The Water We Drink

City of Rock Springs
Rock Springs Municipal Utility
Annual Drinking Water
Quality Report
May 2019

The Rock Springs Municipal Utility and The Joint Powers Water Board are pleased to present this year's Annual Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of water and services we deliver to our customers every day. It is our commitment and our goal to provide you a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. Our continued efforts are focused on optimizing the water treatment process, ensuring quality water and protecting our water resources. Our water source is surface water from the Green River.

We are pleased to report that your drinking water is safe and meets federal and state requirements. If you should have any questions regarding this report or concerns regarding your water utility, please contact Clint Zambai, Water Superintendent, at 352-1405, the Rock Springs Municipal Utility billing department at 352-1527 or David Latorre at the water treatment plant at 875-4317 Ext.225. We want our valued customers to be informed about their utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of the regular City Council meetings, which are held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month or the Joint Powers Water Board meetings, which are held on the fourth Thursday of each month. All meetings are advertised for times and location.

Source Water Assessment Reports are available and can be obtained through WYDEQ on their internet site under Water Quality, Watershed Protection, Water Quality Assessment, Section 303(d). The files are in (PDF) and can be opened and read online or downloaded.

The water plant routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The table on the following pages shows the results of the monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2018. All drinking water, including bottled water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents.

It is important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk.

Test Results

The Rock Springs Municipal Utility along with the Joint Powers Water Board tests for 76 Bacteria/chemical contaminants in the water system, of these the only ones that are detectable are as follows (definitions on page 3):

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Turbidity	N	.15 100%	NTU	N/A	TT	Soil runoff.
Nitrate as N	N	.1	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Acrylamide	N	.000225	ppm	0	TT	Added to water during the treatment process.
Fluoride	N	.2	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories water additive which promotes strong teeth.
Total Organic Carbons (TOC) Actual % Removed	N	Highest 53.19% Lowest 16.67% Ann. Avg. 34.93%		N/A	N/A	Trees, grass, animals and other carbon base life forms found in and around the water source.
Haloacetic acids (HAA-5s)	N	17.5	ppb	N/A	60 Ann Avg	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMS)	N	36.75	ppb	N/A	80 Ann Avg	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Lead-90th Percentile, based on 31 samples (28th highest value) Collected between June thru Aug 2016	N	7	ppb	N/A	AL = 15 ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits. This sample was taken form a private residence on the system
Copper – 90th Percentile, based on 31 samples (28th highest value) Collected between June thru Aug 2016	N	.48	ppm	1.3ppm	AL=1.30 ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits. This sample was taken from a private residence on the system
Radionuclides				N/A		
Gross Alpha 2/2019	N	3.4	pCi/L		15	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta 1/2017	N	0.7	pCi/L		50	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228 2/2019	N	1.1	pCi/L		5	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium 1/2012	N	2.5	ppb		30	Naturally present in the environment

Turbidity is reported as the highest single measurement and the lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting the turbidity limits specified for the filtration technology being used.

Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with Disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches.

In the table shown on page 2 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:

- *Parts per million* (**ppm)** *or Milligrams per liter* (**mg/L**) Represents the unit of measure for the concentration of a contaminant in water - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two (2) years, or one penny in $10,000.
- *Parts per billion* **(ppb)** or *Micrograms per liter* **(ug/L**) Represents the unit of measure for the concentration of a contaminant in water – one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in $10,000,000.
- *picoCurie* **(pCi/L)** a picocurie **(one trillionth)** of a Curie, is a unit of measurement used to measure the activity of radionuclide contaminants in drinking water. To put the relative size of one trillionth into perspective, consider that if the Earth were reduced to one trillionth of its diameter, the "picoEarth" would be smaller in diameter than a speck of dust. In fact, it would be six times smaller than the thickness of a human hair.
- *Nephelometric Turbidity Unit* **(NTU**) – nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of five (5) NTU is just noticeable to the average person.
- *Variances & Exemptions* **(V&E)** – State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
- *Action Level* **(AL)** – the concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- *Treatment Technique* **(TT)** – a treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- *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.

Our system had **no** violations. We're proud that your 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.

The sources of drinking water include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it can dissolve naturally occurring minerals and in some cases, radioactive materials. The water can also pick up substances such as:

1) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural operations and wildlife.
2) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
3) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from agriculture, urban storm water runoff and residential uses.
4) Organic chemical contaminants, which can come from industrial processes, gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.
5) Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA establishes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration establishes limits for contaminants in bottled water.

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 is 1-800-426-4791.

MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effects.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-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/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791). Ingestion of *Cryptosporidium* may cause cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. *Cryptosporidium* must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water.

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. GR/RS/SW Co. Joint Powers Water Board 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 the 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 the website http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

The GR/RS/SW Co. Joint Powers Water Board finished its 24-month required monitoring of our source water (the Green River) for *Cryptosporidium* on September 18, 2018. No *Cryptosporidium* has been detected. The GR/RS/SW Co. Joint Powers Water Board water treatment plant was designed with filtration plus an ozone disinfection system to specially address microbial and other organic contaminants in the source water.

The GR/RS/SW Co. Joint Powers Water Board works around the clock to provide and maintain a safe and dependable water supply. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

Additional copies of our Annual Drinking Water Quality Report may be obtained at City Hall, 212 D St., Rock Springs, WY or on our website, www.rswy.net.