

2013 UAF Water Quality Report

PWS ID #AK2310683

Spanish (Español)

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua potable. Por favor lea este informe o comuníquese con alguien que pueda traducir la información.

Russian

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

Japanese

この情報は重要です。
翻訳を依頼してください。

Korean

이 안내는 매우 중요합니다.
본인을 위해 번역인을 사용하십시오.

Is my water safe?

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

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

Where does my water come from?

The University of Alaska Fairbanks water system is supplied by ground water. Four wells provide all the water used in the treatment process. These wells are sealed and secured to eliminate the possibility of contamination from outside sources.

Source water assessment and its availability

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation has compiled a Source Water Assessment of our source of public drinking water. This assessment has defined an area around our wells that is critical to the preservation of the quality of our drinking water. Within this area, they have identified potential and existing sources of contamination. Based on the information gathered, ADEC has determined the overall vulnerability of our wells to contamination. The results are available at the following locations: Rasmuson Library, UAF Power Plant, and the Fairbanks North Star Borough Library.

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, that 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, which 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; and 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.

How can I learn more about the water on campus?

The UAF Utilities Water Treatment Plant provides tours to the campus community throughout the year. If you would like a tour of the water treatment facility, please contact Ben Stacy at 907-474-5352. (Please limit groups to no more than 10. Hard hats and safety glass are required for tour participants and will be provided during the tour. Other safety requirements for tours are flat heeled, closed toed shoes.)

Additional Information for Lead

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. UAF Utilities is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Water Quality Data Table

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. 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 vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG</u> or <u>MRDLG</u>	<u>MCL,</u> <u>TT,</u> or <u>MRDL</u>	<u>Your</u> <u>Water</u>	<u>Range</u>		<u>Sample</u> <u>Date</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
				<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>			
Disinfectants & Disinfectant By-Products								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	53.3	21.5	105.9	2013	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	15	ND	42	2013	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Inorganic Contaminants								
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	1.8	NA		2013	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	1.6	NA		2013	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>AL</u>	<u>Your</u> <u>Water</u>	<u>Sample</u> <u>Date</u>	<u># Samples</u> <u>Exceeding AL</u>		<u>Exceeds</u> <u>AL</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
Inorganic Contaminants								
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	3.4	2013	2		No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.97	2013	0		No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
<u>Secondary</u> <u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>SMCL</u>	<u>Your</u> <u>Water</u>	<u>Sample</u> <u>Date</u>	<u>Range</u>		<u>Exceeds</u> <u>SMCL</u>	<u>Effects above SMCL</u>
Iron (ppm)	0	0.30	0.037	2013	0.013	0.066	No	Rusty color; sediment; metallic taste; reddish or orange staining
Manganese (ppm)	0	0.05	0.145	2013	0.056	0.314	Yes	Black to brown color; black staining; bitter metallic taste
Hardness (ppm)	NA	NA	334	2013	322	342	No	Formation of scale on pipes and fixtures
pH	NA	6.5-8.5	7.58	2013	7.46	7.66	No	Low pH: bitter metallic taste; corrosion high pH: slippery feel; soda taste; deposits
<u>Other</u> <u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>MCL</u>	<u>Your</u> <u>Water</u>	<u>Sample</u> <u>Date</u>	<u>Range</u>		<u>Exceeds</u> <u>MCL</u>	<u>Effects above MCL</u>
Chlorine (ppm)	4.0	4.0	0.17	2013	0.01	0.36	No	Eye/nose irritation; stomach discomfort

Unit Descriptions	
Term	Definition
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	Definition
MCLG	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	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.
SMCL	EPA does not enforce these "secondary maximum contaminant levels" or "SMCLs." They are established only as guidelines to assist public water systems in managing their drinking water for aesthetic considerations, such as taste, color and odor. These contaminants are not considered to present a risk to human health at the SMCL.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	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	MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level. The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

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