

CITY OF UNION GAP

Consumer Confidence Report

2017

The Public Works and Community Development Department's Water Division is pleased to provide the annual "Consumer Confidence Report" for Water System ID #90250U for the 2016 reporting period.

Through this report the City provides full disclosure of important information regarding the City's drinking water supply for the reporting period. Safe drinking water is essential and citizens deserve to have access to exceptional tasting, high quality drinking water. Users need to be well-informed to utilize water resources wisely and to support the improvements necessary to maintain quality drinking water.

Our high standards are met by taking numerous weekly and monthly water samples from areas throughout the entire system and tested by an independent certified laboratory. Laboratories look for traces of chemicals, pesticides, herbicides, bacteria, viruses and metals.

For additional information please contact the following:

UG Public Works & Community Development
509.225.3524 (PW & CD Administration)
509.248.0434 (Billing)
www.uniongapwa.gov

WA State Department of Health (DOH)
Office of Drinking Water
509.329.2100
www.doh.wa.gov

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Safe Drinking Water Act Hotline
1.800.426.4791
www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water
AND www.epa.gov/watersense

American Water Works Association
www.awwa.org

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

City Council meetings are open to the public the second and fourth Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Annex (3103 Second Street). An agenda for each meeting is available at City Hall and at the meeting. Please join us!

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 water are greatly appreciated.

TRANSLATIONS

This report contains important information about your drinking water. You may wish to have this information translated.

Este informe contiene información importante sobre su agua potable. Es posible que desee tener esta información traducida.

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 distribution mains 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 ^[1]
Arsenic	Wells #4 & #5 exceed the new SRL, which is under the triggering MCL levels
Bacteriological Contaminants	Eight (8) 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

^[1] Increased monitoring is required for any chemicals detected above an "Action Level" or a "MCL"

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.

QUALITY MONITORING ~ RESULTS

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. Most contaminants are naturally occurring minerals, which are found in ground water. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk.

The City has historically provided high quality drinking water and continues to strive to maintain those standards. In June of 2016, the water department experienced return of unsatisfactory for total coliforms analytical reports. Repeat and investigative samples taken over a one month period produced 15 unsatisfactory for total coliforms. By the end of July 2016 the water department had taken corrective measures and the system returned to negative for total coliforms. The cause of the event is suspected as a result of water system construction projects during the same time frame.

Coliforms are bacteria, which are naturally present in the environment; these bacteria do not pose an immediate health risk to users. In the water industry, coliforms are looked for as an indicator of potential contamination.

Additional repeat samples are required following an unsatisfactory sample; the results for the repeat samples returned satisfactorily. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by contacting the EPA."

CONTAMINANT (UNITS)	LEVEL DETECTED					MCL	MCLG
	# 2 S01	# 3 S02	# 4 S03	# 5 S04	# 6 S05		
Fluoride *(ppm)	<0.1	0.28	0.33	0.31	0.31	4	4.0
	<i>TYPICAL SOURCES: Erosion of natural deposits; water additive, which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.</i>						
Nitrate (ppm)	1.09	1.27	<0.05	<0.05	<0.22	10	10
	<i>TYPICAL SOURCES: Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage.</i>						
Lead (ppb)	<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0005	<0.0005	<0.0005	0.015	0
	<i>TYPICAL SOURCES: Erosion of natural deposits; corrosion of household plumbing systems.</i>						
Copper (ppm)	0.0003	<0.00109	<0.002	<0.002	0.0002	1.3	1.3
	<i>TYPICAL SOURCES: Erosion of natural deposits; corrosion of household plumbing systems.</i>						
Arsenic (ppb)	0.0016	.00282	0.0048	0.0041	<0.002	0.010	0.010
	<i>TYPICAL SOURCES: Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.</i>						
Mercury (ppb)	<0.0002	<0.0002	<.0003	<0.0003	0.0003	0.002	0.002
	<i>TYPICAL SOURCES: Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from refineries and factories; runoff from landfills; runoff from cropland.</i>						

* The City does not add fluoride to the water system.

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 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 0.132 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. We will continue monitoring as required.



LEAD AND COPPER MONITORING

The City’s aquifer sources do not contain lead or copper. Unlike other contaminants, lead and copper do not usually occur in source water. Instead, they result when building plumbing, faucets and water fixtures corrode.

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 1986.

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 report as part of a federal reporting requirement for municipal water systems;
this report costs approximately \$.26 to produce and distribute to each of our customers.*

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

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 is so easy to take water availability for granted. An abundant supply of drinking water has always been readily available to us and is a basic life necessity that we are fortunate enough to enjoy!

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.

- ◆ Nearly 60% of a person's household water footprint can go toward lawn and garden maintenance.
- ◆ Conserve water by buying recycled goods; recycle and upcycle your items when you are finished with them.
- ◆ Using a dishwasher is actually more water efficient than hand washing, especially if you run full loads.
- ◆ It takes about 70 gallons of water to fill a bathtub, so showers are generally the more water efficient way to bathe.
- ◆ Collect rain water for your landscaping.
- ◆ Report broken pipes and open hydrants to the City of Union Gap Water Division.



Start with small changes today! Being more conscientious of the wasted water, and money wasted by those actions, are great motivators to begin now!

Children 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 *Water Sense* website.