

WATERAS COMMUNITY,

WATERAS KIN

Substance Detected (units)	Level Found	Results	(Yes/No)	Detections	Typical Source of Substance	
Regulated Substances						
Arsenic (ppb)	zero	10	ND	Thirteen Wells	Erosion of natural deposits; Glass & electronics production	
Atrazine (ppb)	3	3	0.03	Wells 14 and 29	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops	
Barium (ppb)	2000	2000	20	7.2 - 6	All Wells	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from metal refineries
Chromium, Total (ppb)	100	100	non-detect	nd - 2.2	6, 9, 11, 13, 14, 16, 20, 25	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from steel and pulp mills
1,2-Dichloroethylene, cis (ppb)	70	70	non-detect	nd - 0	Well 11	Discharge from industrial chemical factories; Biodegradation
Ethylbenzene (ppb)	700	700	non-detect	nd - 0	Well 9	Discharge from petroleum refineries
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	ND	All Wells	Erosion of natural deposits; Adhesives; promulgated strong test	
Nickel (ppb)	n/a	n/a	ND	Fifteen Wells	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from stainless steel production	
Nitrate (ppm)	n/a	n/a	ND	Fifteen Wells	Fertilizer use; Leachate from landfills; Sewage; Erosion of natural deposits	
Selenium (ppb)	n/a	n/a	ND	13, 14, 25, 29	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from metal refineries	
Tetrachloroethylene (PCE) (ppb)	n/a	n/a	ND	11, 14, 18	Discharge from dry cleaning; Leachate from landfills	
Thallium (ppb)	n/a	n/a	ND	19, 27	Discharge from chemical factories	
Vanadium (ppb)	n/a	n/a	ND	9	Erosion of natural deposits	
Other Substances						
Iron (ppm)	n/a	n/a	ND	All Wells	Erosion of natural deposits	
Manganese (ppm)	n/a	n/a	ND	All Wells	Erosion of natural deposits	
Sodium (ppm)	n/a	n/a	ND	All Wells	Erosion of natural deposits	
Sulfate (ppm)	n/a	n/a	ND	All Wells	Erosion of natural deposits	

nipinet landsem



CONTENTS

1. water as community, water as kin; illustration by nipinet landsem
2. table of contents // jonjon greendeer at water as community; water as kin event
3. jonjon greendeer: the rights of nature
4. the four lakes
5. yahara x2
6. drinking water
7. interview with diana miller
8. future hopes



CONTRIBUTORS

Jonjon Greendeer, Ho-Chunk

Diana Miller, Menominee

Kendra Greendeer, Ho-Chunk, Anishinaabe

Anastasia Adams, Central Yu'pik

Elena Hill, Oneida

Compiled by nipinet landsem, Anishinaabe/Michif

Disclaimer: the content of this zine is unedited dialogue from community members, and as such reflects the contributors' thoughts and beliefs. It is not intended to be an educational resource, but a snapshot of community perception based in a particular time.

THE RIGHTS OF NATURE // Jonjon Greendeer, Ho-Chunk Nation

Health and Wellness Coordinator

This is not a novel discussion by any means. It is a discussion that took a lot of visionaries to understand that the natural world simply has the right to exist.

It doesn't mean don't use the water. It doesn't mean don't harvest the animals or till the ground or cut the trees. It means nothing like that. It means to understand that there is a balance and that we have breached that balance over the course of human existence to the extent that pregnant women cannot drink water any more from the city.

Please do not mix this water with your baby's formula. It's too dangerous. Don't eat this fish- and if you do cut this part out. Don't eat the deer- it's got CWD. Don't eat a lot of things that are good because of what we have done at their expense.

How bad? We've been doing it for hundreds of years. What do we get as consumers and social media scrollers, "oh my gosh, look what just happened over here, they were right about the DAPL, it spilled! It made a terrible mess!" It did not take scientists and geologists and engineers to predict that at some point this pipeline was going to break and cause a major catastrophe to our ecosystem. They thought they were just a bunch of hippies and Indians on the hill getting mad and looking for a reason to gather. But in reality this balance that we have not visited and seen in generations is now becoming readily apparent.

Now water is more important than ever. It is going to be the final war of our people. It is going to be the last stand. Everything that you have, that three minutes brushing your teeth, that 18 minute shower that you've taken, everything is going to be at the battlefield. And it is going to weigh whether or not we are going to have good sustainable jobs and economies or if we are going to be able to fill our glasses up in our own homes and drink them. And you're going to weigh them out. And the lobby is going to be heavy on both ends. This is a danger that I believe has united unique alliances over the course of human history, people who may have been once opposed to each other have come together.

We want water because it's sacred.

It is our life.

It is our future.

And if I don't do anything about it while I'm on this earth, my grandchildren may not be on this earth.



