



Water Quality

Consumer Confidence Report

JUNE 2009

CONFIRMING THE QUALITY OF DRINKING WATER IN THE CITY OF ROLLING MEADOWS

Sampling Confirms City's Excellent Water Quality

This Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) provides basic facts regarding the City water system, so that individuals can make decisions about water consumption based upon their personal health.

The annual report provides a "snapshot" of water quality and system operation, detailing where water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulating agencies. Our community uses Lake Michigan water pumped to us by the City of Chicago and the Joint Action Water Agency. We also have four underground wells that can be used in the event of an emergency. This report provides important information about your drinking water.

In Rolling Meadows, people may take tap water for granted. The staff in the Water Operations Division of the Department of Public Works makes sure they can continue to do so.

"It's our job to keep drinking water in Rolling Meadows safe, clean and top quality," says John Somogyi, Superintendent of Water Operations. "We also have a compelling self-interest in maintaining a top-quality drinking water supply: we drink this water, too."

Once again this year, City of Rolling Meadows tap water met all United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and state drinking water health standards.

"We're diligent about monitoring water quality so that our customers can take it for granted," Somogyi says.

**Clip & Keep
Refuse
Guidelines
are on
pages 4-5.**



Español

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

Make Informed Decisions

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 from their health care providers about drinking water. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of

infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the USEPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

Cryptosporidium Below Threshold

Because accurate test methods for detecting cryptosporidium at very low levels are not currently available, the EPA does not require testing of the treated (finished) water unless concentrations in the raw water (before treatment) exceed 10 microbes per sample. All raw water tests performed have been well below the EPA threshold.

Concerns about Lead

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 City of Rolling Meadows is responsible for providing high quality

drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your tap hasn't been used 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.

Because of satisfactory lead and copper sampling results since August 1992, the City has been placed on the reduced site monitoring program by the I EPA. Samples to test for lead levels are collected every three years. To become eligible for reduced sampling, the City's 90th percentile sample had to be below the EPA requirement of 15 parts per billion. The results were less than 5 parts per billion.

City of Chicago, 'Parent' Water Supply

(For definitions of table headings, see page 3)

Contaminants that may be in water include:	Date of Sample	Violation	Level Found	Range of Detection	Unit of Measure	MCLG	MCL	Likely source of contamination
Microbial Contaminants								
Total Coliform Bacteria	None		76% in Sept.	n/a	% pos/mo	0	5%	Naturally present in the environment.
Fecal Coliform and E. Coli	None		3	n/a	(# pos/mo)	0	0	Human and animal fecal waste.
Turbidity	None		100%	N/A	(%<0.3 NTU)	N/A	TT	Soil runoff. Lowest monthly percent meeting limit.
Turbidity	None		0.14	N/A	(NTU)	N/A	TT=1NTU max	Soil runoff. Highest single measurement.
Inorganic Contaminants								
Barium	None		0.0194	0.0191-0.0194	(ppm)	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate (As Nitrogen)	None		0.032	0.302-0.320	(ppm)	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate & Nitrite	None		0.032	0.302-0.320	(ppm)	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Unregulated Contaminants								
Sulfate	None		28.900	27.700-28.900	(ppm)	N/A	N/A	Erosion of naturally occurring deposits.
State Regulated Contaminants								
Fluoride	None		1.05	0.92-1.05	(ppm)	4	4	Water additive that promotes strong teeth.
Sodium	None		8.85 (highest value)	8.13-8.85	(ppm)	N/A	N/A	Erosion of naturally occurring deposits; used as water softener.
Radioactive Contaminants								
Combined Radium (226/228)	None		1.38	1.30-1.38	pCi/l	0	5	Decay of natural and manmade deposits.
Gross Alpha (excluding radon & uranium)	None		0.88	0.09-0.88	pCi/l	0	15	Decay of natural and manmade deposits.
Inorganic Contaminants								
Antimony			nd		ppb	6	6	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder
Arsenic			0.56		ppb	0	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Beryllium			nd		ppb	4	4	Discharge from metal refineries and coal-burning factories; discharge from electrical, aerospace, and defense industries.
Cadium			nd		ppb	5	5	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from metal refineries; runoff from waste batteries and paints.
Chromium			5.6	nd-5.6	ppb	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits.
Cyanide			nd		ppb	200	200	Discharge from steel/metal factories; discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories.
Disinfectants/Disinfection By-products								
TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes)	None		19.500*	9.100-26.600	ppb	n/a	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
HAA5 (HALOACETIC ACIDS)	None		9.00*	3.100-14.00	ppb	n/a	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
*TTHMs and HAA5s are for Chicago Distribution System. Not all sample results were used for calculating the Highest Level Detected because some results include the IDSE study for future compliance that is included in the range of results Initial Distribution System Evaluation monitoring Plan. Stage 2 DBPR on January 2006								
Chlorine (AS CL2)	None		0.74	0.63-0.74	ppm	4.0	4.0	Drinking water disinfectant.
TOC (Total Organic Carbon)	The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month, and the system met all TOC removal requirements set by IEPA.							

