2000 WATER QUALITY REPORT

How To Read This Water Quality Chart

The four left column, titled Constituents, lists the naturally occurring and non-made inorganic contaminants that are monitored by the Washoe County Department of Water Resource. The rightmost column, titled Water, is a list of the water sources monitored by the department.

The middle columns are divided into five sections:

1. Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): This is the highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water defined by the EPA. If the MCL is exceeded, there is a known health risk or other risk to health. If the MCL is close to the MCLG, it is feasible using the best available treatment technology.

2. Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): This is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs are not enforceable standards.

3. Primary Inorganic Standards: These are standards that the water is aesthetically pleasing.

4. Secondary Inorganic Standards: These are standards that the water is aesthetically pleasing.

5. Secondary Inorganic Standards: These are standards that the water is aesthetically pleasing.

Things to Know About Your H2O

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of certain 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. Immunocompromised persons, such as persons with cancer, persons undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders; some children, and infants, can be more vulnerable to health effects from contaminants in water than members of the general population.

Sierra Pacific Power Company monitors their source water and treated water for Cryptosporidium on a weekly basis. Cryptosporidium is rarely detected in the water treated by the plant. The vast majority of water treatment failures occur when the water clarifier fails to remove the Cryptosporidium from the water. If you have any questions regarding Sierra Pacific Water Quality please contact our office.

Nitrates Levels

Nitrates in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrates levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrates levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant you should ask advice from your health care provider.

Lead and Copper

The Washoe County Department of Water Resource has conducted monitoring in compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule. According to the lead and copper rule the percent lead and copper concentrations are not to exceed action levels of 0.15 mg/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 who to participate in future sampling 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)** - the highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water. MCLs are as close to the MCLG as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

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

**Religious Per litron (mg/l)** - one milligram per liter corresponds to one penny in $10,000 (some as Per Million or PPM)

**Religious Per litron (mg/l)** - is a measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

**Color (OD)** - laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

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

**Pikemette Per litron (ppm)** - is a measure of water radioactivity.

**The Standard** - means less than

COLUMN UNITS (CU) - standard unit of measure for water color.

RADIOACTIVITY (pCi/L) - is a measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

**Type of Treatment** - laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.
**How We Test the Water.**

Washoe County monitors each well for volatile organic compounds (solvents) and synthetic organic compounds (pesticides and herbicides). Volatile and synthetic organic constituents have not been detected in any of the groundwater wells. If you would like a list of the regulated and unregulated organic compounds we monitor, please contact our office.

The Washoe County Department of Water Resources has initiated a comprehensive methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) monitoring program. MTBE, a fuel additive, has not been detected in any of the Washoe County Department of Water Resources production wells.

This report provides water chemistry data for the period of July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000.

The wells have been assessed for vulnerability to contamination. This source water assessment identifies the origins of contaminants within the service area and indicates the susceptibility of the water system to such contaminants. If you are aware of a potential source of contamination located near the wells, please contact our water quality section. Source water assessment information is available from our office upon request.

Washoe County Department of Water Resources telephone number: 954-4600