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## 2002 Consumer Confidence Report 2003 Annual Meeting Notice

### 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 4,700 members who own residence, businesses, public entities and other organizations located in the greater Summit/Waller area of Pierce County and receive the services of the corporation. The articles of incorporation, the By-Laws of the corporation and federal, state and local regulations govern the operation of the company.

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), [service@summitwater.org](mailto:service@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 is the 4th report describing Summit Water & Supply's (Summit Water) drinking water sources, quality testing, and programs that protect the quality of the 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 April/May 2002. 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 2002. The report's due date for delivery to every consumer of water delivered 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. We continue to make an effort to balance your "right to know" against the sheer volume of information that we can provide. We have added a website as an additional method to get information out in a cost effective way.

Summit Water continues to deliver water to your home or business, this water meets the standards required by state and federal agencies. Summit Water goes beyond what is required by these agencies in monitoring, and protection methods that will further reduce the risk of contamination.

Water quality monitoring reports are submitted, by Summit and also directly from the testing laboratory, to the DOH who then provides the information to the EPA. The agencies verify our compliance with the many regulatory standards and testing protocols required to assure safe drinking water. *For this reporting period on 2002, we are proud to report that the water we provide meets or is better than the established water quality standards.*

## THE SOURCES OF YOUR SUPPLY

There are nine (9) wells in seven (7) different sites, located within our service area. The wells are the sole source of water. There are inter-ties to other water purveyors for emergency purposes only. A new emergency inter-tie with Parkland Light & Water is capable of transferring as much as 1.2 million gallons per day (approximately 85% of an average winter day). These sources are monitored and controlled through a computerized control system.

**SOURCE PROTECTION** - Our well sites are now fenced, and the older well-houses have been replaced. In addition we have added intrusion monitoring as part of our responsibility under the “Home Land Security” requirements. We have refurbished two wells this past year. These wells are

approximately 240 feet in depth, and draw water from the deeper aquifers. We continue to work closely with the individuals who own property and operate businesses in our wellhead areas so that everyone works toward protecting this resource. Prudent chemical application practices and disposal methods, will keep your groundwater resource 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.*

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 6a.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 contaminates 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 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.
- **Part per million; part per billion.** One part per million is the equivalent of a dissolved aspirin tablet in a full bathtub of water (approximately 50 gallons). One part per billion is equivalent to a dissolved aspirin tablet in 1,000 bathtubs of water (approximately 50,000 gallons).



Fire hydrant being flushed.

## 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).

## WATER QUALITY

Summit Water collected approximately 214 water samples in 2002 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 2002 and the two prior years of the sampling period. All are below levels allowed by the federal and state agencies. Not listed are the 187 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
Arsenic	10ppb	ND	N/A	natural deposits
Potential	100ppb	36.5ppb	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits
Chloroform	100ppb	21.5ppb	0	chlorination
Bromodichloromethane	100ppb	7.8ppb	0	chlorination
Chlorodibromomethane	100ppb	4.2ppb	0	chlorination
Bromoform	100ppb	1.3ppb	0	chlorination
<b>REGULATED IN THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM</b>				
Total Coliform Bacteria	samples	<0.9%	0%	environment
<b>REGULATED AT THE CONSUMER'S TAP</b>				
Copper ###	1.3 ppm Action Level	0.7	1.3	Household Plumbing

Note: The laboratory results of samples for Arsenic taken on our system do not indicate the existence of arsenic. The laboratory tests to the standards established by the EPA, and therefore reported the levels to be less than 2ppb that is the lowest level they can test for.

### NaOH (caustic soda) continues to be added to the water at the well source raising the pH of the water. This changes the characteristic of the water, reducing, or in most homes, eliminating, the amount of the leaching of copper. 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 beginning May 1, 2000.

To further reduce the potential exposure to copper leaching from the household piping you can 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.

Test reports for Radio nuclides indicate there is not a trace of Alpha or Beta particles in your water.

## 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. Certified personnel perform the chemical addition to the water at the well sites. They also perform on-site tests and collect samples including, but are not limited to, the following:

Daily	Chlorine residuals, pH, and temperature.
Semi-Monthly	Bacteria (total coliform).
Semi-Annually	Lead and copper
Annually	Nitrates, Inorganic, volatile organic contaminants, synthetic organic contaminants, radioactivity (every 4 years) and Arsenic

*There was no occurrence of a failure to meet the EPA standards for water quality in 2002*

All new construction and repair work performed on the water system infrastructure is treated with chlorine. The water is tested for water purity, by a state approved laboratory, prior to these facilities providing water to you the consumer. EPA states "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."

