

**PRINCETON PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 1:00 P.M.**

- 1. Call to Order – Roll Call**
- 2. Swearing in Commissioner Jenny Gerold**
- 3. Approval of Minutes**
  - a. Public Utilities Commission – Regular Meeting – March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020
- 4. Public Comment**

*(This agenda section is for the purpose of allowing customers to address the Utility Board. Comments are limited to 3 minutes)*
- 5. Approval of Agenda – Additions or Deletions**
- 6. Approval of Accounts Payable**
- 7. Reports & Correspondence**
  - a. Mayor Brad Schumacher
  - b. SMMPA Board Meeting (April 9<sup>th</sup>)
    - i. SMMPA Key Metrics worksheet
  - c. Electric Department updates
    - i. Generation Plant
    - ii. Distribution System
  - d. Water Department Updates
  - e. City of Princeton update
  - f. General Manager's report
- 8. Unfinished Business**
  - a. AMI Conversion Update
  - b. EV Host Agreement
- 9. New Business**
  - a. COVID-19 Update
  - b. Financial Signatures
  - c. Staffing
- 10. Adjournment**



## Oath of Office for Commissioners

“I, **Jenny Gerold** do solemnly swear to support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Minnesota, and to discharge faithfully the duties of the office of Princeton Public Utilities Commissioner of the city of Princeton, Minnesota, to the best of my judgment and ability.”

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

### REGULAR MEETING

March 25, 2020, 1:00 P.M.

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the Regular Meeting of the Public Utilities Commission, City of Princeton, was held via Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic, on March 25, 2020, at 1:00 P.M.

Present: Chairman Greg Hanson and Commissioners Dan Erickson and Mindi Siercks.

Also Present: Manager Keith Butcher, Bookkeeper Kathy Ohman, City Councilor Jenny Gerold, Electric Superintendent Ryan Grant, Water Superintendent Scott Daniels, City Administrator Bob Barbian, Princeton Mayor Brad Schumacher, and Union Times Reporter Tim Hennagir.

Meeting was called to order and led by the Pledge of Allegiance by Chairman Hanson at 1:05 P.M.

Chairman Hanson called for additions or deletions to the agenda. Princeton Mayor Brad Schumacher had one addition. Addition: New Business: H. Mayor Schumacher.

Ms. Siercks made a motion to approve the agenda of the February 26, 2020 Regular PUC Commission Meeting. Mr. Hanson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Siercks moved to approve the Minutes for the February 26, 2020 Regular PUC Commission Meeting. Although Mr. Erickson was not in attendance to this meeting, Mr. Erickson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

There was no Public Comments.

Mr. Erickson made a motion to approve the accounts payable listing for the period of February 1, 2020 through February 29, 2020. Ms. Siercks seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

General Manager Butcher reported the following:

A. The SMMPA Board Meeting was held March 11<sup>th</sup> in Owatonna, Minnesota. General Manager Keith Butcher was not in attendance of this meeting and has not received the minutes for this meeting. Key metrics was provided to the PUC Commissioners. SMMPA continues with rebranding.

B. In the Generation Plant, they have been removing rock around the transformers and spill containment area.

In the Electric Department, the line crew has been doing some tree trimming and LED light upgrades.

C. In the Water Department, they are making sure to keep up with their paperwork and inventories.

D. City Administrator Bob Barbian reported there was a development regarding the golf course club house, a plat on West Branch Road, and a development on Highway 95. The City of Princeton is taking steps with work spaces and times for all departments due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All staff is working full time.

- E. General Manager Keith Butcher reported the transformers at the South Substation have been relocated inside the fenced area. A copy of the Conditional Use Permit has not been received from the City of Princeton as requested. City Administrator Bob Barbian stated he has not been able to take the time to locate the Conditional Use Permit however he stated the permit does not allow for storage at this facility. The PUC would need to apply for an additional storage permit. The Princeton Business Expo to be held on April 4<sup>th</sup> which the PUC was participating in has been canceled.

General Manager Keith Butcher reported 475 electric meters and 125 water meters have been currently installed. Installation of AMI meters has been suspended at this time due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The AMI meters that were on hand have all been installed. Shipments of AMI meters are coming in quarterly from Eaton/Cannon.