2008 VIOLATION SUMMARY TABLE

The City of Rolling Meadows had no violations to report.

THIS REPORT FOLLOWS A FORMAT PRESCRIBED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND IS PUBLISHED AS AN ANNUAL REQUIREMENT OF THE FEDERAL AND ILLINOIS EPA.

Information Collection Rule (ICR)

During an 18-month period, large water systems (serving more than 100,000 people) were required to monitor for unregulated compounds and microbial organisms. The table on the following page shows the results of the analyses for disinfection by-products that were detected in the distribution system samples. These compounds may be regulated in the future based on occurrence data and available health effects information.

Quality Data

City of Rolling Meadows Water Supply

Contaminants that may be in water include:	Date of Sample	Violation	(For definitions of table headings, see box below.)			MCLG	MCL	Likely source of contamination
			Level Found	Range of Detection	Unit of Measure			
Inorganic								
Copper	7-1-2008	None	<0.100	0 exceeding AL	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead	7-1-2008	None	<5	0 exceeding AL	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
Disinfectants/Disinfection By-Products								
TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes)		None	39*	14.49-56.9	ppb	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)		None	16*	5.3-22.21	ppb	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
*Not all sample results may have been used for calculating the Highest Level Detected because some results may be part of an evaluation to determine where compliance sampling should occur in the future.								
Chloramines		None	1.07	0.22-1.07	ppm	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	Water additive to control microbes.
Microbial Contaminants								
Total Coliform Bacteria		None	0	N/A	% pos/mo	0	5%	Naturally present in the environment.
Fecal Coliform and E.Coli		None	0	N/A	# pos/mo	0	0	Human and animal fecal waste.

Contaminants May Be Natural, Manmade

Sources of tap and bottled drinking water include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the land or through the ground, it can dissolve naturally-occurring minerals and radioactive materials, and pickup substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity. Possible contaminants may be:

Inorganic – Salts and metals, which may be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining and farming.

Microbial – Viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.

Pesticides and herbicides – These come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff and residential uses.

Organic chemical – Synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.

Radioactive - Naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining.

TABLE DEFINITIONS

MCLG (maximum contaminant level goal) — 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.

MCL (maximum contaminant level) — 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.

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

Level found — An average of sample result data collected during the CCR calendar year. In some cases, it may represent a single sample if only one sample was collected.

Range of detection — A range of individual sample results, from lowest to highest, that were collected during the calendar year.

AL (action level) — The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

N/A — Not applicable

nd — Not detectable at testing limits.

TT (treatment technique) — A process required to reduce the level of a contaminant in the drinking water.

ppm - Parts per million, or milligrams per liter

ppb - Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter

pos/mo - Number of positive samples per month

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

%<0.5NTU - Percent of samples less than 0.5 NTU

% pos/mo - Percent of positive samples per month

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level 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 contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) - The highest level of a drinking water disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

TABLE FOOTNOTES

Turbidity - A measure of the cloudiness of the water. It's monitored because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of the filtration system and disinfectants.

