the requirements of IEPA.

**Susceptibility to Contamination**

**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.

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 can be obtained by calling the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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 microbial contaminants are available from the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

**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 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, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and 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.

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.

**Elevated Levels of Lead in Drinking 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. The JWSWC 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>.

The Safe Drinking Water Act requires EPA to determine the level of contaminants in drinking water at which no adverse health effects are likely to occur with an adequate margin of safety. These non-enforceable health goals, based solely on possible health risks, are called maximum contaminant level goals (MCLGs). EPA has set the maximum contaminant level goal for lead in drinking water at zero because lead is a toxic metal that can be harmful to human health even at low exposure levels. Lead is persistent, and it can bioaccumulate in the body over time.

**2023 Voluntary Monitoring (City of Chicago)**

The City of Chicago has continued monitoring for Cryptosporidium, Giardia and E. coli in its source water as part of its water quality program. No Cryptosporidium or Giardia was detected in source water samples collected in 2023. Treatment processes have been optimized to provide effective barriers for removal of Cryptosporidium oocysts and Giardia cysts in the source water, effectively removing these organisms in the treatment process. By maintaining low turbidity through the removal of particles from the water, the possibility of Cryptosporidium and Giardia organisms getting into the drinking water system is greatly reduced.

In 2023, CDWM has also continued monitoring for hexavalent chromium, also known as chromium-6. USEPA has not yet established a standard for chromium-6, a contaminant of concern which has both natural and industrial sources. Please address any questions or concerns to DWM's Water Quality Division at 312-744-8190. Data reports on the monitoring program for chromium-6 are posted on the City's website which can be accessed at the following address:

[http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/water/supp\\_info/water\\_quality\\_resultsandreports/city\\_of\\_chicago\\_emerigincontaminantstudy.html](http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/water/supp_info/water_quality_resultsandreports/city_of_chicago_emerigincontaminantstudy.html)

**For more information, please contact  
Patrick Schwer At 312-744-8190  
Chicago Department of Water Management  
1000 East Ohio Street  
Chicago, IL 60611**

**This notice is being sent to you by:  
The City of Chicago  
Department of Water Management  
Water System ID# IL0316000**

**UCMR5 INFORMATION**

The Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5) program, administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), is crucial for assessing and addressing emerging threats to water quality across the nation. By monitoring contaminants not yet regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), the EPA gains valuable insights into potential health risks and informs future regulatory decisions. The EPA uses the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring (UCM) program to collect data for contaminants suspected to be present in drinking water, but that do not have health-based standards set under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). Every five years the EPA reviews the list of contaminants, largely based on the Contaminant Candidate List. The **JWSWC was not selected** to participate in the 2023 UCMR5 program by the EPA. For more information about the UCMR program, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr>.

<b>DEFINITION OF TERMS</b>	
<p><b>Level 1 Assessment:</b> A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.</p> <p><b>Level 2 Assessment:</b> A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.</p> <p><b>Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):</b> The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.</p> <p><b>Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):</b> The level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.</p> <p><b>Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):</b> The level of 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 contaminants.</p>	<p><b>Range of Detections:</b> This column represents a range of individual sample results, from lowest to highest that were collected during the CCR calendar year.</p> <p><b>Action Level (AL):</b> The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.</p> <p><b>Action Level Goal (ALG):</b> The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.</p> <p><b>AVG:</b> Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.</p> <p><b>Date of Sample:</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Treatment Technique (TT):</b> A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.</p> <p><b>ND:</b> Not detectable at testing limits. <b>N/A:</b> Not applicable</p> <p><b>MRL:</b> Minimum Reporting Level</p>