There was a discussion on the EV Level 2 Chargers which are moving forward. The DC fast chargers are on hold for now.

There was a discussion on the 5<sup>th</sup> Street water main realignment project. Originally the project included additional fire protection for this area. The bid with the additional fire protection was over \$100,000.00. Having the bid modified to remove the extra fire protection would bring the bid to \$89,542.50 which saves rate payers approximately \$23,000.00. The discussion included the water project at the golf course for the new club house, brewery and also the 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue North project which would be done in conjunction with Mille Lacs County in 2022. If the project is not approved at this time, the contractor may withdraw their bid as spring projects are coming up for contractors. Additional fire protection on the north side of Princeton will be completed at a later date. Ms. Siercks made a motion to accept the bid of \$142,465.00 less \$51,000.00 for the additional fire protection for the 5<sup>th</sup> Street water main realignment project. Mr. Erickson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, the PUC staff has been split into two groups working in the office separately. Employees working from home have been provided a list of tasks they are able to complete at home. Employees working in the office are doing a cleaning regimen during the day. All employees remain on call and are in contact with other utilities in regards to mutual aid if required. City Administrator Bob Barbian stated the City of Princeton has their employees working in split shifts as well with all employees working 40 hours.

General Manager Keith Butcher announced PUC's IT specialist Greg Bergmann will be retiring in April. Mr. Butcher has solicited bids from four IT companies to handle the PUC's IT needs. He has selected CW Technologies for this task at a cost of \$1,450.00 per month. The contract does include a 60-day cancellation notice. The handling of the GIS system and AMI meters will be shifted to other personnel. Mr. Hanson suggested having Mr. Bergmann remain on staff for some additional time during this transition. Ms. Siercks made a motion to accept the hiring of CW Technologies for the PUC's IT managed services. Mr. Erickson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

General Manager Keith Butcher presented the rebranded PUC logo and updated website to the PUC Commission for approval. The theme of the logo was kept similar to the old PUC logo. Union Times Reporter Tim Hennagir will coordinate a posting with the launching of the new website. The consensus of the PUC Commission was they all liked the rebranded PUC logo and the new updated website which was very easy to use.

There was a discussion regarding the recording and archiving of PUC Commission Meetings on the internet. Manager Butcher feels the recordings and archiving should be done by the PUC. He would like to use the technology available to us to make sure everything is recorded and available to the public. He would also like to create a recording and video policy. Ms. Siercks made a motion to direct General Manager Keith Butcher pursue creating a recording and video archiving policy. Mr. Erickson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 20-03 RESOLUTION OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PRINCETON DISCONTINUATION OF PRINCETON PUBLIC UTILITIES PAYMENT IN-LIEU-OF TAXES (PILOT) was presented to the PUC Commission for approval. There was a discussion regarding the City of Princeton's franchise fee and the PUC's cash reserve policy. City Councilor Jenny Gerold stated the City of Princeton franchise fee is for parks only and the PUC's PILOT goes into the City of Princeton's general fund. After much discussion, Mr. Erickson made a motion to accept Resolution 20-03. Ms. Siercks seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

General Manager Keith Butcher requested a letter from the City of Princeton announcing the appointment of City Councilor Jenny Gerold to the PUC Commission. He would like the letter to have a start date for Ms. Gerold.

Resolution 20-02 RESOLUTION OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PRINCETON REGARDING AUTHORIZING THE SERVICES OF MINUTEMAN PRESS, PRINCETON, MN for the use of their services for printing and web design/upgrades in the amount of \$1,364.84 from December 18, 2019 through February 26, 2020 was presented. Mr. Hanson made a motion to accept Resolution 19-12. Mr. Erickson seconded. Ms. Siercks abstained from voting.

