Quality and Reliability since 1882
Madison Water Utility

www.madisonwater.org • 119 E. Olin Avenue • Madison, WI 53713-1431 • 608.266.4651

UNIT WELL #13

Drilled in 1959, Unit Well 13 has a pumping capacity of 2620 gallons per minute; however, the pump typically delivers 1680 gallons per minute through the use of a variable frequency drive. It operates year-round and serves Madison's North side. In 2022, Well 13 pumped 480 million gallons of water compared to the 5-year average of 446 million gallons annually.

Unless otherwise noted, data contained in this report, which is updated annually, are from 2022.

Bacteria

In 2022, five samples were collected from Well 13 and tested for coliform bacteria, an indicator group of bacteria used to determine drinking water safety. Each sample was collected and tested prior to any disinfection. None of these samples had coliform bacteria present. The Water Utility chlorinates drinking water to protect against bacteria and viruses that can be present in groundwater and to provide protection as the water travels through the water mains and premise plumbing.

Hardness and Other Minerals

Like all groundwater, water from Well 13 contains calcium and magnesium that contributes to its hardness (380 mg/L [ppm] or 22 grains per gallon). Other naturally occurring constituents that are present in water from Well 13 can be found in the Inorganics Table.

Iron and Manganese

Water from Well 13 contains low levels of iron and manganese. Both minerals are well below the US EPA secondary standards, which are 0.3 mg/L for iron and 50 µg/L for manganese.

Chromium

Low levels of naturally occurring chromium, including hexavalent chromium, have been found at Well 13. The level is well below the existing drinking water standard of 100 µg/L for total chromium. More information can be found on the chromium page.

Sodium

The level of sodium in Well 13 water is equal to the EPA guideline which recommends drinking water not to exceed 20 mg/L sodium. These guidelines are intended for higher risk populations including individuals with high blood pressure or on severe sodium restricted diets. In 2022, sodium at Well 13 measured 20 mg/L. Road salt application likely contributes to elevated sodium levels at some Madison wells.

Lead

Madison's groundwater supply does not contain significant amounts of naturally occurring lead.

Radionuclides

In 2020, water from Well 13 was tested for radium-226, radium-228, and other gross measures of radiation in water. Combined radium (226+228) measured 1.3 picocuries per liter (pCi/L) – well below the maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 5 pCi/L.

Naturally occurring, radioactive elements are found in rock, soil, water, and air. They derive from the creation of our planet and enter our bodies when we drink water, breathe air, and eat foods that contain them. Everyone is exposed to some level of radiation in everyday life. For example, uranium and thorium are found in rock and soil. In time, they decay to other elements including radium, which later decays to radon gas. Radon is the largest contributor to our daily exposure of radiation from the natural world. More information is available from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR).

See ATSDR for more information on radon.

Human-made Contaminants

Madison Water Utility annually tests all of its municipal wells for human-made contaminants that may be present in groundwater. None of the volatile organic compounds (VOC) tested were detected at Well 13 in 2022.

The Volatile Organic Compounds table shows the list of substances that were tested, the results, and how the detected levels compare with the maximum contaminant levels (MCL) established by the EPA.

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

Seven different PFAS were detected at Well 13 in 2022. The combined PFAS level is **estimated at 8.4 ng/L or parts per trillion**. In 2022, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) adopted drinking water standards for PFOA & PFOS set at 70 ppt. In March 2023, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed standards for six PFAS contaminants. Our website, madisonwater.org, has more detailed information about PFAS in drinking water.

Additional Information

Information on routine water quality monitoring activities, including current test results and links to additional resources, is available at madisonwater.org. In addition, you can sign-up to receive periodic updates on Madison drinking water quality or the water main flushing program through the City of Madison website.

If you have questions about the information in this report or on our website, our staff would be happy to answer them. Please call the Water Quality line at 266-4654 weekdays from 7:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Click here to view water quality reports for other Madison municipal wells.