



WATER

Quality Roundup

2014 Water Quality Roundup Consumer Confidence Report

Public Water System ID: CO0118020

Esta es información importante. Si no la pueden leer, necesitan que alguien se la traduzca.

What is a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)?

The CCR is an annual water quality report that all community water systems are required to provide. It is based on the 1996 Amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act and the right-to-know provisions of that Act. Every customer of the Cottonwood Water and Sanitation District (CWSD) has the opportunity to review it annually. The CCR helps them to make informed choices about the water they drink. The report lets the customers of CWSD know what contaminants, if any, are in their drinking water, and how these contaminants may affect their health. Basically what the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates is the amount of contaminants that are allowed in drinking 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 Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

What Does the Cottonwood Water CCR Reveal?

You will like knowing that since our existence, the drinking water in the Cottonwood area has met or exceeds the EPA's water quality drinking standards.

Meet Your Water Wranglers

All of us serving on the Cottonwood Water and Sanitation District Board are property owners that have been elected by a majority of the registered voters living in Cottonwood. Along with our management team, we are all dedicated to helping ensure the quality of our drinking water, reliability of wastewater services, protecting the environment and providing a sustainable water supply. That's why we are pleased to present this 2014 water quality report (CCR) that reveals our water quality continues to meet and/or exceed all the standards.

Back Row: Steve Wasiecko,
Scott Lamond

Front Row: Susan Romani,
Alyssa Kasaris, Adam Perez





WANTED

If you can circle 5 of the 9 listed ways to reduce water usage, you qualify to become a "Most Wanted" resident of our Community.

1. Changed original landscape to water-wise plants
2. Purchased water-efficient low flush toilets and/or appliance
3. Reduced exterior watering days
4. Watered only in the mornings or evenings
5. Did not use sprinklers or water outside when windy
6. Maintained a 2-day a week watering schedule for garden/lawn
7. Reduced in-home water use (laundry, bathing, and/or kitchen)
8. Turned sprinklers off when it rained
9. Inspected sprinklers monthly for leak

Where does our water come from?

Cottonwood's water currently comes from deep wells. The deep wells, however, are a non-renewing source of water and thus don't benefit from snow and rainfall that replenish our streams and rivers. Once the deep well water is used, it is gone. So, as the demand for water in the South Metro Area continues to increase, the water in the deep wells is being depleted more rapidly. Here's the good news. Cottonwood has water rights in Cherry Creek and has invested in the WISE project.

About fifty percent of Cottonwood's water will continue to come from wells (while we can still produce it), the rest will be from Cherry Creek and WISE. It marks the beginning of the District's transition to surface water. If you're a resident of Cottonwood, be assured that the water quality from both the deep wells and Cherry Creek are treated to meet the Colorado's Department of Health and Environment drinking water standards and regulations.

Detected Contaminants

COTTONWOOD WSD routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The following table(s) show all detections found in the period of January 1 to December 31, 2013 unless otherwise noted. The State of Colorado requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. Therefore, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. Violations and Formal Enforcement Actions, if any, are reported at the end of this report.

Note: Only detected contaminants sampled within the last 5 years appear in this report. If no tables appear in this section then no contaminants were detected in the last round of monitoring.

If lead is present, elevated levels can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. COTTONWOOD WSD is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or at <http://water.epa.gov/drink/info/lead>.

Our Water Sources			
Source	Source Type	Water Type	Potential Source(s) of Contamination
D4A WELL	WL	GW	Above and Below ground storage tanks, auto repair facilities, autobody painting, hazardous waste generators and manufacturing facilities.
D-11 WELL	WL	GW	SAME AS ABOVE
PURCHASED FROM JWPP CO0103418	CC	GW	SAME AS ABOVE
D1 WELL	WL	GW	SAME AS ABOVE
DE WELL	WL	GW	SAME AS ABOVE
D2 WELL	WL	GW	SAME AS ABOVE

Lead and Copper Sampled in the Distribution System								
Contaminant Name	Time Period	90th Percentile	Sample Size	Unit of Measure	90th Percentile AL	Sample Sites Above AL	90th Percentile AL Exceedance	Typical Sources
Copper	07/26/2012 to 08/14/2012	0.21	30	ppm	1.3		No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead	07/26/2012 to 08/14/2012	10	30	ppb	15		No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Disinfection Byproducts Sampled in the Distribution System										
Name	Year	Average	Range Low-High	Sample Size	Unit of Measure	MCL	MCLG	Highest Compliance Value	MCL Violation	Typical Sources
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2013	1.77	0 to 5.7	5	ppb	80	N/A		No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection

Radionuclides Sampled at the Entry Point to the Distribution System									
Contaminant Name	Year	Average	Range Low-High	Sample Size	Unit of Measure	MCL	MCLG	MCL Violation	Typical Sources
Gross Alpha	2011	1.2	0 to 6	5	pCi/L	15	0	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium	2011	1.08	0.4 to 2	5	pCi/L	5	0	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta Particle Activity	2011	5	0 to 10	5	pCi/L*	50	0	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits

*The MCL for Gross Beta Particle Activity is 4 mrem/year. Since there is no simple conversion between mrem/year and pCi/L EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for Gross Beta Particle Activity.