Unregulated Contaminants - Neither a maximum contaminant level (MCL) nor mandatory health effects language has been established for this contaminant by either state or federal regulations. 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.

Sodium - There is not a state or federal MCL for sodium. Monitoring is required to provide information to consumers and health officials who 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.

Fluoride - Added to the water supply to help promote strong teeth. The Illinois Department of Public Health recommends an optimal fluoride range of 0.9 mg/l to 1.2 mg/l.

Household Medical Waste Disposal

The Rolling Meadows Public Works Department recommends the use of authorized sharps-disposal systems such as those provided by a local pharmacy or through your health care provider.

● **Used sharps must never be placed loosely in your trash or flushed down the toilet.** If other disposal methods are not available, **sharps** should be placed in a strong plastic or metal container with a screw-on or tightly secured lid to prevent accidental contact with the waste. Containers like empty bleach bottles, liquid detergent bottles, or heavy plastic jugs work well because they are strong enough to prevent the sharps from poking through the container and they have lids that can be securely fastened. A

coffee can may also be used provided that the lid is sealed with strong tape once the container is full. The sealed container can then be placed in your regular trash. Glass should never be used as a sharps container because the glass can break and compound the hazard. Home sharps should not be placed inside recyclable containers unless the container is clearly labeled as having sharps inside. Sharps are not recyclable – they can pose an infection risk to workers at the recycling facility, and can render the whole batch of recyclables as unusable.

● **Soiled bandages, dressings and disposable sheets** should be placed in securely fastened plastic bags before

being placed in your regular trash.

● **Household medicines, including over-the-counter drugs and prescription medicines**, can usually be disposed of safely without presenting a threat to the environment. Out-of-date or otherwise unusable or unwanted household medicines may be disposed of in the trash if the materials are securely wrapped to minimize tampering.

Flushing even small quantities of household medicines down the drain is discouraged. Some medicines can disrupt or destroy the useful microorganisms in the sewage treatment system and/or may pass through the system intact and potentially contaminate downstream water resources.

RECYCLING

Newspapers, magazines, catalogs, paperback books, corrugated boxes and brown paper bags should be placed in the recycling cart. Do not tie newspaper in bundles. Paperboard includes: cereal and other dry food boxes, pop, beer and egg cartons. Mixed paper includes junk mail, computer paper, and stationary.

You can place the following items in your recycling cart: all clear, brown and green glass bottles; all aluminum containers for food and beverages, foil and pie plates; steel and bi-metal food containers (1-gallon or less in size); juice boxes, milk cartons and juice cartons; all clean plastic containers, #'s 1-7 (with the exception of those containing automotive products, pool chemicals, paint thinner and wood working products); and all 6 and 12 pack can loop carriers.



● **Oil Drop-Off:** See www.swancc.org for Household Hazardous Waste drop off sites in the area.

● **Fluorescent and CFL Light Bulbs** are accepted at the Public Works facility during regular office hours 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., (Monday-Friday).

● **Recycling Carts:** The City provides each home with one 65-gallon recycling cart. If lost or damaged, this cart will be replaced at no cost, **one time only**. Additional carts may be purchased at the Public Works Department, 3900 Berdnick Street for \$45 (35-gallon) or \$55 (65-gallon) each. Smaller carts may be substituted for the larger carts by contacting the Public Works office (847-963-0500).

● Recycling Drop-off

Center: A drop-off center is available at 3200 Central Road, for use by multi-family residents who do not have a recycling program.

YARDWASTE

Collection includes grass clippings, leaves, twigs, garden debris, weeds, fruits,

seeds, stalks, vines, bark and wood chips. Bags must be rolled and crimped closed and be easily lifted to waist height and not exceed 50lbs. **Each bag of yardwaste must be marked with a large "X"**. Place the bags a few feet away from your household refuse bags with the "X" facing the street.

Brush and branches up to 6 inches in diameter must be cut to 4' lengths, and tied with twine (**wire or plastic is not acceptable**) in bundles 2' or less in diameter at the base that can be easily lifted to waist height.