City of Princeton Mayor Brad Schumacher stated he was extremely disappointed in the PUC Commission for discontinuing their PILOT payment. He will be discussing this move at the next City of Princeton Council Meeting,

There being no further business, Ms. Siercks made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:46 p.m. Mr. Erickson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Gregory Hanson  
Chairman

Kathy Ohman  
Secretary

**PRINCETON PUBLIC UTILITIES**

**Accounts Payable Listing**

For 3/1/2020 to 3/31/2020

	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1	Ameripride Linen & Apparel Services	Cleaning Supplies & Services	375.81
2	Card Services (Coborns)	Supplies	33.73
3	Finken Water Solutions	Bottled Water	15.65
4	Gopher State One Call	Monthly Locates	36.45
5	Grainger	Tags, Ring Terminals, Spray	185.39
6	Hofman Oil Co.	Monthly Vehicle Fuel	742.93
7	Innovative Office Solutions	Supplies	264.99
8	Instrumental Research, Inc.	Monthly Water Testing	67.00
9	Marv's True Value	Zip Ties, Floor Kit, Flat Stock, Grout, Shipping	871.14
10	McDowall Company	2020 Roof Mgmt. Agreement	1,450.00
11	Menards	Self-Leveling Concrete	79.98
12	Metering & Technology Solutions	Inventory	2,053.92
13	Midcontinent Communications	Monthly Internet & Telephone	249.39
14	MN Dept. of Commerce	Indirect & CIP Assessments	1,335.09
15	MN Dept. of Health	Qrtly. \$9.72 State Water Fee	4,128.00
16	MN Municipal Utilities	Education	1,395.00
17	NAPA Central, MN	Wire, Connectors, Shrink Wrap, Torch, Wiper Blades	141.22
18	Grace Nowak	2019 Local Scholarship Award	500.00
19	Princeton Area Chamber of Commerce	2020 Business & Community Expo	220.00
20	Princeton Floral & Wedding	Funeral Plant	62.00
21	Verizon Wireless	Monthly Cell Phone	518.22
22	Voyant Communications, LLC	Monthly Telephone	421.98
23	Connie Wangen	Consulting Services	187.50
24	Waste Management	Monthly Trash Service	80.95
25	WSB	Engineer Fees	1,092.25
26	U.S. Bank Equipment Finance	Monthly Copier Lease Payment	182.00
27	Northland Trust Services	2010 Refunding Bond Principal & Interest Pymt.	184,183.75
28	Northland Trust Services	2012 Refunding Bond Principal & Interest Pymt.	229,628.75
29	U.S. Bank Operations Center	2006 Bond Interest Pymt. & Admin. Fees	5,303.23
30	SMMPA	February Purchased Power	325,939.24
31	Postmaster	Postage for Monthly Billing	762.80
32	1000bulbs.com	LED Light	73.64
33	American Solutions for Business	Window Envelopes	236.28
34	American Water Works Assoc.	2020 AWWA Membership	214.00
35	Cannon Technologies Inc.	New AMI Metering	34,851.30
36	Cardmember Service (Mastercard)	Supplies, Zip Ties, Floor Liner, Mud Flaps	1,045.73
37	Centerpoint Energy	Monthly Natural Gas	2018.27
38	City of Princeton	February Sewer Billing & Late Charges	114,839.88
39	Connexus Energy	Monthly Utilities	1,929.45
40	Fairview Health Services	Random Drug & Alcohol Testing	82.00
41	Fastenal Company	Bolts	179.68
42	HealthPartners	April Health Insurance	25,719.43
43	Jim's Mille Lacs Disposal, Inc.	Garbage Bags	390.00
44	Locators & Supplies, Inc.	LED Light Mounting Plate	216.47
45	McGrann Shea Carnival Straughn	Legal Fees	912.50
46	Mille Lacs County Sheriffs Office	2020 ARMER System Subscriber Agreement	1,250.00
47	MN Municipal Utilities	Drug & Alcohol Consortium	37.50
48	NCPERS Group Life Insurance	March Life Insurance	112.00
49	Princeton Public Utilities	Meetings, Supplies	242.70
50	Public Utilities Commission	Monthly Utilities	1,609.75
51	Quadient Leasing USA, Inc.	Postage Meter Rental	455.07
52	Rescp	Foam Kit, Photo Cells	1,291.58
53	Salvation Army Heat Share	February Heat Share & PUC Matching	24.00
54	Shimmer-N-Shine Maid Service	Office & Shop Cleaning	375.81
55	Shred-It USA	Shredding Service	81.93
56	Sun Life Financial	April Short & Long Term Disability	881.89
57	TASC	COBRA Admin. Fees	15.00

