



Village  
Of Alsip

**RATE UPDATE AND  
WATER QUALITY REPORT**

# The Village of Alsip works hard to provide quality water for you!

Alsip Water Department proudly focuses on efficiently operating and maintaining the water pumping and distribution system, providing safe drinking water for all its customers.

## Did you know that the Water Department...

- Operates and maintains over 75 miles of water transmission and distribution pipe.
- Serves a population of 19,000 with over 5,300 customers
- Educates kids on the value of water and how to conserve it with activity booklets distributed at the Alsip village hall.
- Offers tours for local, community schools

- Provides over

## 2 billion gallons

of safe drinking water annually to Alsip, Palos Heights and Crestwood residents and businesses.

As part of the Water Department objective to continue operating responsibly, a water audit and rate analysis has been conducted over the last year. Water audits are performed to identify areas of water loss, while the water rate analysis is used to ensure that rates are adequately funding water operations, maintenance and future capital needs.

Based on the results of the study and the objective of the Village to continue to provide, healthy water to our community, the Water Department is increasing water rates. This is due to the increasing cost of operations, financing the maintenance and repair of aging infrastructure and to restore reserve funds that have been depleted during the recent economic recession. The proposed rate change will become effective for fiscal year 2016-17 and will appear on your water bill beginning May 1, 2016.

## The results of the study focus on three findings.

### 1. RESERVES

Currently the Water Department does not have a reserve fund sufficient for long-term financial viability should an unexpected fluctuation in revenue or expenditures arise. Therefore, a reserve fund is needed.

### 2. DEBT REPAYMENT

In addition to regularly budgeted line items, the Water Department must collect funds to repay bonds and loans that will be maturing in 2032 and 2033 respectively. The bond was issued to fund capital improvements to the water storage and distribution system. The loan was issued for the construction of a new pump station that increased capacity and provides redundancy of operations.

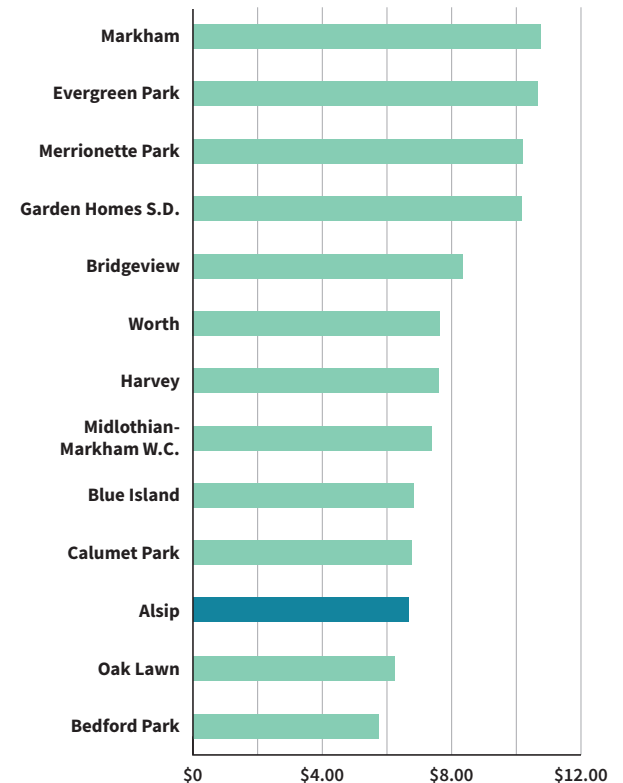
### 3. ADDITIONAL FUNDING NEEDED

This includes operations and maintenance expenses, reserve funding and capital project funding. The additional projected total funding needed over the next 5 years is approximately \$3.9 million.

*To see the full rate study and learn more about infrastructure, operations and what is needed to continue to provide high quality water, please visit:*  
[www.villageofalsip.org/](http://www.villageofalsip.org/)

The table below shows that Alsip Water Department's new rates are reasonable in comparison to rates of surrounding communities.

Residential rate per 1,000 gallons



**The Village of Alsip Water Department** is pleased to present this year’s Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. We are committed to providing you with this information because informed customers are our best allies. If you would like to learn more, please feel welcome to attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings, held on the first and third Monday of each month at 7:30 PM in the Village Hall. Mandated by the federal and state branches of the Environmental Protection Agency, routine testing has determined that our Lake Michigan drinking water, purchased from the City of Chicago, meets or exceeds all water quality standards set by the SDWA.

**Village of Alsip Water Quality Data Table for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2015**

REGULATED CONTAMINANTS								
Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	12/31/2015	1	0.7 - 1	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)*	2015	16	9.49 - 21	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2015	35	13.18 - 56	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

LEAD AND COPPER								
	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Lead	09/09/2014	0	15	0	1	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

**Data Tabulated by Chicago Department of Water Management**

TURBIDITY				
	Limit (Treatment Technique)	Level Detected	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Highest single measurement	1 NTU	0.45 NTU	N	Soil runoff.
Lowest monthly % meeting limit	0.3 NTU	0.3 NTU	N	Soil runoff.

REGULATED CONTAMINANTS									
Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination	
Chlorine	12/31/2015	1	1 - 1	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes.	
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)*	2015	10	3.6 - 14.3	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.	
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2015	22	11.6 - 29	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.	

INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS									
	Collection	Highest Level	Range of Levels	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination	
Barium	2015	0.020	0.0193 - 0.0201	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.	
Fluoride	2015	0.8	0.803 - 0.846	4	4.0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.	
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen]	2015	0.299	0.28 - 0.299	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.	
Sodium	2015	8	8 - 8.5			ppm	N	Erosion from naturally occurring deposits: Used in water softener regeneration.	

RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS									
	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination	
Combined Radium 226/228	02/11/2014	0.84	0.5 - 0.84	0	5	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.	
Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium	02/11/2014	6.6	6.1 - 6.6	0	15	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.	

In compliance with the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 3 (UCMR3) as required by the EPA, the City of Chicago has monitored for 28 contaminants suspected to be present in drinking water, but that do not have health-based standards set under the Safe drinking Water Act. The monitoring results were reported to the EPA. The list of UCMR3 contaminants that we have monitored included volatile organic chemicals, metals, perfluorinated compounds, hormones, 1,4-dioxane and chlorate. The contaminants that were detected in this monitoring program are listed below.

UCMR3 COMPLIANCE REPORTING						
	MCLG	MCL	Highest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Violation
Chromium	100	100	0.3	0.3 - 0.3	ppb	Naturally-occurring element; used in making steel and other alloys
Molybdenum	NA	NA	1.1	1.0 - 1.1	ppb	Naturally-occurring element found in ores and present in plants, animals and bacteria; commonly used form molybdenum trioxide
Strontium	NA	NA	120	110 - 120	ppb	Naturally-occurring element; has been used in cathode-ray tube TVs to block x-ray emissions
Vanadium	NA	NA	0.2	0.2 - 0.2	ppb	Naturally-occurring metal; vanadium pentoxide is used as a catalyst and a chemical intermediate
Chromium-6 or Hexavalent Chromium	NA	NA	0.19	0.18 - 0.19	ppb	Naturally-occurring element; used in making steel and alloys

**DEFINITIONS**  
**AVG:** Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.  
**MCL:** Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of 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 contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for margin and 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.

**MRL:** Minimum Reporting Level: The lowest concentration of a contaminant that can be measured by a laboratory.  
**NTU:** Nephelometric Turbidity Unit: A measure of water turbidity and clarity.  
**pCi/L:** Picocuries Per Liter: A measure of radioactivity.  
**ppb:** Parts Per Billion or micrograms per liter (µg/L)  
**ppm:** Part Per Million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)  
**TT:** Treatment Technique: a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.  
**MFL:** Million fibers per liter (a measure of asbestos)  
**na:** Not applicable.  
**ppt:** Parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter (ng/L)  
**ppq:** Parts per quadrillion, or pictograms per liter (pg/L)

**Source of Drinking Water**  
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 pickup 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 storm water 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 storm water 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 storm water runoff, and septic systems.  
**Radioactive contaminants,** which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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 microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).  
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. We 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.  
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 EPAs Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

**Source Water Assessment**

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water quality. If you would like to learn more, please feel welcome to attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. The source water assessment for our supply has been completed by the Illinois EPA. If you would like a copy of this information, please stop by Village Hall or call our water operator at 708-385-6902, ext 327.



To view a summary version of the completed Source Water Assessments, including: Importance of Source Water; Susceptibility to Contamination Determination; and documentation/recommendation of Source Water Protection Efforts, you may access the Illinois EPA website at <http://www.epa.state.il.us/cgi-bin/wp/swap-fact-sheets.pl>.  
**Source of Water:** CHICAGO The Illinois EPA considers all surface water sources of community water supply to be susceptible to potential pollution problems. The very nature of surface water allows contaminants to migrate into the intake with no protection only dilution. This is the reason for mandatory treatment for all surface water supplies in Illinois. Chicago’s offshore intakes are located at a distance that shoreline impacts are not usually considered a factor on water quality. At certain times of the year, however, the potential for contamination exists due to wet-weather flows and river reversals. In addition, the placement of the crib structures may serve to attract waterfowl, gulls and terns that frequent the Great Lakes area, thereby concentrating fecal deposits at the intake and thus compromising the source water quality. Conversely, the shore intakes are highly susceptible to storm water runoff, marinas and shoreline point sources due to the influx of groundwater to the lake.

# Water Conservation

## Lawn Watering Restrictions

In an effort to conserve water for fire protection, health and environmental reasons, water conservation measures are in effect from May 15 through September 15.

During this time, the watering of lawns is permitted between the hours of 6pm to 10am ONLY. Properties with odd-numbered postal addresses can water on odd-numbered calendar days, and at properties with even-numbered postal addresses can water on even-numbered days.

**WATER ONLY ON THESE DAYS, BETWEEN 6PM - 10AM**

**ODD** → **ODD**  
NUMBERED ADDRESSES      NUMBERED DAYS

**EVEN** → **EVEN**  
NUMBERED ADDRESSES      NUMBERED DAYS

## Conserve Water and Have a Healthy Lawn

Watering your lawn frequently not only wastes water, but also promotes shallower root systems, weeds and crabgrass. Here are some tips for conserving water and having a healthy lawn:



**Water deeply, not frequently.** Your lawn will be healthier if it receives about one inch of water every three to four days.



**Do not water trees or sidewalks.** Make sure you are watering only your lawn, not the street or sidewalk.



**Use a rain gauge.** Rain gauges will tell you how much rain has fallen and how much more water, if any, you should add by water the lawn.



**Sprinklers are available with dials** that can be set to water specific amounts at specific times.



**If you have an automatic system,** make sure it has a rain meter installed to prevent the system from running during rainstorms.



**Place mulch around trees** and plants to retain water.



**The early morning** is the best time to water your lawn to avoid evaporation.



**Don't mow to low.** You can limit the need for sprinkling by setting your mower to cut the grass higher, protecting the soil from excess evaporation.