

Lake of the Woods Mutual Company

November 2023 Newsletter

2024 Rate Increase

Due to the increased cost of providing our customers with water service, Lake of the Woods Mutual Water Company will need to increase our rates starting with your January 1st, 2024, bill. See the rate breakdown below. If you would like a copy of our 2024 budget, please go to our website at <https://www.lakeofthewoodswater.com/>.

New rate breakdown

Service Size (99% are 3/4 inch)	New Rate
¾ inch Meter	\$64.02
1 Inch Meter	\$106.91
2 inch Meter	\$344.23
Shut off accounts	\$64.02
Water charge per Cubic Foot (7.48 gallons)	12.4 Cents

Annual Assessment Fee

Please remember that we also add our annual assessment fee every January. This fee is \$0.50/share, most lots have 50 shares and are charged \$25.00

Construction Paving

We have had many questions about the roads and when they will be repaved. We will not be repaving the roads until all construction is done and we will need to do them per county requirements. The weather will also be a factor, please be patient.

WE ARE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE NITRATE MCL!!! PLEASE READ BELOW.

Lake of the Woods Mutual Water Company (Water Company) has been operating a nitrate blending treatment facility since May 2020 to comply with the nitrate maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 10 milligrams per liter (mg/L) (nitrate as N). Wells 01, 02, and 07 are part of the nitrate blending treatment and they pump into a blending tank prior to the customers. Following winter storms of 2022-23, nitrate levels in all three wells increased. The nitrate blending facility and Wells 01, 02 and 07 were shut down on June 14, 2023 around 11 am and placed back in service on June 16, 2023 around 11 am, to meet the system demand. Starting Friday, June 16, 2023, the Water Company had to adjust blending operation of Wells 01, 02 and 07 due to increase in the nitrate level in all three wells. The anticipation was that this would result in the Water Company failing the nitrate maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 10 mg/L.

Wells 01 & 07, have a history of high nitrates (low in fluoride) and need to be blended with Well 02 which has high fluoride (previously low in nitrate but the nitrate level in Well No. 2 has been rising following winter storms and snow in our area in early part of 2023). We have made some modifications at the blending station which include a strobe light alarm and automatic call to our licensed treatment operator if nitrate level in the blended water were to exceed the nitrate MCL. **Since June 2023, we have been consulting with the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water and have been collecting weekly nitrate samples from**

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the nitrate blending station and all those samples have been in compliance with the nitrate MCL. A summary of these results is provided below:

Sample Date	Result (mg/L as N)
6/1/2023	9.82
6/6/2023	10.2
6/9/2023	10
6/12/2023	9.9
6/14/2023	10.1
6/22/2023	10.4
6/29/2023	10.1
7/5/2023	9.3
7/11/2023	9.6
7/18/2023	7.9
7/25/2023	7.5
8/1/2023	6.9
8/8/2023	6.3
8/15/2023	6.6
8/22/2023	6.2
8/29/2023	5.9
9/5/2023	5.4
9/12/2023	5.9
9/20/2023	5.5
9/25/2023	5.4
10/03/2023	4.9
10/10/2023	5.2
10/16/2023	5.1
10/23/2023	Awaiting results
10/30/2023	Awaiting results

Based on the data shown in this table, the Water Company did not violate the nitrate MCL in June and July 2023. The Water Company will continue to monitor Wells 01, 02 and 07 monthly for nitrate and the nitrate blending station once a week and will send you a Tier 1 public notice if we receive any result showing nitrate level in the blending station at 10.5 mg/L (legal limit for the nitrate MCL) or higher. **Nitrate in drinking water is a serious health concern for infants less than six months old.** We continue to comply with the fluoride MCL of 2.0 mg/L, with the blending treatment.

We have seen a drop in nitrate level of Well Nos. 1 and 7 in July 2023 and if this trend continues, we should see a further decrease in nitrate level in the blended water. We will keep you posted via reverse phone calls (Call the Water Company's office to Update your phone number), messages on Facebook, our website, office and the local newspaper.

Due to water shortage, it is critical that all customers continue to CONSERVE WATER. Do not use any water for irrigation and outdoor activities (washing cars, etc.) to prevent threatened water outage and low pressure. No outside watering by sprinkler or hose is allowed. Pools or jacuzzies of any size are prohibited. We apologize for any inconvenience, but please understand that this is necessary to provide a reliable water service to your home. It will take more than one good winter to see any significant increase in the production capacity of our wells and our ability to consistently provide water that meets all applicable MCLs.

For more information, please contact Pam Jarecki, Office Manager, Lake of the Woods Mutual Water Company at (661) 245-1448 or the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water at (661) 335-7315.