

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report



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We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. Superior Metro District's water treatment facility obtains its water supply from surface water drawn from Carter Lake and Terminal Reservoir via Marshall.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Roger Migchelbrink at 303-307-3230. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please call the above contact about the utility or any scheduled public meetings.

All public water systems are required to have a source water protection plan in place by January, 2001. Many systems have already begun source water protection activities. To find out what your system has been doing, call the above contact.

Superior Metro District has contracted with Eco Resources to routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2003. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It's important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk. Further information on this subject can be obtained by calling the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791 or at www.epa.gov/safewater on the Internet

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled 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.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which provides the same protection for public health. The State allows some substances to be monitored less than once per year because the concentrations of the contaminants do not change frequently; therefore some of the data is from previous years.

In this table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

Non-Detects (ND) - laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present.

Not Tested (NT) - analysis was not done for this contaminant.

P/A - presence or absence of coliform bacteria.

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

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

Parts per trillion (ppt) or Nanograms pr liter (nanograms/l) - one part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years, or single penny in \$10,000,000,000.

Parts per quadrillion (ppq) or Picograms per liter (picograms/l) - one part pr quadrillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000,000 years or one penny in \$10,000,000,000,000.

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

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

Million Fibers per Liter (MFL) - million fibers per liter is a measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) - nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

Action Level - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Treatment Technique (TI) - (mandatory language) A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Maximum Contaminant Level - (mandatory language). The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is 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 – (mandatory language) The "Goal" (MCLG) is 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.

Unregulated Contaminants Tested For But Not Detected:

3-Hydroxycarbofuran, Aldicarb, Aldicarb sulfone, Aldicarb sulfoxide, Aldrin, Burachlor, Carbaryl, Dicamba, Dieldrin, Methomyl, Metolachlor, Metribuzin, Propachlor, 1,1-Dichloroethane, 1,1-Dichloropropene, 1,1,1,2-Tetrachloroethane, 1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane, 1,2,3-Trichlorobenzene, 1,2,3-Trichloropropane, 1,2,4-Trimethylbenzene, 1,3-Dichloropropane, 1,3-Dichloropropene, 1,3,5-Trimethylbenzene, 2,2-Dichloropropane, Bromobenzene, Bromochloromethane, Bromomethane, Chloroethane, Chloromethane, Dibromomethane, Dichlorodifluoromethane, Trichlorofluoromethane, Hexachlorobutadiene, Isopropyl benzene, 1,3-Dichlorobenzene, Naphthalene, n-Butylbenzene, and tert-Butylbenzene; sample taken 9/29/03.

Regulated Contaminants Not Tested For:

Radioactive Contaminants:

(6) Combined Radium 226/228. Under State law radium-226 only needs to be tested for if the gross alpha activity is greater than 10 pCi/l, if the radium-228 concentration is greater than 3 pCi/l, then radium-228 needs to be tested. Therefore, a combined value only takes place when the first two events occur.

Inorganic Contaminants:

(9) Asbestos. Superior Metro District has a waiver from the State for asbestos, because it historically has not been present.

(15) Cyanide. Superior Metro District has a waiver from the State for cyanide, because it historically has not been present.

(20) Nitrite (as nitrogen). Superior Metro District has a waiver from the State for nitrate, because the combined Nitrite/Nitrate (as nitrogen) value is less than 0.5 ppm.

Synthetic Organic Contaminants:

(37) Dioxin. Superior Metro District has a waiver from the State for dioxin, because it historically has not been present.

(42) Glyphosate. Superior Metro District City has a waiver from the State for glyphosate, because it historically has not been present.

Based on the test results, our system had no violations. We're proud that our drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected. The EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by constituents that are naturally occurring or man made. Those constituents can be microbes, organic or inorganic chemicals, or radioactive materials. All 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 the 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 at 1-800-426-4791.

EPA is reviewing the drinking water standard for arsenic because of special concerns that it may not be stringent enough. Arsenic is a naturally occurring mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations. Arsenic levels above 25 ppb warrant public concern.

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, and detected nitrate levels are above 5 ppm, you should ask advice from your health care provider.

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in

your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested. Flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general public. 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 of 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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline above.