

# Memorandum

**To:** Residents of Port Barrington

**CC:** Village of Port Barrington  
Riverwalk Homeowner's Association

**From:** Sarah Berg, Groundwater Protection Specialist  
McHenry County Department of Health

**Date:** January 30, 2008

**Re:** Status of Groundwater Investigation, Port Barrington

---

The purpose of this memo is to update you on the groundwater investigation in your area. This Department has received the results of all of the water samples collected to date by McHenry and Lake County Health Department staff. Below is a summary of that sample data:

- 48 wells were sampled for Acid Blue #9 - 44 in McHenry County and 4 in Lake County - 12 detections of dye were confirmed. All detections are in wells located in McHenry County.
- 5 of the wells which tested positive for dye were sampled for Synthetic Organic Compounds (SOCs.) SOCs include chemicals commonly found in algacides, herbicides and pesticides. Full screens for SOCs were done on 2 wells and 3 additional wells were specifically analyzed for endothall, which is one of the ingredients in one of the aquatic herbicides used to treat the storm water ponds in Riverwalk Subdivision. All samples showed no detections of SOCs.
- 32 samples were analyzed for copper. 29 samples showed no detections of copper, and 3 samples had very low level detections of copper, well below the standard established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) for copper in community water.

Port Barrington Memo  
January 30, 2008

- 32 samples were analyzed for nitrates: All samples were below 1 mg/L, which is below the established standard of 10 mg/L.
- 32 samples were analyzed for total coliform bacteria. Coliform bacteria was not present in 31 of the samples. One sample was positive for total coliform on the initial sample. The well was resampled after disinfection of the well and total coliform bacteria was not present at that time.
- 29 samples were analyzed for chlorides. Results ranged from 7.18 mg/L to 205.5 mg/L. The USEPA recommended standard for chlorides is 200 mg/L.

We have forwarded the latest laboratory results for the SOC analysis to the Illinois Department of Agriculture, and we expect a response in the near future regarding their investigation into the application rates of the various chemicals to the storm water ponds in the Riverwalk Subdivision.

We have also provided the updated information to our partner agencies in this investigation (Illinois Department of Public Health, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Illinois State Water Survey and Lake County Health Department) for their review. In the very near future, we will advise you on future activities related to the investigation and provide recommendations for the long-term use of the potable water in your area.

The McHenry County Department of Health continues to advise all of the residents in Phases 3, 4, 5 & 7 of Riverwalk Subdivision and residents on North Circle Avenue to utilize an alternative water source for consumption by animals or humans. Bottled water can be utilized for drinking and cooking purposes. This is a precautionary measure; no illness or negative health effects have been associated with consumption of the water at this time.

Current water sample location maps and results are available on the Department's website: [www.mcdh.info](http://www.mcdh.info). Please do not hesitate to contact the Department at 815-334-4585 with any questions you may have.