

Go Green... Go Paperless!

If one of your goals is to get organized and reduce clutter around your home, we can help!



Customers can sign up for paperless E-Billing to begin receiving their monthly Stoughton Utilities billing statement electronically, giving you increased flexibility and convenience. This option is safe and secure, and saves time and money since there is no statement to get lost in the mail.

Each month, we will send you an email notice when your new billing statement has been posted online. You can then simply click on the link provided in the email to log into your E-Pay account, view your statement and insert online, and easily pay your bill.

To enroll, visit www.stoughtonutilities.com, log in to your account, and then select *Start/Stop E-Billing* from the menu.

Additional Health Information

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. Stoughton Utilities 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 at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Ongoing system improvement efforts

Like most water systems across the country, Stoughton Utilities has underground infrastructure that is aging, and some critical elements have exceeded their service lifespan. When possible, this infrastructure is scheduled for repair or replacement.

Stoughton Utilities water main replacement project is an ongoing program to replace aged pipelines each year. When installed, the new larger water mains deliver more water, improve fire-fighting capabilities, and help to avoid potential flood damage to homes, businesses, and streets.

In 2016, scheduled infrastructure rehabilitation and water main replacement projects include:

- Van Buren Street, north from Main Street to Wilson Street.
- Clyde Street, east from Van Buren Street to Madison Street.
- Well number 5 and the reservoir on South Street

How do I report a water problem?

If you experience any problems with your water, or if you witness anything suspicious at our facilities, please call the customer service department emergency line anytime, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at (608) 873-3379.

Project RoundUP

Stoughton Utilities customers can opt to enroll in the voluntary RoundUP program. In this program, your utility bill will "round up" to the next highest dollar amount.

This small tax-deductible contribution may seem like only pennies a month, but the dollars add up quickly when many customers participate. The average contribution per program participant is just \$6.00 per year, with an estimated total of \$2,500 raised each year to be awarded to local community service organizations.

By joining this program, you are continuing the "neighbor helping neighbor" concept that founded Stoughton Utilities years ago.

To enroll, visit www.stoughtonutilities.com, log in to your account, and then select *Payment & Billing Options* from the menu.



2015 Drinking Water Quality Report

For more information on:

- Account AutoPay
- Billing Inquiries
- Budget Billing Plan
- Online E-Pay
- Paperless E-Billing
- Payment by Phone
- RoundUP Community Donation
- Water Conservation
- Water, Wastewater and Electric Rates

600 S. Fourth Street
P.O. Box 383
Stoughton, WI 53589

(608) 873-3379
www.stoughtonutilities.com

Diggers Hotline

Did you know that you need to contact Diggers Hotline before any project that involves any digging in your yard? State law (Wisconsin statute 182.0175) requires you to contact Diggers Hotline anytime the soil is disturbed.

This requirement exists not only for your safety, but also to protect you from legal liability. If you do not contact Digger's Hotline and you damage any underground infrastructure while digging, you will be held liable for all repair costs and other damages.

At least three days before you dig, you can contact Diggers Hotline 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year, either by calling (800) 242-8511 or by dialing **811**. You can also submit your request online on www.DiggersHotline.com.

Water Facts

Hydrologists estimate the U.S. groundwater reserves to be at least 33,000 trillion gallons — equal to the total amount discharged into the Gulf of Mexico by the Mississippi River in the past 200 years.

The United States draws more than 40 billion gallons (151 million liters) of water from the Great Lakes every day—half of which is used for electrical power production.

Educational Information

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.

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 stormwater 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 stormwater 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 stormwater 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, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 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 shall provide the same protection for public health.

All 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 the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Introduction:

Once again, the employees of Stoughton Utilities are pleased to provide you with this year's annual Drinking Water Quality Report. We are proud to announce that we continue to meet or surpass all state and federal water quality standards under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

We want you to understand the efforts we make continually to improve water quality and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water remains at the highest possible level.

Water quality testing and results:

Stoughton Utilities routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water in accordance with state and federal laws.

The following Table A shows the results of our monitoring for the period from January 1, 2015, through December 31, 2015 (unless otherwise noted). Please note that only water parameters that had a detect are listed. If you would like to see the other constituents that were tested for, but did not have any detects, please contact us.

