Double Diamond

2003 Water Quality Report

- While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of 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 is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is the highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water defined by the EPA. 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 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 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 as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

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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 resource services. 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 provides water chemistry data for the period of July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003.

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

The Department of Water Resources has conducted source water assessments for each well. 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 any source of contamination located near the wells, please contact our water quality section. Source water assessment information is available from our office upon request.

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