58	Union Times	Subscription to Union Times	45.00
59	Unum Life Insurance Company	April Life Insurance	226.44
60	Delta Dental	March Dental Insurance	1,418.05
61	PERA	March PERA Contribution	13,359.03
62	Optum	February & March H S A Contributions	11,534.73
63	MN Dept. of Revenue	January Sales & Use Tax	28,589.00
64	Credit Card Company	Monthly Credit Card, eCheck Charges	1,928.25
65	Refunds	Customer Meter Deposits	4,288.50
66	Refunds	Overpayment Refunds on Final Bills	668.18
67	Rebates	Residential Energy Star Rebates	675.35

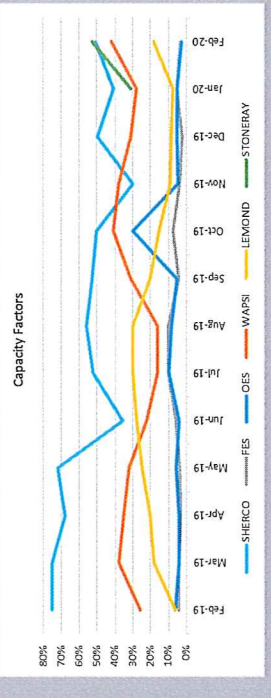
TOTAL

1,014,326.75

# SMMPA Key Metrics

March 2020

## PLANT OPERATIONS Performance Metrics



## Availability Metrics

For February 2020

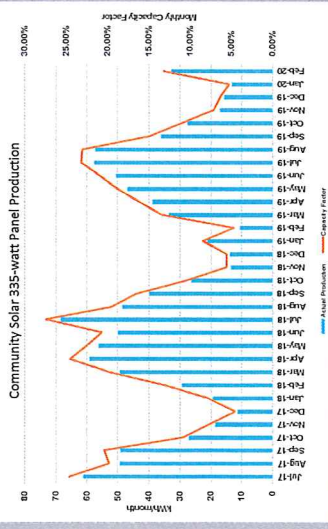
	FES	OES	MORA LFG
Availability	98%	95%	0%
Industry Average Availability	93%	93%	N/A
Forced Outage	0%	0%	100%
Industry Average Forced Outage	6%	6%	N/A

## Solar Production Metrics

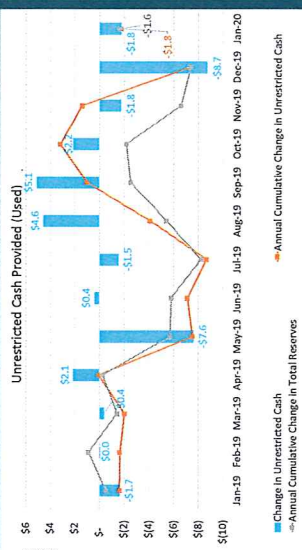
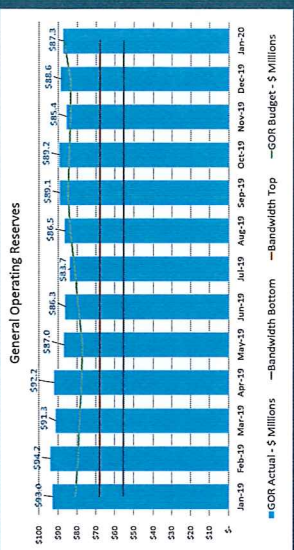
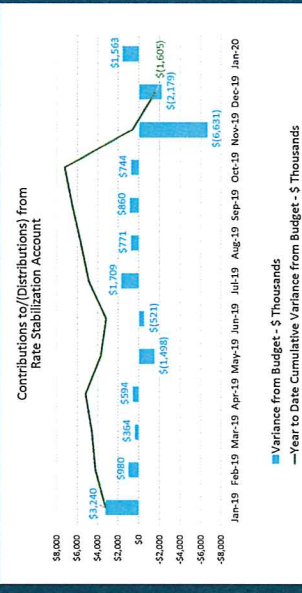
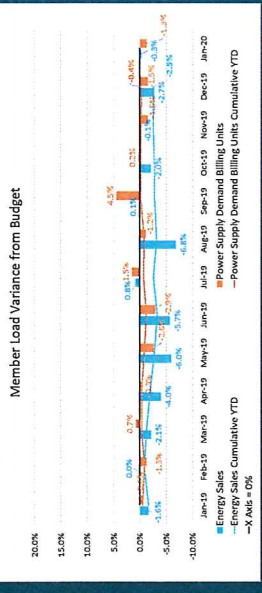


