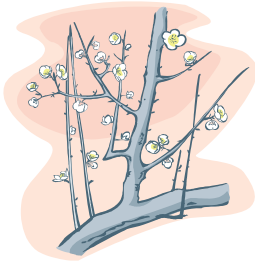


# Watt's News

June 2007  
Volume 20, No 6

Official Newsletter of Brainerd Public Utilities, PO Box 373, Brainerd, MN 56401

## TREE TRIMMING



Summer construction is here. Tree trimming will be done on an emergency basis only.

Any tree trimming requests will be put on a list to be done during the winter months. Trees that interfere with Brainerd Public Utilities' power lines, with the exception of service wires to residences or buildings, will be trimmed or removed depending on the circumstances.

Trimming or removal of trees on private property is the property owner's responsibility. Brainerd Public Utilities will temporarily remove and replace the property owner's service wires to accommodate the tree trimming or removal during normal business hours.

Brainerd Public Utilities requires 24 hours notification to temporarily remove the service wires.

If you would like to be put on the winter tree trimming list, call Phil at 218-829-2193.

**Watt's Weather**

**Total Precipitation**  
 May 2007 3.78"  
 May 2006 3.19"

**Average Temperatures**  
 May 2007 Hi 71 Lo 46  
 May 2006 Hi 68 Lo 46



**Automatic Bank Pay or  
Recurring Credit Card  
Enrollment Promotion...  
\$10 Off Your  
Electric Bill**

By authorizing payments through our Electronic Payment Plan, your bank will automatically withdraw the amount of your bill from your checking or savings account or credit card on the 10th or 25th of each month, depending on your account number.

We will continue to send you your electric bill, so that you know the amount to be withdrawn. Enroll in the program and we'll give you a one-time credit of \$10 off your electric bill. This offer is good until June 30, 2007!

If you are interested in receiving an Electronic Payment Plan Application form, please contact Kara at 825-3201 or AnnMarie at 825-3200. You can also download the form from our website at [www.bpu.org](http://www.bpu.org).

### Business Office Hours

7:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.  
218-829-8726

### Repair/Service Operations Office Hours

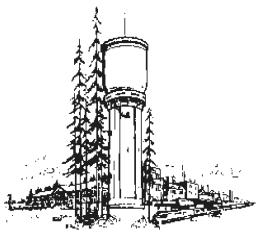
7:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.  
218-829-2193

### Emergency 24 hour service 365 days a year

218-829-2193

[EMAIL@BPU.ORG](mailto:EMAIL@BPU.ORG)

[WWW.BPU.ORG](http://WWW.BPU.ORG)



# Brainerd Public Utilities

## 2007 Drinking Water Report

### The Water We Drink

Brainerd Public Utilities is pleased to provide you with the results of monitoring done on its drinking water for the period from January 1 to December 31, 2006. The purpose of this report is to advance our customers understanding of drinking water and heighten awareness of the need to protect precious water resources. 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 your water.

#### Source of Water

Brainerd Public Utilities provides drinking water to its customers from a groundwater source: six wells ranging from 120 to 187 feet deep, which draw water from the quaternary water table aquifer.

The Minnesota Department of Health has determined that one or more sources of your water is potentially susceptible to contamination. If you wish to obtain the entire source water assessment regarding your drinking water, please call 1-651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 (and press 5) during normal business hours. Also, you can view it online at [www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/swa](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/swa).

Call 218-829-2193 if you have any questions about the City of Brainerd's drinking water or would like information about opportunities for public participation in decisions that may affect the quality of the water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the last Tuesday of the month at 9:00 AM at the Brainerd Public Utilities Service Center, 8027 Highland Scenic Road.

#### Results of Monitoring

Brainerd Public Utilities routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. Some other contaminants were detected in trace amounts last year. (Some contaminants are sampled less frequently than once a year; as a result, not all contaminants were sampled for in 2006. If any of these contaminants were

detected the last time they were sampled for, they are included in the table along with the date that the detection occurred.)

