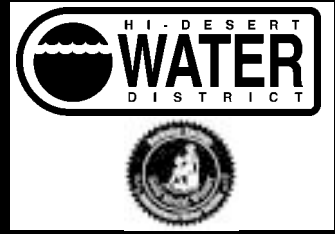


June 2003

WaterNotes



Consumer Confidence Report

Inside This Issue

This Consumer Confidence Report describes the Hi-Desert Water District's drinking water sources and quality. This publication conforms to the federal and state regulations requiring water utilities to provide detailed information about the water delivered to your home and business. We believe these regulations are very important, and have made every effort to present this detailed information in a simple, easy to understand manner. 💧

Your Tap Water

Last year, as in past years, your tap water met all EPA and State drinking water health standards. Hi-Desert Water District vigilantly safeguards our tap water supplies. Once again, we are proud to report that our system has met all water standards. 💧

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua beber. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien. 💧

Dinking 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 the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800.426.4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. 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 from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. USEPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800.426.4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap 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.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- ◆ *Microbial contaminants*, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- ◆ *Inorganic contaminants*, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or a result of urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- ◆ *Pesticides and herbicides*, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture and residential uses.

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Contaminant	District Level	District Range	Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)	MCL Goal	Typical Source of Contaminant
Inorganic					
Arsenic	2.1 ppb	0 – 3.7	50 ppb	None	Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	<1 mg/l (90 th percentile)	.150 0 or 35 None exceeded	AL = 1.3	.17	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Fluoride	.48 mg/l	.10 – 1.1	2 mg/l	1	Erosion of natural deposits, water additive which promotes strong teeth, discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Lead	<.005 mg/l (90 th percentile)	.0097 0 of 35 None exceeded	AL = 15	.002	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate (as NO ₃)	20.0 mg/l	8.3 – 38	45 mg/l	45	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Total Trihalomethanes	28.4 ppb	26.6 – 30.2	100 ppb	None	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Radioactive (PicoCuries/liter)					
Gross Alpha Activity	3.35 pCi/L	0 – 6.4	15	0	Erosion of natural deposits.
Uranium	3.65 pCi/L	0 – 7.3	20	0.5	Erosion of natural deposits.
Secondary Standards					
Iron	0	0 – 790	300	None	Erosion of natural deposits.
Color	<3 units	<3	15	None	Naturally occurring organic materials.
Odor Threshold	1 unit	1	3	None	Naturally occurring organic materials.
PH	7.48nits	6.9 – 8.1	6.5 – 8.5	None	
Total Dissolved Solids USL	184 mg/l	120 – 750	500	None	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits.
Turbidity	.13 NTU	.1 – .2	5	None	Soil runoff.
Additional Constituents Analyzed (mg/l)					
Total Alkalinity	113.5 mg/l	86 – 180	None	None	
Bicarbonate	137.5 mg/l	100 – 220	None	None	
Calcium	31.25 mg/l	18 – 48	None	None	
Carbonate	0 mg/l	0	None	None	
Chloride	22.7 mg/l	2.4 – 46	250	None	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits.
Magnesium	4.8 mg/l	2.6 – 7	None	None	
Potassium	1.1 mg/l	0 – 2.2	None	None	
Sodium	31.5 mg/l	28 – 35	None	None	
Sulfate	22.5 mg/l	8.9 – 51	None	None	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits.
Total Hardness	91.6 mg/l	16 - 150	None	None	

State Regulated Contaminants with No MCLs				
Chemical	Mean	Range	Action Level	Health Effects
Boron	50	50-100	1,000	Some men who drink water containing boron in excess of the action level over many years may experience reproductive effects, based on studies in dogs.
Chromium VI (Hexavalent chromium)	1.6	ND – 2.7	n/a	n/a
Vanadium	5.24	0 – 19	50	The babies of some pregnant women who drink water containing vanadium in excess of the action level may have an increased risk of developmental effects, based on studies in laboratory animals.



Hi-Desert Water District Water Quality Table

Hi-Desert Water District routinely monitors for chemical constituents in your drinking water in accordance with Federal and State laws. The table at the left shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2002. 💧

Definitions

These terms and abbreviations are used in the table at the left and may be unfamiliar to you. The US Environmental Protection Agency and the California Department of Health Services use the following definitions for standardization of water quality information.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) – The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

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 are set by the US Environmental Protection Agency.

Milligrams per liter (mg/l) – One part per million corresponds to one minute in 2 years or a single penny in \$10,000.

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.

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

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

Primary Drinking Water Standard (PDWS) – MCLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.

Public Health Goal (PHG) – The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

Regulatory Action Levels (AL) – The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. 💧

Arsenic

While your drinking water meets the current standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. The California Department of Health Services continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations. It is also linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems. 🍷

Radon

Radon is a radioactive gas that you can't see, taste or smell. It is found throughout the US. Radon can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in the foundation. Radon can build up to high levels in all types of homes. Radon can also get into indoor air when released from tap water from showering, washing dishes and other household activities. Compared to radon entering the home through soil, radon entering the home through tap water will in most cases be small sources of radon in indoor air. Radon is a known human carcinogen. Breathing air containing radon can lead to lung cancer. Drinking water containing radon may also cause increased risk of stomach cancer. The District's average for radon was ? picocuries per liter (pCi/L) with a range of 493.0 - 1,250.0 pCi/L. If you are concerned about radon, test the air in your home. Testing is inexpensive and easy. Fix your home if the level of radon in your air is 4 pCi/L of air or higher. There are simple ways to fix a radon problem that aren't too costly. For additional information, call your State radon program or call EPA's Radon Hotline at 800.SOS.RADON. 🍷





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Important Water
Information Enclosed

Continued from page 1

- ◆ *Radioactive contaminants*, which are naturally occurring.
- ◆ *Organic chemical contaminants*, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the USEPA and the California Department of Health Services (Department) prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems.

Department regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health. We treat our water according to the Department's regulations. ♣



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Nitrate

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 45 mg/l is a health risk for infants less than six months of age. Such nitrate levels in drinking water can interfere with the capacity of the infant's blood to carry oxygen, resulting in a serious illness. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blueness of the skin. Nitrate levels above 45 mg/l may also affect the ability of the blood to carry oxygen in other individuals, such as pregnant women and those with certain specific enzyme deficiencies. If you are caring for an infant or you are pregnant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider. ♣

Need More Information?

If you have questions about this report or your water quality, please contact Marty Stockstell, Assistant General Manager/Operations at 760.365.8333 or martys@hdwd.com. If you would like to learn more about the District, please attend our regularly scheduled meetings. The Board of Directors meet the first and third Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the District offices at 55439 29 Palms Highway, Yucca Valley. Information may also be found on our website at www.hdwd.com. ♣

Source of Water

With a total service area of 52 square miles, the District operates 17 ground-water wells (15 wells generally located along Yucca Creek and two wells located on the Mesa). After the water is pumped from the wells, it is chlorinated, per the California Department of Health Services requirements, to protect you against microbial contaminants. ♣

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