Yardwaste collection does not include: stumps, wood timbers, plastic edging, plant pots or trays, fertilizer or landscape material bags, landscape fabric, root sections, sand, gravel, sod, firewood or animal waste.

It is against City ordinance to rake leaves onto any City street or dump yardwaste on any public land.

CHIPPER PROGRAM

The City of Rolling Meadows provides pickup of brush and branches up to 6" in diameter at no charge to residents, **one time each year**. Residents must stack brush and branches in a neat pile with cut ends toward the curb, no earlier than one week prior to, and **no later than** 7:00 am on Monday of the scheduled pickup week for their area. Collection dates are generally in the spring. The City is divided into 4 sections for weekly collection. Check with the City's newsletter, cable TV channel 6, or the City Website for exact schedule dates each year.

Branches more than 6" in diameter, vines, bushes with thorns, stumps, logs and root sections require special handling, and are not included in the annual brush collection program. Please contact the Department of Public Works at 847-963-0500 to arrange for a **special brush pickup**. There is a minimum charge of \$50.00 for this service.



Holidays

There is no refuse collection in the City on the following days: **New Years Day, Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day**. During the week which contains a holiday, your refuse will be collected a day later than your normal pickup day. Regular refuse schedules will be provided for Martin Luther King Day (January) and Veteran's Day (November) weeks (while all City offices are closed for these holidays).

For more information on the City's Refuse/Yardwaste/Recycling Collection Guidelines, please contact Public Works at 847-963-0500 or visit the City's Website at: www.cityrm.org. Additional recycling information is available at www.swancc.org.

City of Rolling Meadows Refuse Yardwaste Recycling Collection Guidelines



All household refuse must be in paper or plastic bags. Yardwaste must be in kraft paper bags only. All materials set out for disposal must be at the curb by 6:00 a.m. on collection day. The earliest time you may set your refuse, yardwaste and recycling materials at the curb is 6:00 p.m. on the day before collection, (except during the months of November, December, January, February, and March when refuse can be set out at 3:00 p.m.). There are no containers allowed at the curb other than your recycling cart.

Refuse: The City only accepts general household refuse in plastic and kraft paper bags. Plastic bags must be a 30-gallon capacity or less, a minimum of .7 mil thickness, and be securely closed at the top.

Recycling: Items must be placed in the 65 or 35-gallon containers supplied by the City. **Only items inside the cart will be picked up.** All recycling containers must be removed from the curbside by the end of collection day.

Yardwaste: Yardwaste must be in **30-gallon kraft paper bags**. Bags must be marked with a large "X" facing the street and weigh less than 50 pounds. **Yardwaste pickup commences April 1 (or the week that April 1 falls in) through the first week in December.**

Special Collections (fee): The City provides special pickup services on a fee basis, based on amount of material being disposed of, with a **minimum charge of \$50.00**. Please call the Public Works Department at 847-963-0500 for a special pickup quote. There is no charge for the price quotation. Payment must be made **prior to** the special collection being made.

REFUSE

- **General household** items should be deposited in bags and placed at the curb on the scheduled pickup day.
- **Cardboard** boxes/sheets must be flattened and tied with twine. All clean cardboard is recyclable. Any clean cardboard being recycled must be placed in the recycling cart. Only items inside the cart will be picked up.
- **Cabinets, mattresses, furniture, televisions, stereos, and small appliances** can be placed at the curb on the scheduled pickup day.
- **Latex paint** cans which have been left open to dry solid may be placed in refuse bags. Paint in liquid form will not be accepted (nor is it accepted at the recycling drop off center). **Oil based paint** must be taken to a Household Hazardous Waste drop off site.
- **Hardgoods** such as refrigerators, freezers, stoves, washers and dryers, water heaters, furnaces, sinks, and tubs can be placed at curb on the scheduled pickup day. Locking doors must be removed from all appliances. Large items will be picked up by a separate truck later in the collection day.

