

Customers Have a Voice in Decisions

We encourage customer participation in decisions affecting our drinking water.

- Utilities Board – our governing body – meets the Wednesday between City Council meetings, 1 p.m. at the

Plaza of the Rockies

South Tower
121 S. Tejon St., Fifth floor

Call **719-448-4800** or visit www.csu.org for information.

For more water quality information, questions about this report or to request additional copies for posting in common areas, call **719-668-4560**.

En Español

Esta informacion acerca de su agua potable es importante. Si usted no puede leer esto en ingles, por favor pidale a alguien que le traduzca esta importante informacion o llame a Cuidado al Cliente al numero 719-448-4800.



Colorado Springs Utilities

It's how we're all connected

www.csu.org



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Colorado Springs Utilities presents



Drinking Water Quality Report

2010

This report is prepared and distributed to customers in accordance with federal and state regulations of the Safe Drinking Water Act, and more importantly, because Colorado Springs Utilities feels its customers have the right to know the quality of their drinking water.

This report was produced and mailed for \$.37 each on recycled paper.

Want more information...see our expanded Water Quality Report at www.csu.org.

(PWSID#CO0121150)



Colorado Springs Utilities
It's how we're all connected

From the Chief Water Services Officer

Enclosed is our 2010 Water Quality Report providing you detailed information about your drinking water.

I'm pleased to report that Colorado Springs Utilities met or surpassed state and federal drinking water standards. We're fortunate to have one of the finest sources of drinking water in the nation... the Rocky Mountains. Most of our water comes directly from high country snowmelt, which means we are primarily first time users of the water.

We take water quality very seriously. Our laboratory staff monitors source and finished water for quality; conducting 1,000 tests per month. We know that each time you turn on your tap, the quality is what matters most. And nothing is more important than your health.

Colorado Springs Utilities' water is a great value at just one penny for two gallons, served to you right at your tap.

If you have questions regarding this report, please call us at 719-668-4560. For more information about your water and ways to save this precious resource, visit our Web site at www.csu.org.

Bruce McCormick
Chief Water Services Officer

Water Sources

Your water is blended from multiple sources, including surface water, ground water and purchased water. Your water source may vary throughout the year.

With no major water source nearby, much of our raw water collection system originates from nearly 200 miles away, near Aspen, Leadville, and Breckenridge. Almost 75 percent of our water originates from mountain streams. Water from these streams is collected and stored in numerous reservoirs along the Continental Divide. Collection systems in this area consist of the Homestake, Fryingpan-Arkansas, Twin Lakes, and Blue River systems.

The majority of this raw water is transferred to our city through pipelines that help to protect it from contamination, such as herbicides, pesticides, heavy metals, and other chemicals. After the long journey, water is stored locally at Rampart Reservoir and the Catamount reservoirs on Pikes Peak before it is treated at one of our water treatment plants and delivered to your home or business.

In addition to our transmountain water supply, we use local surface and ground water sources:

- North and South Slopes of Pikes Peak
- North and South Cheyenne Creeks
- Fountain Creek
- Monument Creek – Pikeview Reservoir
- Northfield Watershed
- Four wells on the Arapahoe aquifer (900-1,000 feet deep)
- One well on the Denver aquifer (700 feet deep)
- One well on the Laramie-Fox Hills aquifer (1,700 feet deep)

Treated surface water is also purchased from the Fountain Valley Authority, or FVA (PWSID#CO0121300). FVA receives water from the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project – a system of pipes and tunnels that collects water in the Hunter-Fryingpan Wilderness Area near Aspen. Waters collected from this system are diverted to the Arkansas River, near Buena Vista, and then flow about 150 miles downstream to Pueblo Reservoir. From there, the water

travels through a pipeline to a water treatment plant before being delivered to Colorado Springs.

For more source water information visit www.csu.org.

Colorado Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP)

The Colorado Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) program is a preventative approach to protecting public drinking water supplies. The Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment provided us with a Water Assessment Report for our water sources. This report included our surface water sources, our purchased water source (FVA) and our wells on the Widefield aquifer (which have not been in use since Sept. 2004).

