

Summit Water & Supply Company's 2000 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 last report was provided to the members and customers in May/June 2000. The report format may look the same as prior reports. This is because there is specific information and statements required by statute. This report covers the year 2000. We make an effort to balance your "right to know" against the sheer volume of information that we could provide.

There is nothing more basic to life in our community than quality drinking water. We maintain your water system from the bottom of the well to your side of the meter and anticipate needs and problems before they arise. This requires a close working relationship and quality, two-way communication between you the owner/customer and the Summit Water Board of Directors and employees.

The bottom line is this: Our water continues to be 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. **We are proud to report that the water we provide meets or exceeds established water quality standards.**

Your water comes from groundwater - (wells)

We have nine (9) wells in seven (7) different sites, located within the Summit View-Waller Area. The wells are our sole source of water. There are interties to other water purveyors for emergency purposes only.

Protecting groundwater

As each member/customer becomes cognizant of prudent chemical application practices and disposal methods, then as we work together, this groundwater resource can remain pristine. If you observe or see evidence of the dumping or abandonment of potential contaminants, you should report it immediately to the Tacoma/Pierce County Health Department.

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 ½ of a dissolved aspirin tablet in a full bathtub of water (approximately 50 gallons). One part per billion is equivalent to ½ of a dissolved aspirin tablet in 1,000 bathtubs of water (approximately 50,000 gallons).

Water Quality

Summit Water collected approximately 208 water samples in 2000 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 2000 or prior 2 years of the sampling period. All 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 | Violation |
|---|-----------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|---|-----------|
| REGULATED AT THE GROUNDWATER SOURCES | | | | | |
| Nitrate | 10 ppm | 3.2ppm | 10 ppm | Runoff from fertilizer/Septic and Erosion of natural deposits | NO |
| Maximum TTHM Potential | 100ppb | 30.4ppb | N/A | By-product of drinking water chlorination | NO |
| Chloroform | 100ppb | 12.4ppb | 0 | By-product of drinking water chlorination | NO |
| Bromodichloromethane | 100ppb | 7.7ppb | 0 | By-product of drinking water chlorination | NO |
| Chlorodibromomethane | 100ppb | 4.2ppb | 0 | By-product of drinking water chlorination | NO |
| Bromoform | 100ppb | 1.3ppb | 0 | By-product of drinking water chlorination | NO |
| UNREGULATED AT THE GROUNDWATER SOURCES | | | | | |
| Trichlorofluoromethane | not regulated | 1.1 ppm | not regulated | Vehicle Air Conditioner | NO |
| REGULATED IN THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM | | | | | |
| Total Coliform Bacteria | >5% of monthly samples | <0.5% | 0% | Naturally present in the environment | NO |
| REGULATED AT THE CONSUMER'S TAP | | | | | |
| Copper ### | 1.3 ppm Action Level | 0.92 | 1.3 | Household Plumbing | NO |

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, reducing the amount of copper leaching. The EPA has stated that 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 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!

To reduce further 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 and use only water from the coldwater tap for cooking.

Other things to know

The Chlorine residual is maintained throughout the distribution system, and sampling is taken daily to ensure the water has the recommended residual. There was one occurrence of failure to meet the EPA standard in 2000. After a field investigation, we determined the contamination occurred during sampling in a heavily traveled roadway and attributed to sampling error. The contaminant was not fecal coliform, nor was it E-coli. Additional sampling at the initial site and other sampling sites showed no 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