problems, a Newspaper investigation found. For more than two decades, the 11,000 or so residents of Crestwood unknowingly drank tap water contaminated with toxic chemicals linked to cancer and other health problems, a Newspaper investigation found. Special Investigation

The agency found not only that the well was still contaminated but that Crestwood had been piping the water, untreated, to residents. Since then, the EPA has cited Crestwood twice for violating environmental laws, yet has failed to notify people who drank the well water for years. The agency continues to investigate, and Illinois Atty. Gen. Lisa Madigan’s office also is looking into the matter. The most likely source of the contamination is a dry-cleaning solvent that oozed apparently to save money. Officials kept using the well even though state environmental officials told them at least 22 years ago that dangerous chemicals related to a dry-cleaning solvent had oozed into the water, records show. The village avoids scrutiny by telling state regulators in 1986 that they would get all of their tap water from Lake Michigan, and would use the well only in an emergency. But records show Crestwood kept drawing well water on a routine basis—relying on it for up to 20 percent of the village’s water supply some months. The well wasn’t shut off for good until December 2007, after the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency tested the water for the first time in more than 20 years.

As village officials were building a national reputation for saving money, and sending out fliers proclaiming Crestwood was “Good to taste but not to waste”, state and village records obtained by the newspaper show they secretly were drawing water from a contaminated well, apparently to save money.

Crestwood officials cut corners and supplied residents with tainted water for 2 decades

village well tested positive for pollution

For more than two decades, the 11,000 or so residents of Crestwood unknowingly drank tap water contaminated with toxic chemicals linked to cancer and other health problems, an investigation by the Chicago Tribune found. But those pronouncements hide a troubling reality: For more than two decades, the 11,000 or so residents in this working class community unknowingly drank tap water contaminated with toxic chemicals linked to cancer and other health problems, a Newspaper investigation found. As village officials were building a national reputation for pinch-penny city management, and sending out fliers proclaiming Crestwood was “Good to taste but not to waste”, state and village records obtained by the newspaper show they secretly were drawing water from a contaminated well, apparently to save money. Officials kept using the well even though state environmental officials told them at least 22 years ago that dangerous chemicals related to a dry-cleaning solvent had oozed into the water, records show. The village avoids scrutiny by telling state regulators in 1986 that they would get all of their tap water from Lake Michigan, and would use the well only in an emergency. But records show Crestwood kept drawing well water on a routine basis—relying on it for up to 20 percent of the village’s water supply some months. The well wasn’t shut off for good until December 2007, after the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency tested the water for the first time in more than 20 years.

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