Number of working days since the last time an accident

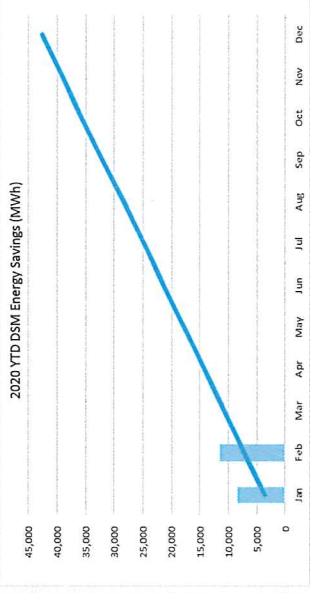
**1201**  
(through 2/29/20)



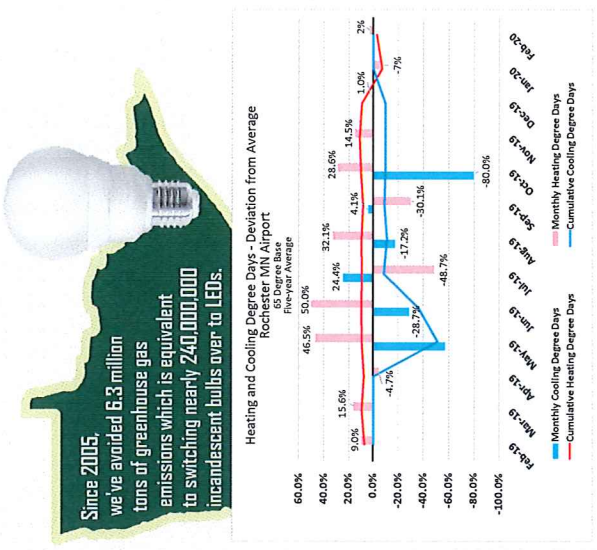
## FINANCIAL Performance Metrics



## ADDITIONAL Metrics



SMMPA was one of the 2019 honorees for the Healthiest Employers of Minnesota as awarded by the Springbuk Health Intelligence Platform. The Agency, which ranked #5 among companies under 500 employees, was honored for their commitment to employee health and corporate health







# Certificate of Completion

THIS ACKNOWLEDGES THAT

Princeton Public Utilities Comm

Has Completed the 2019 Water Conservation Report

Carmelita Nelson, Program Coordinator

# Princeton 2019 Drinking Water Report

## Making Safe Drinking Water

Your drinking water comes from a groundwater source: three wells ranging from 139 to 169 feet deep, that draw water from the Quaternary Buried Artesian and Quaternary Water Table aquifers.

Princeton works hard to provide you with safe and reliable drinking water that meets federal and state water quality requirements. The purpose of this report is to provide you with information on your drinking water and how to protect our precious water resources.

Contact Keith R. Butcher, General Manager, at 763-389-2252 or [kbutcher@princetonutilities.com](mailto:kbutcher@princetonutilities.com) if you have questions about Princeton's drinking water. You can also ask for information about how you can take part in decisions that may affect water quality.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sets safe drinking water standards. These standards limit the amounts of specific contaminants allowed in drinking water. This ensures that tap water is safe to drink for most people. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulates the amount of certain contaminants in bottled water. Bottled water must provide the same public health protection as public tap 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 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 1-800-426-4791.

## Princeton Monitoring Results

This report contains our monitoring results from January 1 to December 31, 2019.

