CITY OF UNION GAP

2020 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 important information regarding our quality of drinking water during the 2019 calendar year.

Safe drinking water is essential and we all deserve to have access to high quality, great tasting drinking water.

Users need to be well-informed to utilize water resources wisely AND to support the improvements necessary to maintain quality drinking water in our community.

Our high standards are met by taking numerous weekly, and monthly, water samples from areas throughout the entire system. An independent certified laboratory tests the samples to insure our high standards are met.

Some of the things the laboratory looks for are traces of chemicals, pesticides, herbicides, bacteria, viruses and metals.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

UG Public Works Department
509.225.3524 (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

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

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

SYSTEM DESCRIPTION: Union Gap's ground water supply derives from four (4) 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 and carried through distribution mains to homes and businesses.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES: On occasion, items related to the water system are discussed; please feel free to participate. City Council meetings are *open to the public*. Meetings are held at 6:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Monday of each month at the Civic Campus, which is located at 102 W. Ahtanum Road. An agenda is available at the meetings or upon request.

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.

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; included 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 2019 reporting period, none of the areas within the City's water system detected coliforms. More information about contaminants / potential health effects can be found on the EPA's website or by calling the EPA.

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.*

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.

CONTAMINANT (UNITS)	LEVEL DETECTED					MCL	MCLG
	# 2 S01	# 3 S02	# 4 S03	# 5 S04	# 6 S05		
Fluoride *(ppm)	**	0.28	0.19	0.19	0.15	4.0	4.0
	TYPICAL SOURCES: Erosion of natural deposits; water additive, which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.						
Nitrate (ppm)	**	1.72	<0.05	<0.05	0.14	10	10
	TYPICAL SOURCES: Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage.						
Lead (ppb)	**	<0.0001	0.0044	<0.0001	<0.0005	0.015	0.015
	TYPICAL SOURCES: Erosion of natural deposits; corrosion of household plumbing systems.						
Copper (ppm)	**	<0.00109	0.023	<0.00025	0.0032	1.3	1.3
	TYPICAL SOURCES: Erosion of natural deposits; corrosion of household plumbing systems.						
Arsenic (ppb)	**	.00282	0.0061	0.0046	0.0007	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	<0.0002	0.0002	0.002	0.002
	TYPICAL SOURCES: Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from refineries and factories; runoff from landfills; runoff from cropland.						

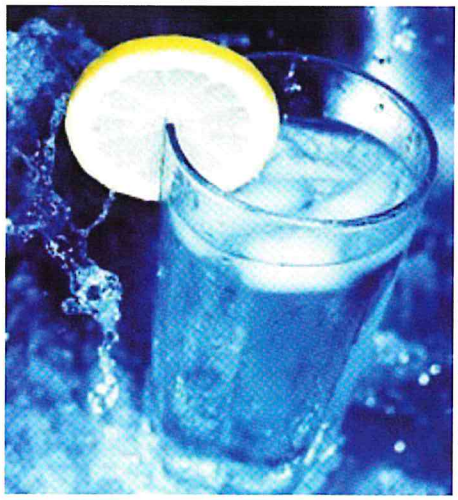
* *Fluoride is not added to the City's water system*

** *Well #2 / S01 was decommissioned in 2018*

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 0.056 ppm. The City was instructed by DOH to maintain the regularly scheduled monitoring.

Because there are no adverse health effects, plus 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. They enter drinking water primarily through plumbing material (i.e.: corroded building plumbing, faucets and water fixtures).

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. In 1991, EPA published a regulation to control lead and copper in drinking water.

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, for 30 seconds to 2 minutes, before using it for cooking or drinking whenever water has been sitting for six (6) hours or longer.

City of Union Gap
Water System ID #90250U
P.O. Box 3008
Union Gap, WA 98903

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You are receiving this report as part of a federal reporting requirement for municipal water systems; this report costs approximately $.45 to produce and distribute to each of our mailing customers.

WATER CONSERVATION: Water....we are surrounded by it! It covers approximately 71% of the earth's surface and makes up approximately 60% of the human body.

W H Y should we conserve? Because, despite the fact there's so much of it around, only a tiny fraction of that water is accessible and safe for human consumption.

Also, consider that the "Average American" personally uses 80–100 gallons of water *every day*. With all of that H2O constantly flowing, it can be easy to forget just how rare freshwater really is. It is possible to treat unsafe water in order to purify it for consumption; however, the process itself requires massive amounts of energy.

So, when it comes down to it, every drop that can be conserved will only help us all out in the long run! 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.

WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

- Repair outdoor & indoor plumbing leaks
- Watering sidewalks and streets serves no purpose
- Nearly 60% of a person's household water footprint can go toward lawn and garden maintenance.
- Consider xeriscaping; converting to a water-wise landscape can reduce outdoor water use by as much as 50%
- It is more efficient to use a dishwasher, instead of washing by hand, as long as you run full loads of dishes.
- Designate one glass for your drinking water each day, or refill a water bottle to cut down on the number of glasses to wash.

Tell us how you conserve water. Email your ideas to: jo.linder@uniongapwa.gov and they may be used in next years' issue of the *Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)*.

WATER QUALITY PROTECTION: To ensure the drinking water consistently meets, or exceeds, all State and Federal regulations, we have adopted the following:

Water System Plan (WSP); Wellhead Protection Plan (WPP); Hydrant / System Flushing Program; Cross-Connection Control (CCC) Program; and 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.