

Sheboygan Water Utility's Consumer Confidence Report

Summer 2020



"Straight from the Tap"



First of all, I would like to compliment and congratulate everyone at the Water Utility for their dedication and commitment to serving the community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Utility was proactive in quickly identifying ways to reduce vulnerabilities and risk to its staff members in order to secure the drinking water supply.

After several years of informal planning, the Utility embarked on its largest capital project in at least 60 years. The Raw Water Improvements (RWI) project encompasses a new water intake pipeline in Lake Michigan, a new shore well for the termination of the intake, and a new low lift pumping station incorporated in the shore well. These three elements are critical for providing a reliable flow of lake water to the water treatment plant.

The existing intake pipelines have served well but are reaching the end of their working lifetimes. One was constructed in 1909. The other was constructed in 1959. The existing shore well goes back even further, with original excavation and brickwork dating to the 1880s. The low lift pumping station dates to 1929. These pieces of critical infrastructure need to be replaced in order to ensure a reliable supply of water in the future.

Preliminary design work will conclude by August 2020. This work will lay out many details of the project, including intake size and length, shore well and pumping station building details, and other equipment and control functions.

RWI also comes with a large price tag. Underwater lake construction is very costly. A new building must be constructed to house this critical infrastructure. New pumps, a generator, and electrical equipment are costly as well. The current construction cost estimate is \$29 million. However, the economy, bidding climate, and final details remain uncertain.

The Board of Water Commissioners remains committed to providing safe and reliable drinking water to the community at an affordable price. In order to ease the high project costs, the Utility intends to seek long term (30 years or more) funding to help spread the cost over several decades. Nonetheless, ongoing water rate increases will be needed to pay for the new debt service underlying the project. These increases will be applied over the coming decade. Despite the increasing water rates, the Utility will continue to have among the lowest rates in the state. And critical infrastructure will have been replaced, setting the stage for future generations.

Utility Superintendent
Joe Trueblood

Update On Lead Water Laterals

Old lead water laterals continue to be a concern. These are the private water pipes leading from the public water mains into homes. They were installed by plumbers prior to the 1950s. The Sheboygan Water Utility has used phosphate treatment since 1994 to coat the interior of these lead pipes. Whenever one of these pipes is cut open, the white coating is evident and keeps the water from contacting the lead. Since 1994, the Utility's tests for lead have been below EPA action levels, indicating the effectiveness of the coating in minimizing lead exposure.

During 2016, the Sheboygan Water Utility was one of the first to qualify for \$335,000 in WDNR grant monies to replace lead water laterals. The Utility promptly implemented a lead water lateral replacement program which focused on any remaining lead laterals at daycares or schools. **The Utility directed the bulk of the funding on water main replacement projects where old laterals would be impacted.**

Construction can disrupt the phosphate coating* and cause lead levels to increase for months thereafter. So, the funds were used to replace lead water laterals from the curb stop into the home. If the portion from the water main to the curb was lead, the property owner paid for that replacement. In most cases, the cost to property owners ended up between \$3,500 to \$4,500. **To date, 238 lead laterals have been replaced.** With the current WDNR funding nearly spent, the Utility is working with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin on a program to benefit Sheboygan customers. There is also a possibility of WDNR funding becoming available for 2021.

Medical professionals understand the importance of minimizing exposure to lead. Many older homes still contain lead paint or coatings, and these can be released during home remodeling projects. Contractors typically know how to protect themselves, but do-it-yourselfers might overlook this risk. Toys and other products are still discovered with high levels of lead in paint or coatings. Lead arsenate pesticides were also used in the past and can persist in soil for decades.

And what about lead in your drinking water? First of all, contact the Utility to determine if you even have a

lead water lateral. If you do, consider replacing it. If you can't afford to replace it, then visit the Utility's information page for tips on further minimizing the risks, including flushing your water in the morning or using an inexpensive home filtration device.



Location of lateral (small blue piping) entering home from large blue water main located in the middle of the street.

Lead & Copper

The Sheboygan Water Utility maintained its compliance in 2017 lead and copper monitoring/testing. If present, elevated levels of lead and copper can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead and copper in drinking water are primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Sheboygan Water Utility 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 and copper exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to two minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead and copper in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead and copper in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the EPA safe drinking water hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Sheboygan's Board of Water Commissioners



Gerald Van De Kreeke



Mark Smith



Thomas Howe

Elected by the Common Council, the Board of Water Commissioners meets on the third Monday of each month and is responsible for overseeing the operation and maintenance of the Sheboygan Water Utility. Members are (left to right): President Gerald Van De Kreeke, Secretary Mark Smith, and Member Thomas Howe.