We work with the Minnesota Department of Health to test drinking water for more than 100 contaminants. It is not unusual to detect contaminants in small amounts. No water supply is ever completely free of contaminants. Drinking water standards protect Minnesotans from substances that may be harmful to their health.

Learn more by visiting the Minnesota Department of Health's webpage [Basics of Monitoring and testing of Drinking Water in Minnesota](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/sampling.html) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/sampling.html>).

## How to Read the Water Quality Data Tables

The tables below show the contaminants we found last year or the most recent time we sampled for that contaminant. They also show the levels of those contaminants and the Environmental Protection Agency's limits. Substances that we tested for but did not find are not included in the tables.

We sample for some contaminants less than once a year because their levels in water are not expected to change from year to year. If we found any of these contaminants the last time we sampled for them, we included them in the tables below with the detection date.

We may have done additional monitoring for contaminants that are not included in the Safe Drinking Water Act. To request a copy of these results, call the Minnesota Department of Health at 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

## Definitions

- **AL (Action Level):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **EPA:** Environmental Protection Agency
- **MCL (Maximum contaminant level):** 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.
- **MCLG (Maximum contaminant level goal):** 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.
- **MRDL (Maximum residual disinfectant level):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- **MRDLG (Maximum residual disinfectant level goal):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- **N/A (Not applicable):** Does not apply.
- **pCi/l (picocuries per liter):** A measure of radioactivity.
- **ppb (parts per billion):** One part per billion in water is like one drop in one billion drops of water, or about one drop in a swimming pool. ppb is the same as micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/l}$ ).
- **ppm (parts per million):** One part per million is like one drop in one million drops of water, or about one cup in a swimming pool. ppm is the same as milligrams per liter ( $\text{mg/l}$ ).
- **PWSID:** Public water system identification.

**Monitoring Results – Regulated Substances**

**LEAD AND COPPER – Tested at customer taps.**

Contaminant (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG)	EPA's Action Level	90% of Results Were Less Than	Number of Homes with High Levels	Violation	Typical Sources
<b>Lead</b>	0 ppb	90% of homes less than 15 ppb	1.8 ppb	0 out of 20	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing.
<b>Copper</b>	0 ppm	90% of homes less than 1.3 ppm	0.32 ppm	0 out of 20	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing.

**INORGANIC & ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS – Tested in drinking water.**

Contaminant (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG)	EPA's Limit (MCL)	Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results	Violation	Typical Sources
<b>Barium (09/09/15)</b>	2 ppm	2 ppm	0.11 ppm	N/A	NO	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposit.
<b>Combined Radium (2018)</b>	0 pCi/l	5.4 pCi/l	1.8 pCi/l	N/A	NO	Erosion of natural deposits.

**CONTAMINANTS RELATED TO DISINFECTION – Tested in drinking water.**

Substance (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG or MRDLG)	EPA's Limit (MCL or MRDL)	Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results	Violation	Typical Sources
<b>Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)</b>	N/A	80 ppb	20.4 ppb	N/A	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
<b>Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA)</b>	N/A	60 ppb	15.6 ppb	N/A	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
<b>Total Chlorine</b>	4.0 ppm	4.0 ppm	0.89 ppm	0.43 - 0.85 ppm	NO	Water additive used to control microbes.

Total HAA refers to HAA5

**OTHER SUBSTANCES – Tested in drinking water.**

Substance (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG)	EPA's Limit (MCL)	Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results	Violation	Typical Sources
<b>Fluoride</b>	4.0 ppm	4.0 ppm	0.6 ppm	0.56 - 0.59 ppm	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive to promote strong teeth.

**Potential Health Effects and Corrective Actions (If Applicable)**

Fluoride: If your drinking water fluoride levels are below the optimal concentration range of 0.7 to 1.2 ppm, please talk with your dentist about how you can protect your teeth and your family's teeth from tooth decay and cavities. For more information, visit: MDH Drinking Water Fluoridation (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/com/fluoride.html>).

## Some People Are More Vulnerable to Contaminants in Drinking Water

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. The developing fetus and therefore pregnant women may also be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water. These people or their caregivers should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. 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 1-800-426-4791.

