

# CITY OF UNION GAP

## CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT 2013

The City of Union Gap Public Works Administration Office presents our annual "Consumer Confidence Report" for Water System ID #90250U. This report contains information regarding the City's quality of drinking water.

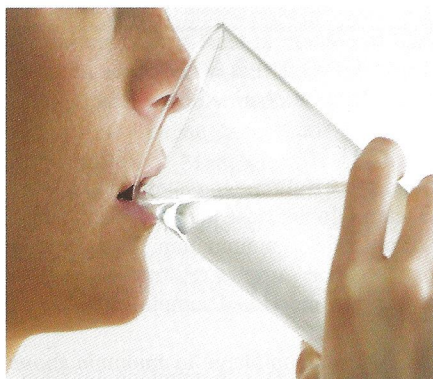
We understand how important it is to manage one of our most precious natural resources. Every day our Public Works personnel work hard to ensure exceptional quality drinking water is delivered to you.

Our high standards are met by taking numerous water samples, from areas throughout the entire system, and sending the samples to independent certified laboratories for testing. Laboratories look for traces of chemicals, pesticides, herbicides, bacteria, viruses, and metals.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. These regulations help to ensure that systems provide clean, safe, and quality drinking water to all users.

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Through this report, the City provides full disclosure of information regarding the City's drinking water supply. We feel it is important for you to know and understand the following:



1. Quality / Safety Regulations which protect your health;
2. Treatment Process which ensure our drinking water meets, or exceeds, all regulations;
3. Water Quality Data which provides information regarding the condition of our drinking water; and
4. City Programs which help protect our water system and sources.

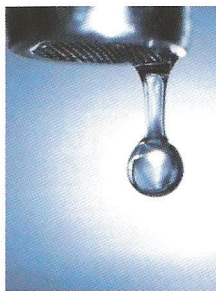
*TRANSLATIONS: Este informe contiene información muy importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hable con alguien que lo entienda.*

C O N T A C T S	<b>City of Union Gap ~ PW Administration</b> 509.248.0434 (Billing) / 509.225.3524 (PW Admin)	<b>American Water Works Association</b> <a href="http://www.awwa.org">www.awwa.org</a>
	<b>WS Dept. of Health (DOH) ~ Office of Drinking Water</b> 16201 E. Indiana Ave; Suite 1500 Spokane Valley, WA 99216 509.329.2100 <a href="http://www.doh.wa.gov">www.doh.wa.gov</a>	<b>U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)</b> Safe Drinking Water Act Hotline 1.800.426.4791 <a href="http://www.epa.gov/safewater">www.epa.gov/safewater</a> AND <a href="http://www.epa.gov/watersense">www.epa.gov/watersense</a>



## DRINKING WATER DEFINITIONS

- **Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant, which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- **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.



- **Part per million (ppm):** One part per million or one milligram per liter (mg/L) is analogous to one penny in \$10,000.
- **Part per billion (ppb):** One part per billion or one microgram per liter is analogous to one penny in \$10,000,000.
- **State Reporting Level (SRL):** Indicates the minimum reporting level required by Washington State DOH.
- **Variance and Exemption:** State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL, AL or a TT under certain conditions.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE CITY'S WATER SYSTEM

Union Gap's ground water supply derives from five (5) wells located within City limits and supplies water to the majority of the City's estimated 6,000 residents. Water is stored in four (4) reservoirs, which provide protection against fire, power outages and high water use periods. The water is carried through water distribution mains and brought to customers' homes and businesses.

## QUALITY MONITORING ~ REQUIREMENTS

The City is in compliance with existing water quality monitoring requirements, per state law, as summarized below.

