

STMGID

2000

WQCCR-00077

WATER

quality report



2000 WATER QUALITY REPORT

How To Read This 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 Containment Level (MCL), is the highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water defined by the EPA. The third column, titled Maximum Containment 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. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

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

If you are uncertain about any of the terminology used in the chart, please refer to the "Glossary of Terms" below.

Things to Know About Your H₂O

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).

As a result of the topography within the STMIGD system, there are substantially different pressure zones. The two primary pressure zones are operated as independent water systems. STMIGD West is comprised of four wells: STMIGD 4, 5, 6, and the Thomas Creek Well. STMIGD East receives their water from four wells: STMIGD 1, 2, 3, and 9.

*Antimony - Some people who drink water containing antimony well in excess of the MCL over many years could experience increases in blood cholesterol and decreases in blood sugar.

**Arsenic - 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.

**Arsenic - EPA is reviewing the drinking water standard for arsenic because of special concerns that it may not be stringent enough. Arsenic is a naturally-occurring mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations.

The water produced by the STMIGD Well #9 is only used during periods of peak demand. It is blended with the flow of water produced by STMIGD Wells #1, #2, and #3 so that the resulting quality in the distribution system meets all drinking water standards.

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 0.015 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 would like 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) - 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.

MILLIGRAMS PER LITER (mg/L) - one milligram per liter corresponds to one penny in \$10,000 (same as Parts Per Million or PPM)

MILLION FIBERS PER LITER (mf/l) - is a measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

ND (NOT DETECTED) - laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

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

PICOCURIES PER LITER (pCi/L) - is a measure of water radioactivity.

THE SYMBOL "<" - means less than

CONSTITUENTS	MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL (mg/L)	MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL GOAL (mg/L)	EAST					WEST						
			STMIGD WELL #1	STMIGD WELL #2	STMIGD WELL #3	STMIGD WELL #9	STMIGD WELL #5	STMIGD WELL #6	STMIGD WELL #4	THOMAS CREEK WELL				
PRIMARY STANDARDS:														
Antimony	0.006	0.006	<0.001	0.001	<0.001	0.016*	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001
Arsenic	0.05	0.05	0.004	0.012	<0.003	0.082**	<0.003	<0.003	<0.003	<0.003	0.003	<0.003	<0.003	<0.003
Asbestos (mf)	7	zero	N O T	D E T E C T E D	I M D I S T R I B U T I O N	S Y S T E M								
Barium	2	2	0.07	0.08	0.07	0.04	0.08	0.07	0.07	0.07	0	0.05	0.05	0.05
Beryllium	0.004	0.004	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001
Cadmium	0.005	0.005	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001
Chromium	0.1	0.1	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005
Cyanide	0.2	0.2	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01
Fluoride	4	4	0.07	0.09	0.06	0.14	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.04	0.05	0.05	0.05
Mercury	0.002	0.002	<0.0005	<0.0005	<0.0005	<0.0005	<0.0005	<0.0005	<0.0005	<0.0005	<0.0005	<0.0005	<0.0005	<0.0005
Nickel	0.1	0.1	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.001	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005
Nitrate (as N)	10	10	0.5	0.7	0.5	1.2	1.2	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3
Nitrite (as N)	1	1	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01
Selenium	0.05	0.05	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001
Thallium	0.002	0.0005	<0.0005	<0.0005	<0.0005	<0.0005	<0.0005	<0.0005	<0.0005	<0.0005	<0.0005	<0.0005	<0.0005	<0.0005
SECONDARY STANDARDS:														
Chloride	400	400	1	6	1	5	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1
Color	15	15	5	3	3	3	12	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Copper	1	1	0.03	0	0.01	0.01	0.05	0.06	0.06	0.06	0	0.01	0.01	0.01
Fluoride	2	2	0.07	0.09	0.06	0.14	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.04	0.05	0.05	0.05
Foaming Agents (MBAS)	0.5	0.5	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
Iron	0.6	0.6	0.06	0.05	0.04	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0	0	0	0
Magnesium	150	150	8	10	8	2	13	13	13	13	2	12	12	12
Manganese	0.1	0.1	0	0	0	0	0.01	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
pH	6.5 to 8.5	6.5 to 8.5	7.58	7.55	6.93	6.92	7.57	7.72	7.72	7.65	7.65	7.76	7.76	7.76
Sulfate	500	500	3	5	7	8	4	3	3	3	9	3	3	3
Zinc	5	5	0.01	0.01	0	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0	0	0
Total Dissolved Solids	1000	1000	151	166	147	172	165	173	173	124	124	173	173	173
Lead	0.015	zero	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005
Hardness	No Standard	No Standard	68	84	68	26	101	98	98	76	76	92	92	92
Calcium	No Standard	No Standard	14	17	14	7	19	18	18	27	27	17	17	17
Potassium	No Standard	No Standard	4	6	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	5	5	5
Sodium	No Standard	No Standard	14	16	7	36	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
Silica	No Standard	No Standard	62	67	65	73	62	63	63	41	41	63	63	63
RADIOCHEMISTRY														
Gross Alpha Emitters	15	0	3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	7	7	3	3	3
Gross Beta/Photon Emitters	50	0	6	4	5	4	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	4
Radon	No Standard	0	945	950	1000	670	1140	780	780	990	990	520	520	520
MICROBIOLOGY (Samples collected from throughout the system)														
Total Coliform	1 positive sample/month	Zero positive samples	Coliform was not detected											Not detected
LEAD AND COPPER (Samples collected from throughout the system)														
Lead	<0.005	<0.005	90TH PERCENTILE											<0.005
Copper	0.17	0.17	90TH PERCENTILE											0.16

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