## Learn More about Your Drinking Water

### Drinking Water Sources

Minnesota's primary drinking water sources are groundwater and surface water. Groundwater is the water found in aquifers beneath the surface of the land. Groundwater supplies 75 percent of Minnesota's drinking water. Surface water is the water in lakes, rivers, and streams above the surface of the land. Surface water supplies 25 percent of Minnesota's drinking water.

Contaminants can get in drinking water sources from the natural environment and from people's daily activities. There are five main types of contaminants in drinking water sources.

- **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses, bacteria, and parasites. Sources include sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, pets, and wildlife.
- **Inorganic contaminants** include salts and metals from natural sources (e.g. rock and soil), oil and gas production, mining and farming operations, urban stormwater runoff, and wastewater discharges.
- **Pesticides and herbicides** are chemicals used to reduce or kill unwanted plants and pests. Sources include agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and commercial and residential properties.
- **Organic chemical contaminants** include synthetic and volatile organic compounds. Sources include industrial processes and petroleum production, gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants** such as radium, thorium, and uranium isotopes come from natural sources (e.g. radon gas from soils and rock), mining operations, and oil and gas production.

The Minnesota Department of Health provides information about your drinking water source(s) in a source water assessment, including:

- How Princeton is protecting your drinking water source(s);
- Nearby threats to your drinking water sources;
- How easily water and pollution can move from the surface of the land into drinking water sources, based on natural geology and the way wells are constructed.

Find your source water assessment at [Source Water Assessments](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/swp/swa) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/swp/swa>) or call 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

## Lead in Drinking Water

You may be in contact with lead through paint, water, dust, soil, food, hobbies, or your job. Coming in contact with lead can cause serious health problems for everyone. There is no safe level of lead. Babies, children under six years, and pregnant women are at the highest risk.

Lead is rarely in a drinking water source, but it can get in your drinking water as it passes through lead service lines and your household plumbing system. Princeton is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but it cannot control the plumbing materials used in private buildings.

Read below to learn how you can protect yourself from lead in drinking water.

1. **Let the water run** for 30-60 seconds before using it for drinking or cooking if the water has not been turned on in over six hours. If you have a lead service line, you may need to let the water run longer. A service line is the underground pipe that brings water from the main water pipe under the street to your home.
  - You can find out if you have a lead service line by contacting your public water system, or you can check by following the steps at: <https://www.mprnews.org/story/2016/06/24/npr-find-lead-pipes-in-your-home>
  - The only way to know if lead has been reduced by letting it run is to check with a test. If letting the water run does not reduce lead, consider other options to reduce your exposure.
2. **Use cold water** for drinking, making food, and making baby formula. Hot water releases more lead from pipes than cold water.
3. **Test your water.** In most cases, letting the water run and using cold water for drinking and cooking should keep lead levels low in your drinking water. If you are still concerned about lead, arrange with a laboratory to test your tap water. Testing your water is important if young children or pregnant women drink your tap water.
  - Contact a Minnesota Department of Health accredited laboratory to get a sample container and instructions on how to submit a sample:  
[Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program](https://eldo.web.health.state.mn.us/public/accreditedlabs/labsearch.seam)  
 [\(https://eldo.web.health.state.mn.us/public/accreditedlabs/labsearch.seam\)](https://eldo.web.health.state.mn.us/public/accreditedlabs/labsearch.seam)  
 The Minnesota Department of Health can help you understand your test results.
4. **Treat your water** if a test shows your water has high levels of lead after you let the water run.
  - Read about water treatment units:  
[Point-of-Use Water Treatment Units for Lead Reduction](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/poulead.html)  
 [\(https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/poulead.html\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/poulead.html)

Learn more:

- Visit [Lead in Drinking Water](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/lead.html) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/lead.html>)
- Visit [Basic Information about Lead in Drinking Water](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead) (<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>)
- Call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. To learn about how to reduce your contact with lead from sources other than your drinking water, visit [Lead Poisoning Prevention: Common Sources](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/lead/sources.html) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/lead/sources.html>).

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