

Summit Water & Supply Company's 1999 Consumer Confidence Report

This report describes Summit Water & Supply's drinking water sources, quality, and programs that protect the quality of our water supply. This publication conforms to a federal regulation requiring water utilities to provide this information annually. The first report was providing to the members and customers in October 1999. You as member/owner or customer of Summit Water, should know that it is operated in a manner that protects you and others who rely upon potable water being available at all times. In this report we have made the effort to balance your "right to know" against the sheer volume of information that we could provide.

Safe drinking water is an essential resource. **The bottom line is this: Our water is safe to drink.**

Water quality monitoring reports are submitted to the Washington Health Department's Drinking Water Program Division (DOH). They provide the information to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The agencies verify our compliance with the many regulatory standards and testing protocols required to assure safe drinking water.

Your water comes from groundwater -(wells)

We have nine (9) wells in seven (7) different sites, located within the general boundaries of 64th Street to 128th Street and Vickery Ave. to Woodland Ave. The wells are our sole source of water. The wells recharge by rainfall. The rain penetrates through the ground to the aquifers, which are approximately 200 feet below the surface. In 1999, we pumped nearly 625 million gallons of water from the aquifers. There are interties to other water purveyors and may be used for emergency purposes only.

Protecting groundwater

Preventing pollution is a priority in protecting your groundwater supply. In 1997, Summit Water identified the aquifers and began the inventory of potential contamination sources. With the cooperation of the Tacoma/Pierce County Health Department, we continue to address control and monitoring of potential high-risk activities that might threaten the ground water sources, which supply the wells.

Further reduction in contamination risk can be achieved by each member/customer by using prudent chemical application practices and disposal methods of spent containers. Working together groundwater pollution can be prevented.

State and federal agencies monitor water quality.

In order to ensure the tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribed regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water.

Drinking water including bottled water may reasonably be 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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 from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Important Definitions

- **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)**. The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)**. The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.
- **Treatment Technique**. If a contaminant exceeds the maximum contaminant level, EPA may require the water system to use a treatment technique. A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- **Action Levels**. An Action Level is the concentration of a contaminant, which triggers treatment or other requirements, which a water system must follow.
- **Part per million; part per billion**. One part per million is the equivalent of $\frac{1}{2}$ of a dissolved aspirin tablet in a full bathtub of water (approximately 50 gallons). One part per billion is equivalent to $\frac{1}{2}$ of a dissolved aspirin tablet in 1,000 bathtubs of water (approximately 50,000 gallons).

Water Quality

Summit Water collected approximately 218 water samples in 1999 from throughout the water system and at the sources. A certified laboratory conducted the regulated water analyses on those samples. The results are on file with the Washington Health Department's Drinking Water Program Office.

The testing of the sources of supply for the regulated contaminate substances indicated that the **contaminate levels are below** the Maximum Contaminate Level Goals as established by the EPA.

The items listed below were detected in our water during 1999. All, except the copper, are below levels allowed by the federal and state agencies. Not listed are the 136 other chemicals that were not detected in any of our tests.

Substance	Highest Level Allowed (EPA's MCL)	Highest Level Detected	Ideal Goals (EPA's MCLG)	Potential Sources of Contaminants
REGULATED AT THE GROUNDWATER SOURCES				
Nitrate	10 ppm	3.1ppm	10 ppm	Runoff from fertilizer/Septic and Erosion of natural deposits
Maximum THM Potential	100ppb	24ppb	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chloroform	100ppb	12.4ppb	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Bromodichloromethane	100ppb	7.7ppb	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chlorodibromomethane	100ppb	4.2ppb	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Bromoform	100ppb	1.3ppb	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination
UNREGULATED AT THE GROUNDWATER SOURCES				
Trichlorofluoromethane	not regulated	1.1 ppm	not regulated	Vehicle Air Conditioner
REGULATED IN THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM				
Total Coliform Bacteria	>5% of monthly samples	>1.1%	0%	Naturally present in the environment
REGULATED AT THE CONSUMER'S TAP				
Copper ###	1.3 ppm Action Level	2.3	1.3	Household Plumbing

The addition of NaOH (caustic soda) to the water at the well source raises the pH of the water. This changes the characteristic of the water and is intended to reduce the amount of copper leaching. This chemical has no known adverse health effects. A bi-lateral agreement between the State of Washington Health Department and Summit Water required all water supplies to be treated by May 1, 2000.

A 1998 test report for Radionuclides indicated that there is no trace of Alpha or Beta particles in your water.

Reduce your potential exposure to copper!

Few households have an elevated level of copper corrosion occurring. To reduce the potential exposure to copper leaching from the household piping;

- Allow the water first drawn from the tap in the morning or after returning home to flow at least 30 seconds.
- Use only water from the coldwater tap for cooking.

Other things to know

Chlorine residual is maintained throughout the distribution system, and measurements are taken daily to ensure the water has the recommended residual. There were 2 occurrences of failure to meet the EPA standards in 1999. An investigation determined the contamination occurred during sampling in inclement weather and attributed to sampling error. The contaminant, in each case was not fecal coliform, nor was it E-coli. Additional sampling at the initial site and the recommended other sampling sites showed no case of contamination.

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 resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- *Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which 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 byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can, also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.*
- *Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.*

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

The Board of Directors meets twice a month and receives member comments. Summit Water will be glad to provide you additional information about water quality, and you may write, call, e-mail or drop by at 9701 50th Ave. East. Tacoma, WA. 98446-5444, (253-537-7781), summitwc@nwrain.com