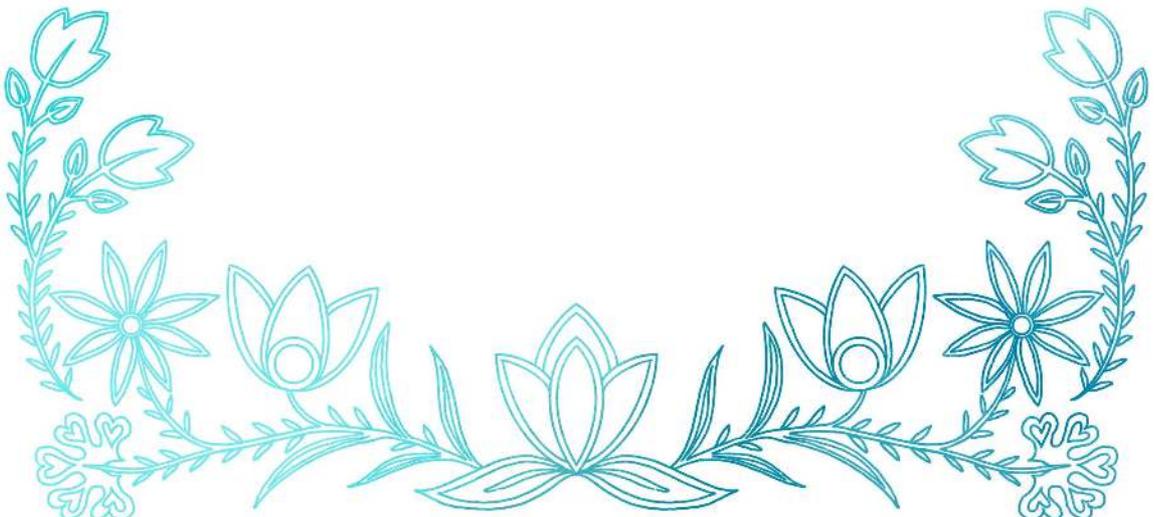
TEEJOP//THEFOURLAKES

"The water is just very grounding. Especially in the chaos that is being a student here in such a big city. Lake Mendota means a lot to me."

- elena

"I think especially here, Lake Monona is very special to me and I think that it's really difficult to see when the fireworks get shot over the lake- we really need to change our relationship to or how we view this body of water because it's straight up contaminated by the different festivities that try to define Madison. I would definitely love to see the wider Madison public change their relationship to what these lakes mean."

- kendra





DRINKING WATER//

"From a student perspective, going to Madison my very first concern was the water. I love the well water we have up in Oneida and then when we dug our new well at home we ended up getting one of those fancy reverse osmosis filters and the water was incredible and I knew going to Madison, physically drinking the water that I didn't trust the source from was a personal ick. But I went on the water utilities page and I was actually really surprised, I was very appreciative and had a positive experience going through that entire website. The water report was a lot more positive than even like DePere. It made me feel better. The water still doesn't taste good but at least I'm not so icked out by it." - elena

"One thing I thought about a little bit especially when moving to Madison and Wisconsin and having more surrounding areas being farm land, like where I grew up that wasn't necessarily something (chicago suburbs), but here there's the impact of chloride from livestock on water ... I never thought about that as a factor in my water until I moved to Wisconsin" - anastasia

"I feel like I have a very long relationship with water so I'll try to start small. I think especially moving to a new area in Madison- I'm over by Monona so it's actually on one of the wells that is contaminated- it's said that it's safe to consume but I know even just like as soon as we moved in and were using like Britta type of filters we definitely noticed something's ... off, so we since go to the co-op to refill huge jugs for drinking and cooking water just to make sure we're not putting excess chemicals in. Especially because I have a little one so I'm just trying to make sure she has a good start. I grew up in the country north of here so we had well water and never really was concerned with what could be impacting that until going out east for school and internships and seeing how everyone else had a very different relationship with water you aren't able to just swim in whatever. " - kendra



DIANA MILLER// Elder from the Menominee Indian Tribe

Diana has lived in Madison for over 50 years. She says she couldn't believe the degradation to the lakes even in the 70s, and it's grown progressively worse since then with little or no regard for the water. "Madison people are totally consumed with their own rights as an individual," she says.

"You can smell the lake is dying. There's no way I'm going to swim in this shit. Corporations are the ones driving the train, but we need systemic change because it's a systemic problem." She applied to be on the DNR board, saying "I'm not here representing myself, I'm here to represent the water since no one invited them to speak for themselves." She wasn't selected to be on the board, but she still attends public DNR hearings.

I asked her what she would want to see change. "Total systemic change is needed," she said. "The whole goddamn system needs to be overhauled and priority needs to be given to taking care in a responsible way. The young white need to pick up the slack because their ancestors caused it!"

She talked about how beautiful her reservation was when she was growing up. "When I left for Madison I left a pristine area," she said. "On my reservation my mother had wild rice beds, and we used to swim to the wide rice beds across the lake. I'd sit there and watch the birds fly in and out. Those wild rice beds were beautiful. And then the white folks came and mowed the wild rice beds down with their speedboats and killed it. You're spilling the blood of mother earth."

What are your hopes for the future of water in Teejop?

"Recently the time I felt like my water was the safest was when I was in New York. Tap water is super filtered there. I think about my family's homestead, it's a couple hours north of here and it's in the country and you'd think there's the best water, very clean resources there, but then there's fracking that surrounds it. And so I guess I just as a hope for the future I would just love that anyone could have access to the clean water regardless of how much taxpayers are filtering it. Regardless of what class of people is most affected." - kendra greendeer

"I would like to see the college take more of an active role in creating what you all were talking about. The shared space that everyone feels like they have a responsibility to take care of and respect and care for. Right now there's kind of just this sense of entitlement, Lake Mendota and the union terrace are something that students are entitled to because they pay boatloads of money to go to this school. Whether it's the parties out on the ice or just the individual students' contribution to waste, pollutants, garbage in the water, everyone thinks like oh that's the limnology department's problem, or the environmental activists' groups on campus' problem. If each individual student doesn't belong to the subcategories of groups they don't feel any responsibility for it. They don't have a connection to it aside from taking advantage of the cool water on a hot day. It would be really cool if the university did start taking an active role in being like hey, this is really cool that we're on this body of water, we're really lucky to have access to such a beautiful source, let's take care of it. Each individual student's job is to take care of this lake like it's each individual's job to take care of a campus building, or study space, or library. Make sure the lakes are being respected in the same way as infrastructure that does have like monetary cost to it." -elena hill