In this table, you will find many terms and abbreviations of which you might not be familiar. To help you understand these terms, we have provided the following definitions:

- **Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l):** One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years, or a single penny in \$10,000.
- **Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter:** One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.
- **Picocuries per liter (pCi/l):** Picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.
- **Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** "Maximum Allowed" is 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.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The "Goal" is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- **TCR:** Total Coliform Rule

Discussion:

Please note that Stoughton Utilities' drinking water complies with all state and federal regulations, as shown in Table A.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by constituents that are naturally occurring or are manmade. Those constituents can be microbes, organic or inorganic chemicals, or radioactive materials.

Information from the EPA:

MCLs are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

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. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

About Stoughton Utilities:

Stoughton Utilities' water comes from four wells located throughout the city and is pumped directly into the water distribution system and three storage facilities. The water is treated with chlorine and fluoride as it leaves the wells and storage facilities. In 2015, Stoughton Utilities pumped a total of 515,749,000 gallons of water.

Stoughton Utilities is nonprofit and is owned directly by the City of Stoughton. All operations are funded entirely by the water, electric, and wastewater rates paid for our services by SU customers. In lieu of taxes for 2015, Stoughton Utilities paid \$733,509 to the City of Stoughton, making it the largest taxpayer in the city.

How to contact us

We welcome you to attend the monthly Stoughton Utilities Committee meetings at the administrative office located at 600 S. Fourth Street. Meeting notices, agendas, and past meeting minutes are available at www.stoughtonutilities.com.

If you have any questions concerning this report your water utility, or Stoughton Utilities in general, please contact us at (608) 877-7423 or at www.stoughtonutilities.com.

If you have a water emergency, please contact us anytime, 24-hours per day, seven days per week, at (608) 873-3379.

TABLE A:

Disinfection Byproducts:

Contaminant (units):	MCL:	MCLG:	Level Found:	Range:	Sample Date: (if prior to 2015)	Source of Contaminant:
HAA5 (site 19) (ppb)	60	60	1	1		Byproduct of drinking water chlorination.
HAA5 (site 20) (ppb)	60	60	2	2		Byproduct of drinking water chlorination.
TTHM (site 19) (ppb)	80	0	5.8	5.8		Byproduct of drinking water chlorination.
TTHM (site 20) (ppb)	80	0	21.0	21.0		Byproduct of drinking water chlorination.

Inorganic Contaminants:

Contaminant (units):	MCL:	MCLG:	Level Found:	Range:	Sample Date: (if prior to 2015)	Source of Contaminant:
Arsenic (ppm)	10	n/a	1	0 – 1	3/5/2014	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.041	0.020 – 0.041	3/5/2014	Drilling waste; erosion of natural deposits.
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	1	0 – 1	3/5/2014	Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper (ppm)	AL=1.3	1.3	0.1400	0 of 60		Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.6	0.6		Water additive; erosion of natural deposits.
Lead (ppb) ¹	AL=15	0	10.00	4 of 60 results		Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits.
Nickel (ppb)	100		1.9000	.6800 – 1.9000	3/5/14	Naturally occurring in soils and ground / surface waters.
Nitrate (NO3-N)(ppm)	10	10	5.48	0.04 - 6.30		Fertilizer use; erosion of natural deposits.
Sodium (ppm)	n/a	n/a	15.00	2.80 – 15.00	3/5/2014	n/a
Thallium (ppm)	2	0.5	0.3	0.2 – 0.3	3/5/2014	Leaching from ore-processing sites; discharge from electronics, glass, and drug factories

Radioactive Contaminants:

Contaminant (units):	MCL:	MCLG:	Level Found:	Range:	Sample Date: (if prior to 2015)	Source of Contaminant:
Gross Alpha excl. (pCi/l)	15	0	9.7	0-9.7	3/5/2014	Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross Alpha incl. (pCi/l)	n/a	n/a	9.7	0 – 9.7	3/5/2014	Erosion of natural deposits.
Radium (pCi/l)	5	0	4.6	1.0 – 4.6	3/5/2014	Erosion of natural deposits.

Unregulated Contaminants:

Contaminant (units):	MCL:	MCLG:	Level Found:	Range:	Sample Date: (if prior to 2015)	Source of Contaminant:
Sulfate (ppm)	n/a	n/a	22.0	13.00-22.00	3/5/2014	n/a

¹ Systems exceeding a lead and/or copper action level must take actions to reduce lead and/or copper in the drinking water. The lead and copper values represent the 90th percentile of all compliance samples collected. If you want information on the number of sites or the actions taken to reduce these levels, please contact Stoughton Utilities.