CITY OF UNION GAP

2019 Consumer Confidence Report

Drinking Water Quality ~ A Report to the Community

The City of Union Gap Water Division (System ID #90250U) is providing this report to communicate with our customers the quality of water provided for the 2018 calendar year.

Through this report the City provides full disclosure of important information regarding our drinking water supply. 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 having the samples tested by an independent certified laboratory. Laboratories look for traces of chemicals, pesticides, herbicides, bacteria, viruses and metals.

TRANSLATION:

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.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES: City Council meetings are *open to the public* at 6:00 p.m. the second and fourth Monday of each month at the Civic Campus located at 102 W. Ahtanum Road.

An agenda for each meeting is available at the meetings and/or upon request. 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.

SYSTEM DESCRIPTION: 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 homes and businesses.

WATER QUALITY PROTECTION: 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

High quality, clean, safe, and aesthetically pleasing water is the City's commitment to you.

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 resources for future generations, demand due to drought, climate changes, population growth and business needs.

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 *below* SRL
Nitrates	All Wells - one (1) sample every year
Radionuclides	All Wells - two (2) samples every three (3) years
Trihalomethanes	Sampling is not required; includes in the VOC monitoring every three (3) years
Inorganic Chemicals (IOC), Synthetic Organic Chemicals (SOC), Volatile Organic Chemicals (VOC)	All Wells - one (1) sample - each - every three (3) years

[1] 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. 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.

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.

We are happy to announce, during the 2018 reporting period, none of the areas within the City's water system detected coliforms.

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by checking out the EPA's website or by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline.

Please share this information with other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses).

You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

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.

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". 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 your tap before using it for cooking or drinking (for 30 seconds to 2 minutes) any time water has been sitting for six (6) hours or longer.

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, 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.

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	4.0	4.0
	TYPICAL SOURCES: Erosion of natural deposits; water additive, which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.						
Nitrate (ppm)	1.09	1.79	0.18	0.00	0.00	10	10
	TYPICAL SOURCES: Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage.						
Lead (ppb)	<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0005	<0.0005	<0.0005	0.015	0.015
	TYPICAL SOURCES: Erosion of natural deposits; corrosion of household plumbing systems.						
Copper (ppm)	0.0003	<0.00109	<0.002	<0.002	0.0002	1.3	1.3
	TYPICAL SOURCES: Erosion of natural deposits; corrosion of household plumbing systems.						
Arsenic (ppb)	0.0016	.00282	0.0048	0.0041	<0.002	0.010	0.010
	TYPICAL SOURCES: Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.						
Mercury (ppb)	<0.0002	<0.0002	<.0003	<0.0003	0.0003	0.002	0.002
	TYPICAL SOURCES: Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from refineries and factories; runoff from landfills; runoff from cropland.						

* *Fluoride is not added to the City's water system.*

City of Union Gap
Water System ID #90250U
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Union Gap, WA 98903

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TO: POSTAL CUSTOMER - ECRWSS

You are receiving this report as part of a federal reporting requirement for municipal water systems; this report costs approximately $.41 to produce and distribute to each of our mailing 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 CONSERVATION:
Water conservation is so important because all living organisms need water to survive. It involves caring for water and using it wisely.

Water conservation also encompasses activities, strategies and policies of managing the water environment. It aims at achieving sustainability and meeting human demand for water.

Water is such an important part to our survival; that is why each of us should imagine what life without enough water would be like. Understanding and being aware of how much each of us uses / wastes, on a daily basis, will help us realize the importance of why we must conserve wherever possible *every single day*. 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.
- Be sure your irrigation system is watering only the areas intended, without water running onto walks, streets or down the gutter.
- Water plants deeply but infrequently to encourage deep root growth and drought tolerance.
- Consider using a rain barrels and water capture systems to extend your outdoor water use.
- Designate one glass for your drinking water each day, or refill a water bottle to cut down on the number of glasses to wash.
- By washing your car less frequently you can cut back your water use. Washing one car uses about 150 gallons of water.

FOR INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

UG Public Works Department
225.3524 (PW Administration) / 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 (AWWA)
www.awwa.org

Resolve to save water and try to do one thing until it becomes a habit, then another, and another. Start with small changes today!

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

The earlier children learn about water conservation and how to use water wisely will help them be more apt to implement what they learn - as well as what they witness you doing!

For more tips, there are several websites with great tips - try the EPA's *Water Sense* website and / or www.wateruseitwisely.com.