

SUN VALLEY WATER & SEWER DISTRICT

2014 Water Quality Report

IS MY WATER SAFE?

Yes, this report is a snapshot of last year's water quality and how it compares with standards set by regulatory agencies. This Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report), is required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). Much of the language included in this report is required.

DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons undergoing chemotherapy, organ transplants, some elderly, infants, and those with compromised immune systems can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care professionals. EPA/Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from **the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791**.

WHERE DOES MY WATER COME FROM?

Your water is pumped from several groundwater wells located along the Big Wood River and Trail Creek.

WHY ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN MY DRINKING WATER?

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

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances as a result of the presence of animals and humans.

- **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife
- **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming
- **Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses
- **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water run-off, and septic systems
- **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT AND ITS AVAILABILITY

The District's Source Water Assessment Report is available on the website www.svwsd.com, or by contacting District Headquarters at (208) 622-7610.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

The District Board of Directors meet at 8:30 AM on the third Monday of the month. Meetings are held in the Council Chambers of Sun Valley City Hall located at 81 Elkhorn Road.

HARDNESS RATING

The District receives many inquiries regarding water hardness. The District's water is classified as "moderately hard". Average hardness measurements are 189 milligrams per liter, 11.1 grains per gallon or 18.9 parts per million.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR LEAD

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Sun Valley Water & Sewer District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

WATER QUALITY DATA TABLE

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during calendar 2013. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels these substances are not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional values at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data present in this table is from calendar 2013. The EPA and the State require us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that may not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided definitions below the table.

CONTAMINANT	MCLG <i>or</i> MRDLG	MCL,TT <i>or</i> MRDL	YOUR WATER	RANGE		SAMPLE DATE	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
				LOW	HIGH			
Inorganic Contaminants								
BARIUM (ppm)	2	2	0.0705	NA	NA	2012	NO	erosion of natural deposits
CHROMIUM (ppb)	100	100	1.13	NA	NA	2012	NO	erosion of natural deposits
NITRATE (ppm)	10	10	0.36	ND	0.34	2014	NO	erosion of natural deposits
SELENIUM (ppb)	50	50	2.82	NA	NA	2012	NO	erosion of natural deposits
Radioactive Contaminants								
RADIUM (pCi/L)	0	5	0.48	NA	NA	2012	NO	erosion of natural deposits
URANIUM (ug/L)	0	30	1.67	NA	NA	2012	NO	erosion of natural deposits
ALPHA EMITTERS(pCi/L)	0	15	3.39	NA	NA	2012	NO	erosion of natural deposits
Disinfectants & Disinfectant By-Products								
TTHMs(ppb)	NA	80	2.4	0.5	2.4	2013	NO	by-product of drinking water disinfection

UNIT DESCRIPTIONS	
TERM	DEFINITION
ug/L	micrograms in one litre of water
ppm	parts per million, milligrams per litre
ppb	parts per billion, micrograms per litre
pCi/L	picocuries per litre (radioactivity measure)
NA	not applicable
ND	not detected
MCLG	Maximum Containment Level Goal

MCL	Maximum Containment Level
TT	Treatment Technique
AL	Action Level

The MCLG is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

MCLG's allow for a level of safety.

The MCL is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.

MCL's are set as close to MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

IRRIGATION WATER RATES HAVE INCREASED FROM \$1.02 per 1000 gallons to \$1.05 per 1000. CONSERVATION EFFORTS NOW WILL RESULT IN LONG TERM SAVINGS AS RATES ESCALATE DUE TO ADJUDICATION.
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT PAT McMAHON (208) 622-9507 FAX (208) 622-9129 pat@svwsd.com