Inorganic Contaminants Sampled at the Entry Point to the Distribution System									
Contaminant Name	Year	Average	Range Low-High	Sample Size	Unit of Measure	MCL	MCLG	MCL Violation	Typical Sources
Antimony	2013	0.17	0 to 0.85	5	ppb	6	6	No	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder
Barium	2013	0.11	0.08 to 0.16	5	ppm	2	2	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	2013	1.18	1 to 1.4	5	ppm	4	4	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate	2013	0	0 to 0.01	5	ppm	10	10	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

Synthetic Organic Contaminants Sampled at the Entry Point to the Distribution System									
Contaminant Name	Year	Average	Range Low-High	Sample Size	Unit of Measure	MCL	MCLG	MCL Violation	Typical Sources
Diquat	2013	0.03	0 to 0.38	11	ppb	20	20	No	Runoff from herbicide use
Hexachlorobenzene	2013	0	0 to 0.01	10	ppb	1	0	No	Discharge from metal refineries and agricultural chemical factories

Violations, Significant Deficiencies, and Formal Enforcement Actions					
Violations					
Name	Category	Time Period	Health Effects	Compliance Value	TT Level or MCL
DBP GROUP	MONITORING, ROUTINE (DBP), MAJOR - MON	01/01/2013 - 12/31/2013	N/A	N/A	N/A
Additional Violation Information					
<p>Note: If any violation relates to failing to install adequate filtration or disinfection equipment or processes, or have had a failure of such equipment or processes then the water may be inadequately treated. Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites, which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. Explanation of the violation(s) and the steps taken to resolve them: the routine monitoring of the DBP Group had a sample result that was submitted late.</p>					

Pipe Maintenance - To maintain our system, a couple of times a year the District flushes our water pipes. This process is important to keep our system running smoothly and dependably. It can, however, cause a temporary discoloration of your water. The brownish color you might experience is due to naturally occurring harmless minerals (primarily iron and manganese) that can settle in the pipelines. To flush the lines we open the fire hydrants and literally flush out the unwanted minerals. This can take up to 24 hours to clear the water. Due to this flushing, some residents may experience temporary discoloration of their water, but it is important to know that it does not affect the safety of the water. If you have any further questions please call the District: 303-792-9509.

The sources of drinking 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 by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also may 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, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.



Required Definitions

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - The highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water.

Treatment Technique (TT) - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Action Level (AL) - The concentration of a contaminant, which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must comply with.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) - The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) - The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) - The level of a drinking water disinfectant, below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Violation (No Abbreviation) - Failure to meet a Colorado Primary Drinking Water Regulation.

Formal Enforcement Action (No Abbreviation) - Escalated action taken by the State (due to the risk to public health, or number or severity of violations) to bring a non-compliant water system back into compliance.

90th Percentile: 90% of samples are equal to or less than the number in the chart.

Variance and Exemptions (V/E) - Department permission not to meet a MCL or treatment technique under certain conditions.

Gross Alpha (No Abbreviation) - Gross alpha particle activity compliance value. It includes radium-226, but excludes radon 222, and uranium.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - Measure of the radioactivity in water.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) - Measure of the clarity or cloudiness of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the typical person.

Compliance Value (No Abbreviation) - Single or calculated value used to determine if regulatory contaminant level (e.g. MCL) is met. Examples of calculated values are the 90th Percentile, Running Annual Average (RAA) and Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA).

Average (x-bar) - Typical value.

Range (R) - Lowest value to the highest value.

Sample Size (n) - Number or count of values (i.e. number of water samples collected).

Parts per million = Milligrams per liter (ppm = mg/L) - One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion = Micrograms per liter (ppb = ug/L) - One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Parts per trillion = Nanograms per liter (ppt = ng/L) - One part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000,000.

Parts per quadrillion = Picograms per liter (ppq = pg/L) - One part per quadrillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000,000 years or one penny in \$10,000,000,000,000.

Not Applicable (N/A) - Does not apply or not available.

Want To Know More About Your Quality Water?

Visit our website at www.CottonwoodWater.org and you'll find there's a lot of information we've rounded up. You can call us at the main office during business hours at 303-792-9509 or stop by 2 Inverness Drive East, Suite 200, Englewood, CO 80112 and speak to us in person. Remember, you are always welcome to attend any of our Board meetings held in our neighborhood in a little beige house with white trim located at: 8334 Sandreed Circle. Unless otherwise posted, the meetings are the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Hope to see y'all there!

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