CONTAMINANT TYPE	MONITORING REQUIREMENT <sup>[1]</sup>
Arsenic	Wells #4 & #5 exceed the new SRL, which is under the triggering MCL levels
Bacteriological Contaminants	Four (4) samples collected per month, within the distribution area
Lead and Copper	Twenty (20) samples every three (3) years at selected residents' taps
Mercury	All Wells were <i>below</i> SRL
Nitrates	All Wells - one (1) sample every year
Radionuclides	All Wells - two (2) samples every three (3) years
Trihalomethanes	Sampling is not required; however, the City includes in the VOC monitoring every three (3) years
Inorganic Chemicals (IOC)	All Wells - one (1) sample every three (3) years
Synthetic Organic Chemicals (SOC)	All Wells - one (1) sample every three (3) years
Volatile Organic Chemicals (VOC)	All Wells - one (1) sample every three (3) years; waiver granted on Wells 2, 5, & 6 until December 2013

<sup>[1]</sup> Increased monitoring is required for any chemicals detected above an "Action Level" or a "MCL"

## QUALITY MONITORING ~ RESULTS



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 contacting the EPA.

In 2012, two (2) samples were unsatisfactory for total coliforms within the City's water system. Coliforms are bacteria, which are naturally present in the environment; these bacteria do not pose an immediate health risk. In the water industry, coliforms are looked for as an indicator of potential contamination. Repeat samples are required following an unsatisfactory sample; the results for the repeat samples returned satisfactorily. It was determined the issue was not from the water sources but from the individual sampling site.

The City has historically provided high quality drinking water and continues to strive to maintain those standards. The list to follow summarizes contaminants, which the City: 1) Monitors, but are not present in the City's drinking water; 2) Monitors, and has not recorded any detection in the City's wells in the most recent monitoring period; or 3) Monitors, and are present in the City's drinking water in quantities below the SRL.

Drinking water contaminants have been detected; levels detected pose no health risk to our water users. Most of the contaminants are naturally occurring minerals, which are found in ground water. The table to follow summarizes those contaminants, which have been detected in the City's drinking water; the MCL for those contaminants; the MCLG set by the EPA; and the typical sources of the contaminants. For those contaminants, which have been detected and exceed either an AL or MCL; additional information on monitoring, treatment, and health effects are also listed.



1,1,1-Trichloroethane	Atrazine	Di(2-ethylhexyl) adipate	Heptachlor	Pentachlorophenol
1,1,2-Trichloroethane	Barfium	Di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate	Heptachlor epoxide	Picloram
1,1-Dichloroethylene	Benzene	Dibromochloropropane	Hexachlorobenzene	Selenium
1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene	Benzo(a)pyrene (PAHs)	Dichloromethane	Hexachlorocyclopentadiene	Simazine
1,2-Dichloroethane	Beryllium	Dinoseb	Lindane	Styrene
1,2-Dichloropropane	Cadmium	Dioxin (2,3,7,8-TCDD)	Mercury [Inorganic]	Tetrachloroethylene
2,4,5-TP (Silvex)	Carbofuran	Diquat	Methoxychlor	Thallium
2,4-D	Carbon Tetrachloride	Endothall	Monochlorobenzene	Toluene
Alachlor	Chlordane	Endrin	Nitrite	Toxaphene
Aldicarb [2]	Chromium	Epichlorohydrin	Ortho-Dichlorobenzene	Trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene
Aldicarb sulfone	Cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene	Ethylbenzene	Oxamyl (Vydate)	Trichloroethylene
Aldicarb sulfoxide	Cyanide (as Free Cn)	Ethylene dibromide	Para-Dichlorobenzene	Uranium
Antimony	Dalapon	Glyphosate	PCBs [Polychlorinated Biphenyls]	Vinyl Chloride
				Xylenes (total)

CONTAMI- NANT (UNITS)	LEVEL DETECTED IN 2012					MCL	MCLG	TYPICAL SOURCES
	# 2 S01	# 3 S02	# 4 S03	# 5 S04	# 6 S05			
Fluoride (ppm)	0.5	0.5	0.33	0.31	0.31	4	4.0	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive, which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate (ppm)	1.12	1.42	<0.05	<0.05	0.23	10	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage.
Lead (ppb)	0.001	<0.001	<0.0005	<0.0005	<0.0005	0.015	0	Erosion of natural deposits; corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Copper (ppm)	0.02	<0.02	<0.002	<0.002	0.0002	1.3	1.3	Erosion of natural deposits; corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Arsenic (ppb)	0.003	<0.003	0.0073	0.0054	<0.002	0.05	0.05	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Mercury (ppb)	0.0004	<0.0004	<.0003	<0.0003	0.0003	0.002	0.002	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from refineries and factories; runoff from landfills; runoff from cropland.

