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## 2001 Consumer Confidence Report

### SUMMIT WATER & SUPPLY COMPANY

## SAFE, CLEAN WATER – TODAY & TOMORROW

**ABOUT SUMMIT WATER:** We are a “not-for-profit” corporation, member owned “Group A” water system (State of Washington Department of Health identification #85050V). There are approximately 4,600 members who own residence, businesses, public entities and other organizations which are located in the greater Summit/Waller area of Pierce County and receive the services of the corporation. We are governed by the articles of incorporation and the By-Laws of the corporation.

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. E., Tacoma, WA 98446, (253-537-7781), summit@summitwater.org; For

more information about the health effects of the listed contaminants in the material provided in this report, call the Environmental Protection Agency hotline at (800) 426-4791.



## DRINKING WATER QUALITY

This describes Summit Water & Supply’s (Summit Water) drinking water sources, quality, testing, and the programs that protect the water supply. This publication conforms to a federal regulation requiring water utilities to **provide this information annually**. The last report was provided in May/June 2001. This report covers the calendar year 2001. The report’s due date for delivery to every consumer of water supplied by the Summit Water system is July 1 of each year.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Washington Health Department’s Drinking Water Program Division (DOH) are the agencies responsible for establishing drinking water quality standards. To ensure that your tap water is safe to drink, EPA and DOH prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems.

Summit Water is vigilant in safeguarding the water supply and, as in years past, the water delivered to your home or business, meets the standards required by these state and federal agencies. Summit Water goes beyond what is required by these agencies in monitoring, and protection methods which further reduce the risk of contamination. Water quality monitoring reports are submitted to the DOH who in-turn provide the information to the 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 quality of the water we provide, meets or is better than the established water quality standards.**

### SOURCES OF SUPPLY

Your drinking water is a blend of groundwater which is pumped from the various wells and aquifers located within the Summit Water service area. There are 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 inter-ties, to other water purveyors, which are for emergency purposes only. The aquifers are recharged by the rainfall in and around the service area, with approximately 1/3 of the annual rainfall actually reaching the aquifers.

**SOURCE PROTECTION** - It is important that each of us take an interest in what is going on in our neighborhoods, as to what is being dumped on the ground, including **processed sewage sludge**. This material is marketed for lawn and flowerbed enhancers. These products may meet the EPA regulations for sewage sludge, **but the level of contaminates allowed for sewage sludge is not as low as the allowable contaminates for your tap water source**. Whether or not these contaminates will reach our aquifers is not known, but prevention by restraint is the best action we can take.

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 make every effort to 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.

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.

**The bottom line is this: Our water continues to be safe to drink and with your support we are making every effort to keep it that way.**

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).

### IMMUNO-COMPROMISE PEOPLE

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 and the federal Centers for Disease Control (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) between the hours of 6 a.m. and 2 p.m. Pacific Time.



## TOTAL TRIHALOMETHANES

Trihalomethanes (THMs) are a family of chemicals formed when a disinfectant such as chlorine is added to the water supply. Disinfection is an important and necessary step in the supply of tap water, to protect against harmful bacteria and other living organisms that may contaminate the water. Chlorine is the most widely used and approved disinfectant in the United States. Summit Water uses chlorine in a gaseous form, for the disinfection of the water supply. The chlorine is added not for contaminants of the water at the well, but for potential contamination of the water in the water mains, and the distribution of the water up to your meter.

The amount of THMs allowed in drinking water is regulated by the EPA, which has set an annual average safe limit of THMs of 100 parts-per-billion (ppb) in drinking water. Results of health study released in early 1998 suggest that women who drink five glasses of tap water daily and are in their first three months of pregnancy may have an increase risk of miscarriage from levels of THMs greater than 75 ppb

## MEASUREMENTS

Water is sampled and tested throughout the year. Contaminants are measured in parts per million (ppm), billion (ppb), trillion (ppt) and even parts per quadrillion (ppq). For comparison, think about these relationships:

Parts per million	Parts per billion
> 3 drops in 42 gallons	> 1 drop in 14,000 gallons
> 1 second in 12 days	> 1 second in 32 years
> 1 penny in \$10,000	> 1 penny in \$10,000,000
> 1 inch in 16 miles	> 1 inch in 16,000 miles

## WATER QUALITY

Summit Water collected approximately 204 water samples in 2001 from throughout the water system and at the sources. A certified laboratory conducted the regulated water analysis 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 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 2001 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
<b>REGULATED AT THE GROUNDWATER SOURCES</b>				
Nitrate	10ppm	3.2ppm	10ppm	Runoff from fertilizer/Septic and Erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic	50ppb	ND	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits #&
Maximum TTHM Potential	100ppb	36.5ppb	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chloroform	100ppb	21.5ppb	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Bromodichloromethane	100ppb	7.8ppb	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
<b>REGULATED IN THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM</b>				
Total Coliform Bacteria	>5% of monthly samples	<0.9%	0%	Naturally present in the environment
<b>REGULATED AT THE CONSUMER'S TAP</b>				
Copper ###	1.3 ppm Action Level	1	1.3	Household Plumbing

in drinking water. The water supplied by Summit Water is half that amount (about 36ppb).

## 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.

**#& ARSENIC – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** The potential sources of arsenic are from runoff from orchards and from glass and electronics production wastes. The potential health effects may be that some people who drink water, containing arsenic in excess of the MCL (50ppb), over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. The EPA is in the process of establishing the MCLG for arsenic. EPA has directed each purveyor to publish the following statement, "While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the cost of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to the other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

**NOTE:** The laboratory results for arsenic samples taken on our system do not indicate the existence of arsenic. The laboratory test to the standards established by the EPA, and therefore does not report for levels less than 10ppb. Until the laboratory test standards are changed, we can confirm if the water contains "low level", insignificant level or no arsenic.

### 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.

Test reports for Radionuclides indicated that there is was 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 were two occurrences of failure to meet the EPA standard in 2001. After field investigations, we determined that each occurrence was during inclement weather and attributed to sampling error. Each time the contaminant was not fecal coliform, nor was it E-coli. Additional sampling at the initial sites and other sampling sites showed no contamination. In each occurrence, the chlorine residual observed in each sample was within the EPA guidelines.

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.