Potential sources of contamination to our source water areas may come from:

- EPA Superfund Sites
- EPA Abandoned Contaminated Sites
- EPA Hazardous Waste Generators
- EPA Chemical Inventory/Storage Sites
- EPA Toxic Release Inventory Sites
- Permitted Wastewater Discharge Sites
- Aboveground, Underground and Leaking Storage Tank Sites
- Solid Waste Sites
- Existing/Abandoned Mine Sites
- Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations
- Other Facilities
- Commercial/Industrial Transportation
- High and Low Intensity Residential
- Urban Recreational Grasses
- Quarries/Strip Mines/Gravel Pits
- Agricultural Land (row crops, small grain, pasture/hay, orchards/

vineyards, fallow and other)

- Forest
- Septic Systems
- Oil/Gas Wells
- Road Miles

Colorado Springs Utilities is dedicated to protecting our source waters and ensuring quality finished water is delivered to our customers. The results of the source water assessment are not a reflection of our treated water quality, the water you receive at the tap, but rather a rating of the susceptibility of contamination under the guidelines of the Colorado SWAP program.

To find source water assessment information or to download a complete report, visit the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment website at www.cdphe.state.co.us/wq/sw/swaphom.html.

Immunocompromised Persons Advisory

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.

However, immunocompromised 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 from their health care providers about drinking water.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, or to receive a copy of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC)

guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and micro-biological contaminants, call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or visit www.epa.gov/safewater.

Bottled or Tap Water?

Both are wet, quench your thirst and are healthy. The differences are in cost, quality testing and disposal. Bottled water costs on average \$0.87 for 1 liter or 33.81 ounces (and many companies use municipal tap water). By comparison a gallon (128 ounces) of your local tap water costs less than a penny.

Also bottled water is considered a food product and is regulated by the Food and Drug Administration which only requires testing on an annual basis for most contaminants. Colorado Springs Utilities, on the other hand, continually monitors our drinking water quality.

Lastly, a glass of tap water does not have the waste product of the plastic bottle. Did you know, that over 2 million tons of plastic bottles reside in landfills across the country?

Drinking Water Contaminants - EPA's Position

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. Source water can also 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, 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 that 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 also may come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants that can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

Information About Lead

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 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, flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. You may also wish to have your water tested.

Additional information is available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Cryptosporidium Information

Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the United States. Although filtration removes cryptosporidium, the most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. Our monitoring indicates the presence of these organisms in our source water. However, no organisms were detected in the treated water distributed from our water treatment plants. Current test methods do not allow us to determine if the organisms are dead or if they are capable of causing disease. Ingestion of cryptosporidium may cause cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immuno-compromised people are at greater risk of developing the life-threatening illness. We encourage immuno-compromised

individuals to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. Cryptosporidium must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water.

Information About Fluoride

Fluoride is a compound found naturally in many places, including soil, food, plants, animals and the human body. It is also found naturally at varying levels in all Colorado Springs' water sources. Colorado Springs Utilities does not add additional fluoride to your drinking water. Any fluoride in the drinking water results from what occurs naturally in our source waters.

Definitions

Some of the terms, abbreviations and symbols contained in this report are unique to the water industry and might not be familiar to all customers.

- **Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements a water system must follow.
- **Contaminant:** A potentially harmful physical, biological, chemical or radiological substance.
- **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.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** 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.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** 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.
- **Running Annual Average (RAA):** Based on the monitoring requirements, the average of 12 consecutive monthly averages or the average of 4 consecutive quarters.
- **N/A:** Not applicable.
- **Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU):** A measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.
- **Non-detect (ND):** Laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present.
- **Parts per billion (ppb):** One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years or one penny in \$10,000,000.
- **Parts per million (ppm):** One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or one penny in \$10,000.
- **Picocuries per liter (pCi/L):** A measure of radioactivity in water.
- **Treatment Technique (TT):** A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- **Waiver:** A reduction of a monitoring requirement. The monitoring requirement can either be eliminated or the monitoring frequency can be reduced.

Detected Contaminant Table Notes

We are required to monitor for certain contaminants less than once a year because the concentration of the contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. Some of the data, though representative, may be more than one year old.