**REGULATED CONTAMINANTS TABLES**

Regulated Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products	MCLG	MCL	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	Units	Municipality	Violation	Collection Date	Likely Source of Contaminants
Chlorine	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	0.8	0.8 - 0.8	ppm	JWSWC	N	2023	Water additive used to control microbes.
	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	1	1 - 1	ppm	Chicago	N	2023	
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	No Goal	60	16	10.7 - 22.4	ppb	JWSWC	N	2023	By-product of drinking water disinfection
	No Goal	60	15	6 - 26.9	ppb	Chicago	N	2023	
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	No Goal	80	39	19.28 - 60	ppb	JWSWC	N	2023	
	No Goal	80	30	16 - 51	ppb	Chicago	N	2023	
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>									
Barium	2	2	0.0195	0.0192—0.0195	ppm	Chicago	N	2023	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (Measured as Nitrogen)	10	10	0.33	0.29—0.33	ppm	Chicago	N	2023	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Total Nitrate & Nitrite (as Nitrogen)	10	10	0.33	0.29—0.33	ppm	Chicago	N	2023	
<b>Unregulated Contaminants</b>									
Sulfate	N/A	N/A	27.8	25.0—27.8	ppm	Chicago	N	2023	Erosion of naturally occurring deposits; Used as water softener
Sodium	N/A	N/A	8.71	8.43—8.71	ppm	Chicago	N	2023	Erosion of naturally occurring deposits
<b>State Regulated Contaminants</b>									
Fluoride	4	4	0.74	0.66—0.74	ppm	Chicago	N	2023	Water additive which promotes strong teeth.
<b>Radioactive &amp; Synthetic Organic Contaminants</b>									
Combined Radium 226/228	0	5	0.95	0.83—0.95	pCi/L	Chicago	N	2/4/2020	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.
Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium	0	15	3.1	2.8 — 3.1	pCi/L	Chicago	N	2/4/2020	
<b>Coliform Bacteria</b>									
	<b>Total Coliform (MCLG)</b>	<b>Total Coliform (MCL)</b>	<b>Highest No. of Positive</b>	<b>Fecal Coliform or E. Coli (MCL)</b>		<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Violation</b>		<b>Likely Source of Contaminants</b>
Coliform Bacteria	0	5% Positive	0.4	N/A		Chicago	N		Naturally present in the environment.
<b>Lead and Copper</b>									
	<b>MCLG</b>	<b>Action Level (AL)</b>	<b>90th Percentile</b>	<b># Sites Over AL</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Violation</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Likely Source of Contaminants</b>
Lead	0	15	0	1	ppb	JWSWC	N	7/13/2021	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
	0	15	7.7	1	ppb	Chicago	N	2023	
Copper	1.3	1.3	0.098	0	ppm	JWSWC	N	7/13/2021	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
	1.3	1.3	0.079	0	ppm	Chicago	N	2023	
<b>Water Clarity</b>									
	<b>Turbidity</b>	<b>Limit (Treatment Technique)</b>	<b>Highest Level Detected</b>	<b>Range of Detections</b>	<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Violation</b>			<b>Likely Source of Contaminants</b>
NTU/Lowest Monthly % ≤0.3 NTU		95% ≤ 0.3 NTU	Lowest Monthly %: 100%	100% - 100%	Chicago	N			Soil runoff.
NTU/Highest Single Measurement		TT (Limit 1 NTU)	25%	N/A	Chicago	N			
<b>2023 JWSWC Violations: NONE</b>									

**TURBIDITY**

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration system and disinfectants.

**UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS**

A maximum contaminant level (MCL) for this contaminant has not been established by either state or federal regulations, nor has mandatory health effects language. The purpose for monitoring this contaminant is to assist USEPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water, and whether future regulation is warranted.

**FLUORIDE**

Fluoride is added to the water supply to help promote strong teeth. The Illinois Department of Public Health recommends an optimal fluoride level of 0.7 mg/L with a range of 0.6 mg/L to 0.8 mg/L.

**SODIUM**

There is no state or federal MCL for sodium. Monitoring is required to provide information to consumers and health officials who have concerns about sodium intake due to dietary precautions. If you are on a sodium-restricted diet, you should consult a physician about the level of sodium in the water.

**Units of Measurement**

**ppm:** Parts per million, or milligrams per liter

**ppb:** Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter

**NTU:** Nephelometric Turbidity Unit, used to measure cloudiness in drinking water

**%≤0.3 NTU:** Percent of samples less than or equal to 0.3 NTU

**pCi/L:** Picocuries per liter, used to measure radioactivity