

2005 Consumer Confidence Report

SUMMIT WATER & SUPPLY COMPANY

SAFE, CLEAN WATER - TODAY & TOMORROW

ABOUT SUMMIT WATER: We are a member owned, "not-for-profit" corporation, "Group A" water system (State of Washington Department of Health identification #85050V). The services of the corporation are provided to the residence, businesses, public entities and other organizations located in the greater Summit/Waller area of Pierce County. There are approximately 4,900 members. The corporation's articles of incorporation and By-laws along with federal, state and local regulations governs the operation of the company.

The Board of Directors meet 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; 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 7th 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 June of 2005. The report format may look the same as prior reports. There is specific information and statements required by statute. This report covers the year 2005. 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 your tap water is safe to drink, EPA and DOH prescribe regulations stating the allowable limit for specific contaminants the water may contain. We make an effort to balance your "right to know" against the sheer volume of information that we can provide. Our website provides a method to get information out in a cost effective way.

Summit Water goes beyond what is required by these agencies to provide quality water to your home or business, through increased monitoring and placing into practice protection methods that 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 2005, the water we provided met the established water quality standards.**

THE SOURCES OF YOUR SUPPLY

There are ten (10) wells located on seven (7) different sites, located within the service area. Summit Water also has an inter-tie with Parkland Light & Water providing water to our system. The inter-tie was the primary source of water for 2005 supplying Summit Water with approximately 57% (339 million gallons) of our source water. This is an increase of about 38% over inter-tie source water from 2004. The contract limit for the transfer of water is for 1.2 million gallons per day. The contract is a three party contract, with the water supplied by Lakewood Water District, and pipe capacity is "rented" from Parkland Water to get the water to Summit from Lakewood. Three inter-ties to other water purveyors exist for emergency purposes.

Safe Drinking Water Hotline – 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 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.

SOURCE PROTECTION – For the past 11 years, Summit Water & Supply has been in the process of implementing and establishing a cross-connection control program. This program meets the state cross-connection control regulations. We continue to work closely with the health department and the property owners 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 evidence of the dumping or abandonment of potential contaminants, **you should report it immediately to the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department.**

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. There are no contaminants of the water supply coming from the wells. The primary purpose for chlorine addition is for potential contamination of the water distribution system (water mains) 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 80 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 was less than 5% of the safe annual average (3.6ppb).**

Our last test reports for Radionuclides indicate there is not a trace of Alpha or Beta particles in your water. Total water pumped from Summit Water's source wells was 275 million gallons for 2005 with an additional 339 million gallons purchased by wholesale agreement from Lakewood Water District and wheeled (supplied) to Summit Water through Parkland Water's system. This supply is through an inter-tie in the southwesterly area of the system. All samples taken at our source wells tested below the minimum levels acceptable to the EPA. Wells are also the source of water for the Parkland system. Parkland maintains a higher level of chlorine residual on their system, and they add fluoride to the water. The blending of the water supplies from the two water systems results in water characteristics, which are not uniform throughout the Summit Water distribution system. This is most noticeable in the Waller Road area.

A map which is posted on our website may be accessed to determine the possible fluoride level in the water near your location. It is updated seasonally when the blending of the two water sources changes.

Upon adoption of the proposed Water Use Efficiency Rule, municipal water suppliers will be required to maintain their distribution system leakage at or less than 10% of their production. Systems not in compliance with the leakage standard will be required to develop and implement a water loss control action plan, which identifies the steps and timelines for reducing the leakage. In 2005, Summit Water's unaccounted for water loss was below the 10% threshold.

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 1/2 of a dissolved aspirin tablet in a full bathtub of water (approximately 50 gallons). One part per billion is equivalent to 1/2 of a dissolved aspirin tablet in 1,000 bathtubs of water (approximately 50,000 gallons).

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).

Other Things To Know

The Chlorine residual is maintained throughout the distribution system, and sampling is performed daily to ensure the water has the recommended residual. Certified personnel monitor 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 coli form).
Annually	Nitrates,
EPA directed (three year cycle)	Inorganic, volatile organic contaminants, synthetic organic contaminants, radioactivity, lead, copper and Arsenic

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.

Water Quality Monitoring Results

Summit Water collected approximately 250 water samples in 2005 from at the sources and throughout the water system. A certified laboratory conducted the analyses on those samples. The results are on file with the Washington Health Department's Drinking Water Program Office and the EPA.

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 2005 sampling period. All are below the levels allowed by the agencies. Not listed are the 199 other potential contaminants that were not detected in any of our tests.

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."

Contaminants	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Highest Level Detected	Ideal Goals (MCLG)	Potential Sources of Contaminants
REGULATED AT THE GROUNDWATER SOURCES				
Nitrate	10ppm	3.2ppm	10ppm	Runoff from fertilizer/Septic and Erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic	10 ppb	ND	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits
TTHM Potential	80ppb	4.8ppb	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chloroform	100ppb	1.8ppb	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Bromodichloro-methane	100ppb	1.7ppb	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chlorodibromomethane	100ppb	1.3ppb	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Bromoform	100ppb	ND	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination
REGULATED IN THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM				
Total Coli form Bacteria	>5% of monthly samples	0.0%	0%	Naturally present in the environment
REGULATED AT THE CONSUMER'S TAP				
Copper ###	1.3 ppm Action Level	0.7	1.3	Household Plumbing

Parkland Light & Water Company (Through inter-tie)

The items listed below were detected in the Parkland Light & Water Company water during the last test cycle. Not listed are those volatile organic chemicals, synthetic organic chemicals and herbicides that were not detected.

1999-2005

Substance	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Highest Level Detected	Ideal Goals (MCLG)	Potential Source of Contaminant
HEALTH RELATED (PRIMARY) STANDARDS:				
Nitrate-N Total	10ppm	3.3ppm	10ppm	Unknown
Trihalomethane Potential	80ppb	64.4ppb	0ppm	Disinfection Interaction
Carbon- Tetrachloride	5ppb	0.4ppb	0ppb	Unknown
1,1,1 Trichloroethane	200ppb	0.7ppb	0ppb	Unknown
Total Haloacetic Acid	60ppb	5.2ppb	0ppb	Disinfection Interaction

Substance	Highest Level Detected	Ideal Goals (MCLG)	Potential Source of Contaminant
UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS			
Perchlorate	9.0ppb	0ppb	Unknown
Chloroform	6.3ppb	0ppb	Unknown
Bromodichloromethane	4.1ppb	0ppb	Unknown
Chlorodibromomethane	3.7ppb	0ppb	Unknown
Bromoform	1.4ppb	0ppb	Unknown

Substance	Highest Level Allowed	Highest Level Detected	Potential Source of Contaminant
AESTHETIC (SECONDARY) STANDARDS			
Iron	0.3ppm	0.44ppm*	Natural
Manganese	0.05ppm	0.031ppm	Natural
Sodium	N/A	27ppm**	Natural
Fluoride	4ppm	1.4ppm	Sodium Fluoride Additive
Hardness	N/A	73ppm	Natural

For a complete copy of Parkland's CCR, please call the Summit Water office at (253) 537-7781 (or see Parkland's website <http://www.plw.coop/>)

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.

* - Source not in use

** - Due to the addition of Sodium Hydroxide, the Sodium content may increase to as high as 50ppm