

Lake Michigan Water Project:
Public Hearing Regarding the Formation of Special Service Area #16

Health Concerns FAQ

Q: Will the water from Lake Michigan have elevated mercury levels?

A: Mercury is detectable in Lake Michigan water as it is throughout the air, land and water environment. However, it is below the detection limits of the drinking water testing methods specified by the Environmental Protection Agency. In short, mercury is indeed regulated in drinking water. The Central Lake County Joint Action Water Agency tests its water for mercury annually and has never detected the presence of mercury. Detailed water quality reports can be viewed on the Agency's website at www.clcjawa.com.

Q: With the recent boil order in Deerfield, and numerous beach closings, I'm concerned about bacteria counts in Lake Michigan water. Is the water safe?

A: To our knowledge the Deerfield Boil Order was not associated with the quality of Lake Michigan water. The Lake Michigan water for this project is supplied by Central Lake County Joint Action Water Agency (CLCJAWA). The CLCJAWA currently has an intake within Lake Michigan that is permitted to draw a certain quantity of water and transmit it to their treatment facility. Treated water is then pumped out to the CLCJAWA member communities. The water treated by CLCJAWA is safe and meets or exceeds all IEPA drinking water regulations.

Q: How will you protect against bacterial contaminants getting into the system?

A: The source of the water will be Lake Michigan. The Central Lake County Joint Action Water Agency (CLCJAWA) currently has an intake within Lake Michigan that is permitted to draw a certain quantity of water and transmit it to their treatment facility. The water is treated at their treatment facility in Lake Bluff. Treated water is then pumped out to the CLCJAWA member communities. CLCJAWA has extensive testing and detailed water quality reports can be viewed on the Agency's website at www.clcjawa.com.