



VILLAGE OF GRAFTON WATER QUALITY STATEMENT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: SEPTEMBER 8, 2017

The Village of Grafton has a long standing commitment to providing the highest quality drinking water to its residents. A media report noted a recent study by a collective known as the Environmental Working Group indicates that the Village of Grafton water system reported a “high level” of the contaminant 1,4-dioxane during EPA-mandated Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) testing in 2015.

The UCMR testing in 2015 was performed on 30 unregulated contaminants that the EPA required public water systems nation-wide to sample for in order to form a basis for future regulatory actions to protect public health. At this time, it is important for Village water customers to note that the EPA has not established any safe drinking water maximum contaminant level (MCL) for 1,4-dioxane and therefore it remains unregulated. If the EPA adopts regulations for this specific compound, the Village will take any and all necessary actions to maintain our high-quality water supply.

1,4-dioxane is used primarily as a solvent and stabilizer in the manufacturing of industrial chemicals and also as a laboratory reagent. Environmental exposures generally occur from releases via spills or illegal disposal methods.

Based upon the findings of the group’s study, the 0.545 ppb concentration of the contaminant reported by the Village exceeded the state-wide average of similar public water systems in WI (0.139 ppb); however, was below the national average (0.549 ppb). To help place quantities of contaminants into perspective, 1 ppb equates roughly to 1 penny in \$10 million dollars; or, 1 minute over 2,000 years.

The Environmental Working Group identifies the contaminant as being a carcinogen. However, various research studies completed and available do not show with any definitive results whether 1,4-dioxane causes cancer in humans.

It is important to note that this same study completed by the Environmental Working Group indicates that for the most recent quarter assessed by the EPA (January to March 2017), tap water provided by the Village’s Water Utility was in full compliance with all federal health-based safe drinking water standards.

Lastly, the Village’s [2016 Consumer Confidence Report](#) (*click to follow link*) further notes that the Village’s water system had no water quality violations in 2016 and that the drinking water continues to meet and exceed **all** federal and state requirements.

For more information please contact the Village Administrator’s office at (262) 375-5300.

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