

# Water Quality

DRAFT

## Maintain High Drinking Water Quality

### Target(s):

Continue to meet and exceed all federal and state safe water drinking standards 100% of the time.

### Lincoln Now:

Lincoln receives all its drinking water from a self-replenishing source naturally high in quality. Lincoln's water comes from wells in the Platte River Valley where the ground water is under the direct influence of surface water. In 2010, more than 11.3 billion gallons of water were pumped from these wells to serve the 258,000 people who use an average of about 31 million gallons of water each day. Natural filtration of the aquifer does most of the work in enhancing the quality of Lincoln's water. This water contains iron and manganese, which pose no health concern but can stain clothing and plumbing fixtures.

To remove these unwanted elements, the water is pumped to Lincoln's water treatment plants where it goes through two filtration processes. Once through the filters, small amounts of chlorine and ammonia are added to form a disinfectant. Finally, fluoride is added to help prevent tooth decay.

The federal Safe Drinking Water Act requires the Lincoln Water System to annually issue a report describing the quality of Lincoln's drinking water. The most recent report is for 2010. All water supplied by the Lincoln Water System meets or exceeds every State and Federal safe drinking water standards. The water includes some contaminants and other microbial activity, but is judged safe by all standards. Residents generally praise the taste and clarity of Lincoln's water. In fact, in 2010 Lincoln's finished third in the American Water Works Association's annual "Best of the Best" Water Taste Test.