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

- **Carpet and padding** may be placed at the curb on the scheduled pickup day. It must be rolled and bundled with twine or duct tape and easily lifted to waist height. Rolls should not exceed 18" in diameter and 4' in length. There is a 6 roll limit per scheduled pickup day. Larger quantities and/or sizes require a **special pickup**.
- **Drywall** pieces must be broken up and placed in bags at the curb on the scheduled pickup day. Bags must be closed securely, be easily lifted to waist height and not exceed 50 lbs. There is a 3 bag limit per scheduled pickup day. Larger amounts require a **special pickup**.

- **Doors:** Interior, exterior, storm and/or screen doors may be placed at the curb on the scheduled pickup day. There is a 6 door limit per scheduled pickup day.
- **Garage Doors** are a **special pickup** and must be dismantled. Each single section must be cut in lengths not to exceed 8'.
- **Gutters, down spouts and steel pipe:** Place small pieces in bags at the curb on the scheduled pickup day, or bundle with twine or rope in lengths not to exceed 6' in length and 18" in diameter. Larger amounts require a **special pickup**.
- **Metal and wood sheds** require a **special pickup**. They must be completely dismantled and stacked neatly at the curb.
- **Plywood and paneling** can be placed at the curb on the scheduled pick-up day. Sizes shall not be larger than 4'x8'. Items must be stacked neatly and not exceed 6 pieces. Greater quantities or pieces larger than 4' x 8' require a **special pickup**.
- **Scrap wood, wood flooring, siding and fencing:** Small pieces may be placed in bags at the curb on the scheduled pickup day. Longer pieces must be bundled with twine and not exceed 4' in length and 9" in height and width. Greater quantities and/or sizes require a **special pickup**.
- **Windows** smaller than 4' x 4' may be placed at the curb on the sched-

uled pickup day, with a 3 window limit per scheduled pickup day. Greater quantities and/or sizes require a **special pickup**.

OUTDOOR MATERIALS

- **Landscape timbers and/or railroad ties:** small pieces may be placed in bags at the curb on the scheduled pickup day. Bags must be closed securely and be easily lifted to waist height. Longer pieces up to 4' in length may be neatly stacked at the curb. There is a 6 piece limit per scheduled pickup day. Larger quantities and sizes require a **special pickup**.
- **Swing Sets** may be placed at the curb on the scheduled pickup day when completely dismantled. Sections must not exceed 4' in length. Full sections require a **special pickup**.
- **Propane tanks** are not accepted by the City and should be taken to a local retail outlet for proper disposal.

Auto Parts

- Car doors, trunk lids, hoods, fenders and small engine parts are picked up in the same manner as hardgoods and large appliances.
- Engine blocks, frames and other bulky oversized and/or heavy items require a **special pickup**.
- Tires and batteries are not accepted by the City, and should be taken to a local retail outlet for proper disposal (to comply with E.P.A. regulations).



Department
of Public Works

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CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT ON WATER QUALITY . JUNE 2009. PAGE 6

Source Water Assessment: Lake Michigan

We want our water customers to be informed about their water quality. The source water assessment for our supply has been completed by the Illinois EPA. If you would like a copy of this information, please stop by the Public Works office or call 847-963-0500. To view a summary version of the completed Source Water Assessments, 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 <http://www.epa.state.il.us/cgi-bin/wp/swap-fact-sheets.pl>.

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 for all surface water supplies in Illinois. Chicago's offshore intakes are located at such 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 source intakes are highly susceptible to storm water runoff, marinas and shoreline point sources due to the influx of groundwater to the lake.



Answers to Questions about Water Quality

If you have any questions about this report or concerns regarding the water system, please contact the Public Works Department

Superintendent of Water Operations, John Somogyi, at **847-963-0500 extension 7012.**

Shoreline in Good Condition

Enforced regulations prohibit industrial effluents from entering Lake Michigan. As a result, the City of Chicago has no indication that natural and manmade contaminants are present at this time. Sewage treatment plant effluents are not discharged into the lake, thereby reducing the threat of microbial contamination. All 63 miles of Lake Michigan shore within the State of Illinois are considered to be in good condition.