

## What is the Drinking Water Plant responsible for?

The Tribe's Water Treatment Department is charged with supplying, treating and maintaining water delivery to the local Tribal community.

We have responsibility for water treatment wells, hydrants, underground piping and water towers. Our long term goal is to educate the public on the proper use of our water system. It's the only Tribal-owned facility with full softening system in Michigan.

## What is the Environmental Water Program responsible for?

The Environmental Water Program focuses on surface waters. The purpose of the program is to monitor surface water addressing issues as they are identified in an effort to prevent, reduce, and eliminate water pollution.

The SCIT Water Program currently has a surface water quality monitoring and restoration program.

The Water Program has an outreach and education effort to keep the community informed and represent the Tribe with external agencies.

The Tribe has been collecting data from Reservation waters since 2004. This data is used to protect human health and water recharge areas, secure funding to clean up Tribal waters, install best management practices, and support restoration projects.

### Need Drinking Water Testing?


If you would take comfort in having your drinking water tested, contact the **SCIT Utilities Department at 989.775.5141**






*Working Together To  
Protect Our Environment*

### Questions or comments?

#### SCIT Planning Department Water Quality staff

-  989.775.4014
-  [www.sagchip.org/planning](http://www.sagchip.org/planning)
-  2451 Nish-Na-Be-Anong Rd.  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

#### SCIT Utility Authority Department Staff

-  989.775.5141
-  [www.sagchip.org/utilities](http://www.sagchip.org/utilities)
-  7377 E. Tomah Rd.  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858



**Drinking & Surface  
WATERS**



**Working Together To  
Protect Our Environment**

*A collaborative effort between the  
Utilities Department (drinking water)  
and Planning Department (surface waters.)*

# Drinking Water Treatment Plant

## Where drinking water comes from:

- Underground aquifers/wells.
- Surface water (Lake Huron in Saganing.)

## What we test for:

- Physical, chemical and biological contaminants.
- Tests: chlorine, alkalinity, pH, temperature, total hardness, turbidity, bacteriological coliforms, electrical conductivity, iron, and phosphate.
- Annual tests: copper, lead, and nitrate are evaluated.

## Treatment process:

- Water is softened (at Isabella Reservation, the water in Saganing is already soft.)
- Adjusted for pH.
- Physical, chemical and biological contaminants are removed.
- The water is pushed through filters for additional purification.
- A disinfectant is added for further precaution.
- The treated water is delivered to the elevated water towers for distribution through pipes constructed of ductile iron, concrete, or plastic.

## Standards:

- Each year an annual report is released that discloses the quality of drinking water exiting the treatment plant. This report is available at: [www.sagchip.org/utilities/reports/ccreports.htm](http://www.sagchip.org/utilities/reports/ccreports.htm).
- A biennial assessment to identify potential sources of contamination and determine that the drinking water sources any risk of contamination.
- The Bureau of Indian Health Service conducts an annual survey of the overall system.

# Surface Water Monitoring

## Monitoring Surface Waters:

The SCIT Water Program monitors and assesses the health of Tribal waters including rivers, streams and lakes. Monitoring surface waters is essential to understanding any potential risks to public health as well as protecting the waters from environmental degradation.

## Waters monitored:

- Chippewa River
- North Branch of Chippewa River
- Coldwater River
- Salt River
- Onion Creek
- Saganing River



*The water resources technician and summer interns taking water samples.*

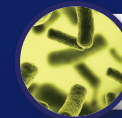
The Monitoring Team samples every summer and uses a rotational basin approach. Each year the team monitors a number of fixed stations (which remain the same each year) and a number of rotating stations (which change each year) to give us a comprehensive outlook on the health of the watershed.

## The team monitors:

- Physical parameters
- Nutrients
- Biological assessments
- Aquatic insects
- Velocity
- Pathogen indicators
- Chemical parameters



*The team conducts aquatic insect assessments on the Chippewa River.*



## What is *E. coli*?

- *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) is an indicator species used to determine the presence of fecal contamination (*animal or human.*)
- **Contact (dermal or ingestion) with fecal bacteria can cause disease and death in humans.**
- **Found in surface waters and ground water.**
- **If levels are too high in surface waters, the local health department releases an advisory or closure for the area.**
- **If levels exceed drinking water standards, the water is treated with chlorine for disinfection.**
- **It is important to treat this bacterial contamination at the source so our rivers and beaches remain open and safe for recreation.**



## What can you do?

- **Know your water.**
- **Ask questions and have testing done if you are concerned.**
- **Understand the infrastructure of your home.**
- **Understand how your actions impact the environment and your health.**
- **Ensure your septic system is working properly.**
- **Do not dump chemicals or trash on the ground.**
- **Use best practices for agriculture and home landscaping (*contact the Planning Department office for more information.*)**
- **Use the resource wisely!**
- **If you have any questions, feel free to contact the SCIT Planning Department at 989.775.4014.**