

WQCCR-00047

Washoe County Department of Water Resources - Water Quality Report 2004 -



Spanish Springs

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Nevada Source Water Assessment Program Summary Sheet State of Nevada Department of Human Resources - Health Division Bureau of Health Protection Services

Summary Date: 04/19/2004 Assessor: State

The federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) was amended in 1996 to require states to develop and implement source water assessment programs (SWAP) to analyze existing and potential threats to the quality of public drinking water throughout the state. The 1996 Amendments also required a summary of the findings of the assessment to be included in the water system's annual Water Quality Report. The 1996 Amendments specifically required states to delineate areas that are sources of public drinking water, identify potential contamination sources within the delineated area, assess the water system's susceptibility to contamination, and to inform the public of the results. These results are summarized below.

Water System Contact Information

Water System: DESERT SPRINGS

System ID Number: 1085

Connections: 3,253

County: Washoe Population: 8,132

Water System: SPRING CREEK

System ID Number: 4082

Connections: 743

County: Washoe Population: 1,857

Water System: SPRING CREEK EAST

System ID Number: 802 Owner: Washoe County Connections: 325

Address: 4930 Energy Way, Reno, NV 89502

Telephone: (775) 954-4600 Fax: (775) 954-4610

Operator: Washoe County

Address: 4930 Energy Way, Reno, NV 89502

County: Washoe Population: 813

Federal and State Water Quality Standards Compliance

• If filled in, the above referenced water systems are in compliance with all State of Nevada and federal water quality standards.

THE DESERT SPRINGS UTILITY COMPANY, SPRING CREEK WATER COMPANY, AND SPRING CREEK EAST WATER SYSTEMS ARE INTEGRATED AND UTILIZE A COMBINATION OF WELLS AND SURFACE WATER. THE SYSTEMS PRESENTLY COMPLY WITH ALL DRINKING WATER STANDARDS; HOWEVER SOME WELLS HAVE ARSENIC CONCENTRATIONS ABOVE THE NEW ARSENIC STANDARD OF 10 PARTS PER BILLION, WHICH BECOMES EFFECTIVE IN 2006. THE WATER SYSTEMS MAINTAIN A STAFF OF WELL-TRAINED PROFESSIONALS WHO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN THE SYSTEMS.

Water System Contamination Vulnerability

If filled in, the above referenced water systems are considered to have low vulnerability potential from contamination.

The above referenced water system is considered potentially vulnerable to the following contaminant groups:

Volatile Organic Compounds Inorganic Com Synthetic Organic Compounds

Inorganic Compounds Micrompounds Radionuclides

Microbiological C

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) are typically associated with gas stations and dry cleaners; Synthetic Organic Compounds (SOC) are typically associated with herbicides and insecticides; Inorganic Compounds (IOC) are typically associated with natural deposits, fertilizers and septic systems; microbiological contaminates are typically associated with lakes, streams; and radionuclides are typically associated with erosion of natural deposits.

The water systems are considered vulnerable to the activities/sources associated with the contaminant groups checked in the boxes above for the following reasons:

THE **DESERT SPRINGS PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM** SOURCES (WELLS) ARE CONSIDERED TO HAVE A HIGH VULNERABILITY POTENTIAL FOR CONTAMINATION FROM NITRATE. NITRATE GREATER THAN 10 PARTS PER MILLION CAN SERIOUSLY AFFECT INFANTS BELOW THE AGE OF SIX MONTHS IF ILLNESS IS UNTREATED. THE DESERT SPRINGS WELLS HAVE NOT EXCEEDED 10 PARTS PER MILLION. THE WATER SYSTEM IS PRESENTLY IN COMPLIANCE WITH ALL STATE AND FEDERAL MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVELS FOR DRINKING WATER.

