

## ***Sioux Trail Annual Drinking Water Report 2003***

### **Is my water safe?**

We are proud to say that in the last year the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community water system completed and passed all tests required by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Water from the Sioux Trail treatment facility is tested daily for chlorine, fluoride, iron, and manganese. The water is also tested for bacteria, pesticides, and other contaminants. These tests are performed to ensure that tribal water is safe to drink. This report contains information on the water consumed in 2003, where it comes from, and whether it meets all drinking water safety standards. For more information on the contaminants tested for this past year, please see the water quality data table contained in this report. The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community Public Works Department is working to ensure that the water we provide you is always safe to drink, and we invite you to join us in this process. Please read this report for more information on what we are doing and how you can help.

### **Do I need to take special precautions?**

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-compromised persons such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, organ transplant patients, people with HIV - AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. Persons with these conditions should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The EPA/ Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

### **Where does my water come from?**

The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community water supply originates as water beneath the surface of the Earth called groundwater. Groundwater is naturally filtered as it travels through soil and rocks. The Community has wells in the Prairie du Chien-Jordan Aquifer that draws from approximately 220 feet below the land surface, and the Franconia-Ironton-Galesville Aquifer, which draws from approximately 450 feet below the land surface. Sioux Trail draws from both the Prairie du Chien-Jordan Aquifer and the Franconia-Ironton-Galesville Aquifer. These wells pump water back to the land surface where it is treated with chlorine, fluoride, and ortho-phosphate. It is then made available for consumption.

### **Source Water Protection and Its Availability**

The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community developed a Wellhead Protection Plan in 2001 to protect your drinking water. Because of changes in water use and land use the plan will be rewritten during 2004 and 2005. Advancing our knowledge of the groundwater resource will provide the Community with the ability to make management decisions based on sound scientific data. To further this effort several information gathering efforts will be undertaken.

1. The Minnesota Geologic Survey has been contracted to develop geologic cross sections and anticipated water availability maps.
2. The United States Geological Survey will be conducting a pump test on the Franconia-Ironton-Galesville aquifer. The pump test data will be used to ascertain aquifer characteristics such as flow rate.

## ***Sioux Trail Annual Drinking Water Report 2003***

3. A consultant has been hired to develop a groundwater flow model for the Community. This model will be used by the Land Department to:
- Develop wellhead protection zones
  - Review local well development proposals and determine the impact to Community resources
  - Develop a Community wide groundwater management plan
  - Review the water use of neighboring communities and find zones of potential well interference

If you would like to learn more about these initiatives or the Wellhead Protection Plan, please contact the Land Department.

Scott Walz  
SMSC Wellhead Protection Coordinator  
952-496-6123

### **How can contaminants get into my drinking water?**

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 Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

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 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.

- Microbial Contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural live stock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, can be naturally-occurring or result from storm water runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and Herbicides may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive Contaminants can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

## ***Sioux Trail Annual Drinking Water Report 2003***

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The 2003 test results show there are no contaminants above an EPA established limit in the Community water supply. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

### **How Can I Get Involved?**

We encourage you to become more involved in Community water issues. Please feel free to ask questions and present concerns to the Business Council. We also invite you to call the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community Public Works Department for more information at 952-496-6176.

### **Water Quality Data Table**

The table included in this report lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of this report. The EPA requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, may be more than one year old. The results in the table show that almost all detected contaminants are far below the maximum allowable contaminant level for the Sioux Trail water system.

#### Terms and Abbreviations Used Below:

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety and are set by the Environmental Protection Agency.

**Maximum Contaminant Level:** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**Action Level:** The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements, which a water system must follow.

**ND:** Non-Detected

#### Units Description:

ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)

ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l)

pci/l: picocuries per liter (measure of radioactivity)

#### For more information contact:

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