



## Ashland Water and Wastewater Utility 2012 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

**15th Annual Report:** We are very pleased to provide you with this 2012 Annual Water Quality Report. This 15th annual report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day based on the tests performed throughout 2012. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of our water, obtained from Chequamegon Bay, Lake Superior.

**Consumer Information:** This report shows our water quality and what it means. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact The Ashland Water Utility at 715-682-7194 between 7:00 AM and 3:30 PM. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Public Works meetings. They are held on the second week of the month in the council chambers at City Hall, 601 W. Main Street, Ashland, Wisconsin. Additional information can be found on the City of Ashland's web site at <http://www.ci.ashland.wi.us> and available upon request.

**Source Water Assessment:** A source water assessment was completed by the Department of Natural Resources for all surface water treatment systems on March 27<sup>th</sup> 2003. The assessment showed that a problem we face in Ashland is surface runoff from rain and snow melt which increases the amount of clay solids in the bay called turbidity. Additional constituents for which we monitor and treat for include microbial, volatile organic and synthetic organic contaminants as well as precursors of treatment by-products.

**Source(s) of Water:**

Source id	Source	Depth (in feet)	Waterbody Name	Status
1	Surface Water		LAKE SUPERIOR	Active

The complete source water assessment for Ashland is available at:  
<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/dwg/swap/surface/ashland.pdf>

**Is the Water Safe?** We are pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets all federal and state requirements\* based on our routine monitoring of constituents in the treated water. All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by constituents that are naturally occurring or man made. Those constituents can be microbes, organic or inorganic chemicals, pesticides, herbicides or radioactive materials. Any drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain very small amounts of some constituents. The presence of these constituents does not necessarily mean that water poses a health risk. More information about constituents and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. EPA and the Wisconsin DNR regulate and require testing of over 100 different constituents. The table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012. If a constituent is not listed in the table (as shown on back page), it was not detected in our drinking water.

**What does this mean?** We are proud to show that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements for the year.\* We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected. The EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels.

**A Note from EPA:** MCL's 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 (half gallon) of water every day at the 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 constituents 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 constituents are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

**Continuing Efforts:** The utility is continuing to focus on our aging distribution system. Many pipes and valves still in use underground are nearly 100 years old and 50% of the distribution system was installed prior to the end of World War 1. We greatly appreciate all the residents who have been our "eyes" in the system and have reported water leaks in a timely manner. Those phone calls have saved time and money in responding to water leaks. Thank you. The City of Ashland is committed to maintain a safe and dependable water supply and provide top quality water to every tap.