In the following tables you will find terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

**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 allows for a margin of safety.

**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.

**AL**—Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**90th Percentile Level**—This is the value obtained after disregarding 10 percent of the samples taken that had the highest levels. (For example, in a situation in which 10 samples were taken, the 90th percentile level is determined by disregarding the highest result, which represents 10 percent of the samples.) Note: In situations in which only 5 samples are taken, the average of the two with the highest levels is taken to determine the 90th percentile level.

**pCi/l**—PicoCuries per liter (a measure of the radioactivity in water.)

**ppb**—Parts per billion, which can also be expressed as micrograms per liter (ug/l) - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

**ppm**—Parts per million, which can also be expressed as milligrams per liter (mg/l) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years, or a single penny in \$10,000.

**N/A**— Not Applicable.

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found		Typical Source of Contaminant
			Range (2006)	Average /Result*	
Fluoride (ppm)	4.0	4.0	.93 = 1.2	1.02	State of Minnesota requires all municipal water systems to add fluoride to the drinking water to promote strong teeth. Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate (as Nitrogen ) (ppm)	10	10	N/A	.51	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.

This is the value used to determine compliance with federal standards. It sometimes is the highest value detected and sometimes is an average of all the detected values. If it is an average, it may contain sampling results from the previous year.

As measured at the consumer's tap:

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	AL	90% Level	# Sites over AL	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	N/A	15	3.0	2 out of 60	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	N/A	1.3	3.2***	40 out of 60	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits Leaching from wood preservatives.

\*\*\* We are in exceedance of the action level for copper at the consumer's water tap. The copper level from the City's ground water source is less than 0.050 ppm. Therefore the main source of copper at the consumer's water tap is from consumer's copper piping. Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's disease should consult their personal doctor.

In response to this issue, we performed a corrosion control study and installed treatment to make the water less likely to absorb materials such as copper from your plumbing.

Some contaminants do not have Maximum Contaminant Levels established for them. These "unregulated contaminants" are assessed using state standards known as health risk limits to determine if they pose a threat to human health. If unacceptable levels of an unregulated contaminant are found, the response is the same as if an MCL has been exceeded; the water system must inform its customers and take other corrective actions. In the table that follows are the unregulated contaminants that were detected.

Contaminants (units)	Level Found		Typical Source of Contaminant
	Range (2006)	Average/ Result	
Sulfate (ppm)(8/27/2003)	N/A	17	Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)(8/27/2003)	N/A	8.6	Erosion of natural deposits

## Compliance with National Primary Drinking Water Regulations

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 pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or 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 stormwater 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 agricultural, urban stormwater 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 stormwater, and septic systems.

*Radioactive contaminants*, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

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 the potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

***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 undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.***

Brainerd Public Utilities works around the clock to provide quality water to every consumer in Brainerd. We ask that all of our customers help protect our water sources, which is the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

### THE ROAD TO SUCCESS IS ALWAYS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

The best vitamin for making friends, B-1.

He who throws mud loses ground.

Nothing ruins the truth like stretching it.

Ideas won't work unless you do.

A hard thing about business is minding your own.

Children need more models than critics.

If you don't care where you're going any road will get you there.

Nobody raises his own reputation by lowering others.

A smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.

One thing you can't recycle is wasted time.

He who forgives ends the quarrel.

Frogs have it easy, they can eat what bugs them.

### NOTICE:

All electrical work performed in the City of Brainerd requires a "Request for Electrical Inspection" form to be completed, filed, and work inspected by our inspector. If you need the form or have any questions, please contact BPU at **825-3210** or **829-2193**.

### BEFORE DIGGING:

Call Gopher State One Call at **1-800-252-1166** for water and electric locations. All requests for locations must be made by calling the above toll free number at least **48 hours** before digging begins.