THE **SPRING CREEK WATER COMPANY** WELLS ARE CONSIDERED TO BE MODERATELY VULNERABLE TO CONTAMINATION FROM VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS (VOC). BOTH WELLS ARE VULNERABLE TO CONTAMINATION BY NITRATE FROM SEPTIC SYSTEMS. THE WATER SYSTEM IS PRESENTLY IN COMPLIANCE WITH ALL STATE AND FEDERAL MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVELS FOR DRINKING WATER.

AT THE TIME OF THE **SPRING CREEK** EAST ASSESSMENT THERE WERE NO IDENTIFIED SOURCES OF POTENTIAL CONTAMINATION TO THE AQUIFER PROVIDING THE WATER TO THE WATER SYSTEM, OR THE SOURCES OF POTENTIAL CONTAMINATION WERE DETERMINED TO POSE A LOW POTENTIAL TO CONTAMINATE THE DRINKING WATER SYSTEM.

A copy of the complete source water assessment is available for viewing at the Bureau of Health Protection Services (BHPS) Carson City office between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday. It is suggested that an appointment be made if you are interested in viewing a report. The BHPS office is located at 1179 Fairview Drive, Suite 101, Carson City, Nevada 89701-5405. Telephone 1-775-687-4754 Toll Free 1-800-992-0900.

Why We Test The Water

The Washoe County Department of Water Resources (DWR) is known as "the water place" because it is a leader in providing integrated water resources. These services are critical to the region's quality of life. They include utility services (water, sewer, and reclaimed water) and water resource planning services (flood management, remediation of contaminated groundwater, and development of water resource plans).

The DWR is committed to be the leader in the provision of integrated water resource services to our community. Our mission is to provide quality product and service to our community through teamwork, accountability and professionalism.

Regular testing of water resources is one way we fulfill that mission. This report summarizes water quality for the period of July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004.

To contact the Washoe County Department of Water Resources, call 954-4600 or visit www.co.washoe.nv.us/water_dept/.

How To Read The Water Quality Chart

The far left column, titled Constituents, lists the naturally occurring and man-made inorganic contaminants that are monitored by the Washoe County Department of Water Resources, according to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards. The Primary Inorganic Standards are monitored to ensure the water is safe to drink, and the Secondary Inorganic Standards are monitored to ensure the water is aesthetically pleasing.

The second column, titled Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), is the highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water defined by the EPA. The third column, titled Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG), is the level of a contaminant in drinking water in which there is no known or expected risk to health defined by the EPA.

The remaining columns show what contaminant level, if any, was contained in the water sources. In most cases, your water comes from a blending of these supplies. The map lists all the sources supplying a specific water system.

Things to Know About Your H20

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants in drinking water does not necessarily indicate that the drinking water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer, undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk for infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on the appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium are available from the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Arsenic

While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Lead And Copper

The Washoe County Department of Water Resources has completed monitoring in compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule. According to the Lead and Copper Rule the 90th percentile Lead and Copper concentrations are not to exceed action levels of 15 ug/L for Lead and 1.3 mg/L for Copper. Please refer to the table for the most recent Lead and Copper results. If you would like more information regarding the Rule or would like to participate in future sampling, please contact our office.

Nitrate*

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 mg/L is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. The nitrates are leaching from septic tanks. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from you local health care provider.

Cryptosporidium

The Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) monitors their source water and treated water for Cryptosporidium on a weekly basis. Cryptosporidium is rarely detected in the Truckee River and has not been detected in treated water that goes to your tap. If you have any questions regarding TMWA water quality please contact our office.

Glossary Of Terms

In this report you may find terms or abbreviations you may not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we have provided the following definitions:

Action Level - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Color Units (CU) - is the standard unit of measure for water color.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - is the highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) - is the level of a contaminant in drinking water in which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Micrograms per liter (ug/L) - one microgram per liter corresponds to one penny in \$10,000,000 (same as parts per billion or PPB).

Milligrams per liter (mg/L) - one milligram per liter corresponds to one penny in \$10,000 (same as parts per million or PPM).

pH - is a measure of acidity. A pH value of less than 7 is acidic, values greater than 7 are

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - is a measure of water radioactivity.

The symbol "<" - means less than.