Contact Information - Sheboygan Water Utility
Address: 72 Park Avenue, Sheboygan, WI 53081
Email: customerservice@sheboyganwater.org

Thirsty for more information about your water?
Visit us at: sheboyganwater.org, on Twitter, Facebook, and Nextdoor

Customer Service and Billing Information:
Phone: (920) 459-3800 Option 2; Fax: (920) 459-4325
After Hours Emergencies: (920) 459-3811



Sheboygan's 2019 Tap Water Quality Analysis

For Your Information — The Utility is required to test for a large number of regulated and unregulated (NR) contaminants in drinking water. The table shows contaminants that were detected. **All contaminant levels are within applicable state and federal law.** Tests include contaminants in the following categories: microbiological, radioactive, inorganic, volatile organic, and synthetic organic including pesticides, herbicides, and pharmaceuticals. Testing for unregulated contaminants allows USEPA to gather baseline data. Not all contaminants are tested annually. *Sampled every three years as required; results shown are the 90th highest percentile of 30 samples taken throughout the City.

Contaminant Violation Level (and the likely source of contamination)	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit	MCLG	MCL
Acesulfame-k – Artificial sweetener	N	0.16	ppb	NR	NR
Alkalinity, total CaCO3 – Natural deposits	N	avg 100.0	ppm	NR	NR
Aluminum – Water treatment additive, natural deposits	N	0.074	ppm	NS	.05-.2 ppm
Antimony – Natural deposits, manufacturing	N	0.17	ppb	6 ppb	6 ppb
Atrazine – Natural deposits, farm runoff	N	0.04	ppb	3 ppb	3 ppb
Barium – Natural deposits	N	0.019	ppm	2 ppm	2 ppm
Bromodichloromethane – By-product of drinking water disinfection	N	7.86	ppb	0	NR
Bromoform – By-product of drinking water disinfection	N	<500.00	ppt	NR	NR
Calcium – Natural deposits	N	34.0	ppm	NS	NS
Chlorate – By-product of drinking water disinfection	N	46.0	ppb	NR	NR
Chloride – Natural deposits, road salt	N	11.0	ppm	250 ppm	NR
Chlorine, free – Residual of drinking water disinfection	N	0.841	ppm	4 ppm	4 ppm
Chloroform – By-product of drinking water disinfection	N	12.20	ppb	0	NR
Chromium – Erosion of natural deposits	N	0.57	ppb	100 ppb	100 ppb
Chromium, Hexavalent – Natural deposits, manufacturing	N	0.21	ppb	NR	NR
*Copper – Residual of copper laterals/plumbing	N	0.059	ppm	1.3 ppm	1.3 ppm
Cotinine – Metabolite of nicotine	N	0.002	ppb	NR	NR
Dalapon – Natural deposits, farm runoff	N	0.37	ppb	200 ppb	200 ppb
DEET – Insect repellent	N	0.008	ppb	NR	NR
Dibromochloromethane – By-product of drinking water disinfection	N	3.24	ppb	NR	NR
Dichloroacetic Acid (HAA) – By-product of drinking water disinfection	N	6.67	ppb	NR	60 ppb
Fluoride – Water treatment additive, natural deposits	N	0.71	ppm	4 ppm	4 ppm
Gross Alpha particles – Natural deposits	N	0.18	pCi/l	0	15 pCi/l
Gross Beta particles – Natural deposits	N	1.2	pCi/l	0	50 pCi/l
Haloacetic Acids, HAA5 – By-product of drinking water disinfection	N	21.155	ppb	0	60 ppb
Haloacetic Acids, HAA6Br – By-product of drinking water disinfection	N	9.041	ppb	0	60 ppb
Haloacetic Acids, HAA9 – By-product of drinking water disinfection	N	29.561	ppb	0	60 ppb
Hardness, Total as CaCO3 – Natural deposits	N	155.00	ppm	NR	NR
Hexachlorocyclopentadiene – Natural deposits, manufacturing	N	0.02	ppb	50 ppb	50 ppb
*Lead – Corrosion of household plumbing materials	N	7.5	ppb	0	15 ppb
Magnesium – Natural deposits	N	11.0	ppm	NR	NR
Manganese – Natural deposits	N	0.695	ppb	NR	50 ppb
Molybdenum – Natural deposits	N	1.0	ppb	NR	NR
Nickel – Natural deposits, manufacturing	N	0.5	ppb	NR	100 ppb
Nitrate – Natural deposits, farm runoff	N	0.310	ppm	10	10
Nitrogen – Natural deposits, farm runoff	N	260.0	ppb	10,000 ppb	10,000 ppb
Orthophosphate – Corrosion control inhibitor	N	0.79	ppm	NR	NR
Radium 226 + 228 Combined – Natural deposits	N	0.76	pCi/l	0	20 pCi/l
Sodium – Erosion of natural deposits	N	10.0	ppm	NR	500 ppm
Strontium – Natural deposits	N	125.0	ppb	NR	NR
Sucralose – Artificial sweetener	N	0.038	ppb	NR	NR
Sulfate – Natural deposits	N	28.0	ppm	NR	250 ppm
Trichloroacetic Acid (HAA) – By-product of drinking water disinfection	N	8.49	ppb	NR	60 ppb
Trihalomethanes, total – By-product of drinking water disinfection	N	23.41	ppb	0	80 ppb
Tris(chloroethyl)phosphate – Flame retardant	N	0.01	ppb	NR	NR
Total Dissolved Solids – Natural deposits	N	180.0	ppm	500	NR
Turbidity – Natural deposits	N	0.03	NTU	NR	0.3 NTU
Uranium, total – Natural deposits	N	0.12	pCi/l	0	30 pCi/l
Vanadium – Natural deposits	N	0.3	ppb	NR	NR