Springs Utilities and our purchased water system (FVA) have been issued waivers for asbestos, cyanide, dioxin, glyphosate, nitrite and all unregulated inorganic contaminants.

The table shows the combined results of our monitoring for six water treatment plants for the period of January 1 through December 31, 2009, unless otherwise noted.

Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation 2 (UCMR2)

The 1996 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) required that EPA establish criteria for a program to monitor unregulated contaminants and to identify no more than 30 unregulated contaminants to be monitored every five years.

Unregulated contaminants are those that do not have a drinking water standard established by EPA. The purpose of UCMR2 is to assist EPA on determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. UCMR2 required monitoring for 25 contaminants. Of those 25, Springs Utilities detected only N-Nitrosodimethylamine. (see table below)

Contaminant	Units	Level Detected (range)	Sample Dates	Likely Source of Contamination
N-Nitrosodimethylamine	ppb	0.0035 (0.0021-0.0063)	Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec 2008	Industry; cosmetics; toiletry products; cleansers; by-product of natural chemical reactions

Detected Contaminant Table Colorado Springs Utilities (PWSID CO0121150)

Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Units	Level Detected (Range)	MCL Violation	Sample Dates	Possible Source(s) of Contamination
Monitored at the Treatment Plant (entry point to the distribution system)							
Barium	2	2	ppm	0.0432 (0.0156-0.0432)	No	Aug 2009	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Bromodichloromethane	N/A	N/A	ppb	6.94 (0.67-6.94)	N/A	Jun 2009	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorodibromomethane	N/A	N/A	ppb	1.95 (ND-1.95)	N/A	Jun 2009	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chloroform	N/A	N/A	ppb	23.8 (0.63-23.8)	N/A	Jun 2009	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Fluoride	4	4	ppm	1.75 (0.21-1.75)	No	Aug 2009	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Hexachlorocyclopentadiene	50	50	ppb	0.1 (ND-0.1)	No	May, Jul, Oct 2007 & Jan, Apr, Jul 2008	Discharge from chemical factories
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	10	10	ppm	0.20 (ND-0.20)	No	Aug 2009	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Radium, Combined 226, 228	5	0	pCi/L	2.2 (0.2-2.2)	No	Feb, May, Aug, Nov 2005	Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	N/A	N/A	ppm	41.1 (7.34-41.1)	N/A	Aug 2009	Erosion of natural deposits
Total Organic Carbon ¹	TT	N/A	N/A	N/A ¹	No	Running Annual Average	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity ²	TT = 1 NTU	N/A	NTU	0.84	No	Jan-Dec 2009	Soil runoff
	TT=% of samples <0.3NTU			97%			
Uranium	30	0	ppb	0.8 (ND-0.8)	No	Feb, May, Aug, Nov 2005	Erosion of natural deposits

Monitored in the Distribution System							
Chlorine	MRDL =4.0	MRDLG =4.0	ppm	0.50 (0.02-1.2)	No	Jan-Dec 2009	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids 5 (HAA5)	60	N/A	ppb	40 (25.3-54.2)	No	Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct 2009	By product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	80	N/A	ppb	42 (27.9-65.8)	No	Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct 2009	By product of drinking water disinfection
Total Coliform	5% of monthly samples are positive	0	Absent/ Present	0.71% (Jul 2009)	No	Jan-Dec 2009	Naturally present in the environment
E.Coli ³	0	0	Absent/ Present	1	No	Jul 2009	Human and animal fecal waste

Monitored at Customer's Tap							
Copper ⁴	AL=1.3	1.3	ppm	0.211	No	Jun-Jul 2009	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead ⁴	AL=15	0	ppb	4.4	No	Jun-Jul 2009	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

¹The Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule provides several alternative compliance criteria besides the TOC removal ratios. We did not report TOC removal ratios because we met an alternative compliance criteria. The alternative compliance criteria that we use is 40CFR §141.135(a)(2)(ii). Our treated water TOC levels are <2.0ppm calculated quarterly as a running annual average.

²Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor turbidity because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

³This result indicates one (1) positive test for the year. This is not a MCL violation. Repeat sampling did not confirm the presence of E.Coli.

⁴No sites exceeded the Action Level, for either Copper or Lead, out of 52 sites sampled.