

Status of Monitoring for the City of St. Charles Public Drinking Water System

OVERVIEW

- The city of St. Charles provides drinking water that complies with all Safe Drinking Water Act requirements and is safe to drink.
- Untreated groundwater that a public drinking water treatment system draws from individual wells, such as those in St. Charles, is not monitored for contaminants at the well because the raw source water is not ready for public use. Monitoring for contaminants, such as volatile organic compounds (VOC), is performed after the water has been through all treatment and before it is distributed to customers.
- If the treated water does not meet drinking water standards, the public is notified and actions are taken to identify and rectify the issue.

COMPLIANCE HISTORY

- For the past 20 years, compliance monitoring performed of the city of St. Charles' public water supply has not detected the presence of any regulated volatile organic contaminants.
- The department's Public Drinking Water Branch continues to work with the city to ensure the water served is and will continue to be consistently and reliably below the MCL.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- You can find the most recent reported results for all compliance samples collected by your public water system online at dnr.mo.gov/DWW/DNRLogin.jsp.
- You can also find a summary of all detections from compliance samples collected in your public water system's annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), which is available at dnrservices.mo.gov/ccr/index.html.
- The most recent CCR for St. Charles, based on compliance data collected through 2021, can be found at dnrservices.mo.gov/ccr/MO6010707.pdf.

Responses to Citizen Concerns Regarding the Elm Point Wellfield Superfund Site

I live within the city limits and the city of St. Charles public water system supplies my home with water, is my drinking water safe?

Yes, your water is safe and meets all Safe Drinking Water Act standards. Compliance monitoring routinely checks for regulated contaminants, such as VOCs. Monitoring of drinking water for contaminants, such as VOCs, is performed after the water has been through all treatment and before it is distributed to customers.

For the past 20 years, the compliance samples collected by the city and reported to the Department of Natural Resources have not shown any detections of VOC contamination. However, because contaminants of concern are present near the city's well field, the department does require more frequent annual monitoring. If a VOC contaminant is ever detected in the finished water, the department would require the city to conduct quarterly monitoring to ensure that the identified contaminant is consistently and reliably below its maximum contaminant level (MCL).

I live in St. Charles, is my private well affected?

If your well is not within the immediate vicinity of the Elm Point Well Field, it is unlikely that your water is being affected by contaminants of concern for the Findett Superfund site. Impacts to groundwater appear to be confined to the immediate area surrounding the site.

I live in the St. Charles incorporated area but I am not served by city of St. Charles Public Water System. Should I be concerned?

If you have a different public water service provider, you do not need to be concerned. More information about your Missouri public drinking water system or your water provider is available through the Missouri Public Drinking Water System Web App Viewer, online at modnr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=44dcc144fd4344d0a3a2bb5e2ae75f28.

Is the Elm Point Wellfield contamination connected to the unreasonably higher sewer/water bills received this summer?

The city of St. Charles is responsible for its sewer and water services. The city determines the cost of these services. The actions that the city has taken to proactively shut down several of their wells to limit the potential for these contaminants of concern from being drawn into the water supply, may impact their cost to provide water to their customers.

In regard to Elm Point Wellfield clean-up, costs are paid by the entities that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has designated as potentially responsible parties. These costs are not shared by the city or transferred to its residents.

Are the city wells and public drinking water analyzed for any other contaminants?

Yes. The department requires public water systems to regularly monitor for 91 different chemical and microbiological contaminants. Depending on the contaminant, this monitoring may be conducted at the entry point to the distribution system or from locations within the distribution system. The frequency of this sampling will also vary based on the contaminant; the monitoring schedule can be either monthly, quarterly, annually, tri-annually or even longer for certain contaminants.

Monitoring of drinking water for contaminants, such as volatile organic VOCs is performed after the water has been through all treatment and before it is distributed to customers.

What is the difference between a maximum contaminant level goal (MCLG) and a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)?

A maximum contaminant level goal (MCLG) is a non-enforceable benchmark level at which no known or anticipated adverse effect on human health is expected to occur and which allows an adequate margin of safety. A maximum contaminant level (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water and are enforceable standards. MCLs are set as close to the MCLG as feasible using the best available analytical and treatment technologies and taking cost into consideration.

Compliance with the MCL is based on a running annual average of quarterly drinking water samples. While the non-enforceable MCLG is set to 0 micrograms per liter (mg/L) for most contaminants of concern, the enforceable MCL is different for every contaminant. A contaminant's MCL is based on adverse health effects that would be expected from drinking about 1 gallon of water every day during an average lifetime of exposure (70 years) to levels above that contaminant's MCL.

For more information, contact the Department of Natural Resources, Public Drinking Water Branch at 573-751-5331, toll-free at 800-361-4827 or by email at drinking.water@dnr.mo.gov.