Cryptosporidium Monitoring - Cryptosporidium is a microbial parasite naturally found in surface water throughout the world. If ingested, it can cause intense gastrointestinal distress in otherwise healthy people. The Sheboygan Water Utility utilizes UV Disinfection to effectively inactivate the protozoan cryptosporidium.

In compliance with the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule, the Sheboygan Water Utility has conducted source water monitoring for cryptosporidium. In 2016, cryptosporidium was detected 1 time(s) in the untreated source waters of Lake Michigan.

Turbidity Monitoring - In accordance with s. NR 810.29, Wisconsin Administrative Code, the treated surface water is monitored for turbidity to confirm that the filtered water is less than 0.3NTU. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water. We monitor for it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system. During the year, the highest single entry point turbidity measurement was 0.05 NTU. The lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting the turbidity limits was 100 percent.

Sheboygan's Low Water Rates

Sheboygan's water rates are very low compared to other cities in the state. To see how we compare go to: sheboyganwater.org/compare.

Sheboygan's Current Water Rates Effective 5/1/2018

Meter Size	Fixed Quarterly Charge	Quarterly Public Fire Protection
¾"	\$12.00	\$8.52
¾"	\$12.00	\$8.52
1"	\$21.00	\$21.00
1¼"	\$30.00	\$30.00
1½"	\$39.00	\$42.00
2"	\$60.00	\$67.50
3"	\$102.00	\$126.00
4"	\$162.00	\$210.00
6"	\$306.00	\$420.00

Quarterly Volume Charge

First 150/100 C.F.	\$1.50
Next 4,850/100 C.F.	\$1.30
Over 5,000/100 C.F.	\$1.13

Municipal Charges as of 01/01/20

Fixed Quarterly Sewer Charge	\$49.00
Sewer Volume Charge	\$1.70/100 C.F
Quarterly Garbage Fee per Residential Living Unit:	\$15.00
Quarterly Recycling Fee per Residential Living Unit:	\$12.00

Explanation of Terms Used

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The maximum allowable amount for any substance set by the EPA.
Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The maximum allowable amount for any substance set by the EPA at which no known or anticipated adverse health effects would occur.
Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU): The amount of suspended material in water.

Not Regulated (NR)
Picocuries per liter (pCi/l): A unit of measure of radioactivity.
Parts per million (ppm): A unit of measure equivalent to one gallon in one million gallons.
Parts per billion (ppb): A unit of measure equivalent to one gallon in one billion gallons.
Parts per trillion (ppt): A unit of measure equivalent to one gallon in one trillion gallons.

For Spanish & Hmong Readers

El Agua Sheboygan Utilidad informe anual está disponible en español visitando sheboyganwater.org.

Daim Ntawv Qhia Txog Sheboygan Water Utility Rau Txhua Xyoo muab sau rau lus Hmoob teev rau hauv internet yog mus saib rau ntawm sheboyganwater.org.