

Carson Avenue Neighborhood Groundwater Assessment Summary

Background

Carson Avenue is in the southern portion of the City of Indianapolis in the University Heights neighborhood of Perry Township. Properties located on two additional roads adjacent to Carson Avenue (Lindbergh Drive and Chamberlin Drive) were also included in this survey. This area contains an unusually high number of private wells compared to the surrounding area. Past sampling suggests Arsenic may be elevated in this neighborhood, so samples were collected throughout the summer of 2022. Routine monitoring of well water is important in order to identify and remove harmful contaminants such as Arsenic.

Survey Results

A total of 33 properties were surveyed by mailing out request letters, then following up with a door-to-door survey. Four of the 33 properties were sampled, resulting in a 12% response rate.

Sampling Results

Bacteria

Coliform bacteria were found in one of the four samples, resulting in a 25% unsatisfactory rate. This rate is comparable to other sampling projects.

VOCs

No volatile organic compounds were found above detection limits in any of the samples taken.

Anions

Well samples were tested for the following anions: Chloride, Fluoride, Nitrates, Nitrites, Phosphates, and Sulfates. All anions were below the Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs).

Metals

Samples were analyzed for the following metals: Arsenic, Barium, Boron, Cadmium, Calcium, Chromium, Copper, Iron, Lead, Magnesium, Manganese, Mercury, Molybdenum, Nickel, Selenium, Thallium, and Zinc. No metals were detected above Maximum Contaminant Levels in any of the four samples analyzed. Arsenic was detected below MCL in only one sample. The level of Arsenic present was 5 parts per billion (ppb), well below the EPA drinking water standard of 10 ppb. Fact sheets on arsenic in drinking water were distributed to that residence.

Conclusions

In conclusion, the only contaminant found was *Coliform* bacteria, which was only found in only one sample. This type of bacteria is typically found in around half of all the well samples that we test around Marion County and is used as "indicator" bacteria to warn of potentially harmful contamination. While Arsenic was detected in one sample, it was well below the EPA drinking water standard threshold making it safe for human consumption.

