Quality and Reliability since 1882
Madison Water Utility
www.madisonwater.org • 119 E. Olin Avenue • Madison, WI 53713-1431 • 608.266.4651

UNIT WELL #15

Drilled in 1965, Well 15 has a pumping capacity of 2,200-gallons per minute; however, following the addition of a PFAS [per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances] treatment system, the well pumps 1,400-gallons per minute. The well serves the East Washington corridor including the Greater Sandburg, Mayfair Park, and Truax neighborhoods, and part of Carpenter-Ridgeway. Well 15 also serves the High Crossing area east of Interstate 90/94, and the Ridgewood neighborhood.

In September 2025, the well began delivering water for the first time since 2019. The well typically delivers 1.9-million gallons of treated water daily that has no detectable levels of PFAS or VOC (volatile organic compounds).

In April 2024, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published final MCLs for six PFAS. Our website, madisonwater.org, has more detailed information on PFAS in drinking water and previous PFAS tests results for this and all Madison wells.

Unless otherwise noted, data contained in this report are from 2025.

Bacteria

In 2025, eight samples were collected from Well 15 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. After maintenance activities, some samples showed coliform bacteria present; however, no water was delivered to the distribution system until samples confirmed the absence of coliform bacteria in the source water. The Water Utility chlorinates all drinking water to protect against bacteria and viruses that might be present in groundwater.

Hardness and Other Minerals

Like all groundwater, water from Unit Well 15 contains calcium and magnesium that contributes to its hardness (370 mg/L [ppm] or 22 grains per gallon). Other naturally occurring substances that are present in water from Well 15 can be found in the Inorganics Table.

Iron and Manganese

Water from Well 15 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 15. The level is below the drinking water standard of 100 µg/L for total chromium. More information can be found on the chromium page.

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

Human-made Contaminants
Madison Water Utility annually tests all of its wells for human-made contaminants that might be present in groundwater. Monthly samples from Well 15 confirm that volatile organic compounds (VOC) such as tetrachloroethylene (PCE) and trichloroethylene (TCE) as wells as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) like PFOA and PFOS were being removed from the source water by the newly installed PFAS treatment system.

A single disinfection by-product (DBP) was occasionally found at Well 15 in 2025. DBPs form when chlorine reacts with impurities in groundwater. Chlorine is added to disinfect water and to guard against bacterial growth in water mains.

> The Volatile Organic Compounds table lists the substances that are tested, the results, and how the detected levels compare with the maximum contaminant levels (MCL) established by EPA.

Periodic testing found a small amount (0.13 µg/L) of 1,4-dioxane at Well 15; an MCL has yet to be established.

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.