## MANGANESE MONITORING

The City routinely monitors for a number of minerals, which may cause taste, odor or appearance issues in the water supply. Manganese is a common mineral found in shale, sandstone, and alluvial deposits, and in the aquifer, which supplies the City's wells. Manganese concentrations greater than 0.050 ppm can occasionally stain plumbing fixtures and laundered clothes.

Well #4 provides quality water; it also contains manganese levels of approximately 0.128 ppm. The City was instructed by DOH to maintain the regularly scheduled monitoring. Because there are no adverse health effects associated with manganese, and the high cost for removing manganese, the City plans to continue using Well #4 to meet system demands, and will continue monitoring as required.



## LEAD AND COPPER MONITORING

The City's aquifer sources do not contain lead or copper. However, lead and copper can leach into residential water from building plumbing systems.

Lead and copper monitoring is conducted at homes categorized as "high risk"; compliance is determined on a regional basis. Homes or buildings that were built, or re-plumbed, with copper pipes and lead-based solder are considered "high risk"; this type of solder occurred prior to 1985.

Worst-case conditions are considered when water has been stagnant in pipes for over six (6) hours. If you do not have copper pipes, you are at low risk. If your home is at high risk, you may want to flush out any water that has been sitting for six (6) hours or longer before using it for cooking or drinking.



TO POSTAL CUSTOMER - ECRWSS

*You are receiving this mailed report as part of a federal reporting requirement. This report costs \$.25 to produce and mail to you.*

## GENERAL HEALTH EFFECTS

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised individuals, such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders and some elderly and/or infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These individuals should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The EPA / Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection are available from the Safe Drinking Water Act Hotline.

## WATER QUALITY PROTECTION

High quality, clean, safe, and aesthetically pleasing water is the City's commitment to you. We have adopted the following to ensure the drinking water consistently meets, or exceeds, all State and Federal regulations.

- Water System Plan (WSP)
- Wellhead Protection Plan / Program (WPP)
- Hydrant / System Flushing Program
- Cross-Connection Control (CCC) Program
- Water Use Efficiency (WUE) Program

*If everyone in the US used just one less gallon of water per shower every day, we could save 85 billion gallons of water per year*

To address the increasing demand on our state's water resources WA State Legislature passed the "Municipal Water Law". The law established that all municipal water suppliers must use water more efficiently in exchange for water right certainty.

As the potential for developing new sources of water diminishes, an efficient use of water is necessary to help ensure supplies for future generations' demand due to drought, climate changes, population growth, and business needs.

It's easy to take water for granted; an abundant supply of drinking water has always been readily available and a basic life necessity.

Water is an important and precious resource that everyone should help conserve. Understanding where you can save water is a great place to start; things as simple as the following conservation tips will make a difference.

- ◆ When giving your pet fresh water, use the old water to water trees or shrubs.
- ◆ Water your plants deeply, but less frequently, to encourage deep root growth and drought tolerance.
- ◆ When the kids want to cool off, use the sprinkler in an area where your lawn needs it the most.
- ◆ Monitor your water bill for unusually high use. Your bill and water meter are tools that can help you discover leaks.
- ◆ Never put water down the drain when you can reuse it for purposes such as watering plants or cleaning.

Being more conscientious of the wasted water, and the money wasted by those actions, is a good motivator to start even the smallest change today! Kids are learning about water conservation and how to use water wisely; they will be more apt to implement what they learn if they witness you doing the same. For more tips, go to the EPA's *WaterSense* website.

*Trickling or cascading fountains lose less water to evaporation than those spraying water into the air*



## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

City Council meetings are open to the public and held the second and fourth Monday, of each month, at 6:00 p.m. in the old Union Gap Library (east side of old City Hall building; 102 W. Ahtanum Road). An agenda for each meeting is available at City Hall or at the meeting. On occasion items related to the water system are discussed; please feel free to participate. Any comments, on how to make this report more informative, easier to read, or ways to protect and conserve are greatly appreciated.