

# 2003 Water Quality Report (Amended)

## Is my water safe?

Last year, as in years past, your tap water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards. UAF Utilities vigilantly safeguards its water supplies. Unfortunately, UAF Utilities violated the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for Total Coliform bacteria in the month of July 2003. UAF reported one (1) total coliform positive sample, violating the MCL of one (1) for the year. Every measure to prevent this from occurring again has been taken since the July incident.

## Do I need to take special precautions?

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. EPA/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 Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

## Where does my water come from?

UAF has two primary drinking water wells and a third emergency well. The wells are drilled to depths of 70, 90, and 44 feet. The primary wells are located in heated, secure buildings with concrete floors. The buildings and pads are elevated to prevent runoff from entering the wells. The wells are located on University property.

## Source water assessment and its availability

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation is compiling a Source Water Assessment of our source of public drinking water. This assessment will define an area around our wells that is critical to the preservation of the quality of our drinking water. Within this area they will identify potential and existing sources of contamination. Based on the information gathered, ADEC will determine the overall vulnerability of our wells to contamination. The results will be available when the assessment is completed at the following locations: Rasmuson Library, UAF Power Plant, on the web at <http://info.dec.state.ak.us/eh/dwpp/complete.asp>

## Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

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 water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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. Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, 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 result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming. Pesticides and herbicides may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses. 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. Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

## Monitoring and reporting violations

There was one monitoring violation in 2003. The MCL of one (1) for Total Coliform bacteria occurred in July 2003 within the water distribution system of UAF Utilities.

## Spanish (Español)

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua beber. Tradúscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

## French (Français)

Ce rapport contient des informations importantes sur votre eau potable. Traduisez-le ou parlez en avec quelqu'un qui le comprend bien.

이 안내는 매우 중요합니다.  
본인을 위해 번역인을 사용하십시오.

यह सूचना महत्वपूर्ण है ।  
कृपा करके किसी से :सका अनुवाद कराये ।

この情報は重要です。  
翻訳を依頼してください。

**Данный рапорт содержит важную информацию о вашей питьевой воде. Переведите его или проконсультируйтесь с тем, кто его понимает.**

## Educational Statement for Arsenic

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

# Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

Contaminants (units)	MCLG	MCL	Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
<b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfection By-Products</b>								
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	1.58	NA		----	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>								
Total Coliform (# monthly) ((Samples<=40/month) # monthly positive samples)	0	1	1	NA		July 2003	Yes	Naturally present in the environment
<b>Unregulated Contaminants</b>								
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	NA	NA	15.4	NA		----	No	Component of TTHM
Chlorodibromomethane (ppb)	NA	NA	1.34	NA		----	No	Component of TTHM
Chloroform (ppb)	NA	NA	170	NA		----	No	Component of TTHM
<b>Volatile Organic Contaminants</b>								
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	190	NA		----	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination

## Units Description:

NA: Not applicable

ND: Not detected

NR: Not reported

MNR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ )

# of monthly positive samples: Number of samples taken monthly that were found to be positive

## **Important Drinking Water Definitions:**

**MCLG:** Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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.

**MCL:** Maximum Contaminant Level: 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.

**MRDLG:** Maximum residual disinfection level goal. The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

**MRDL:** Maximum residual disinfectant level. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

## Other Information:

### **TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes]**

Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

### **Total Coliform (# monthly)**

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.

## **For more information**

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