



WATER QUALITY REPORT

2017 Consumer Confidence Report



Did you know that over 30% of water used by the average American household is devoted to outdoor water use, such as watering lawns and gardens? Also, more than 50% of residential irrigation water is lost due to evaporation, runoff, over watering or improper system design/installation/maintenance.

Below are some tips on reducing outdoor water use to ensure a sustainable and reliable water source for the future:

- Don't over water your lawn. Lawns only need 1 inch of water per week.
- Water lawn or garden early in the morning during the coolest part of the day, to minimize evaporation.
- Check sprinkler systems and timing devices regularly to ensure they operate properly.
- Raise your lawn mower cutting height—longer grass blades help shade each other, reduce evaporation and inhibit weed growth.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk, or street.

Remember, efficiency is more than conservation, it is smart water management. *Know what you need, know what you use, use only what you need.*



AIRWAY HEIGHTS WATER SOURCES

We are pleased to present to you the 2017 Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water.

We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water comes from several sources; the Wanapum and Grande Ronde aquifers, the Paleo Channel, wells and an intertie with the City of Spokane. Well #1(SO8) and Well #4 (SO8) are located east of Lawson and north of McFarlane. Well #8(S10) is located east of Garfield and north of 21st Avenue. We also now have Well #9(S11), a water source at Lundstrom Street and 21st Avenue. Parkwest Well (SO9) is located on Craig Road, but this well is only used in an emergency. All of our wells are groundwater wells.

This report is provided to all our customers. It describes your drinking water quality for the period of January 1 – December 31, 2017. Your water purveyor is committed to supplying safe water that meets or surpasses state and federal standards and achieves the highest standards of customer service. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

PFOS/PFOA CONTAMINATION OF WELLS 1, 4 AND 9

In 2017, the Air Force tested City wells for the presence of two chemicals, PFOS (perfluorooctanesulfonic acid) and PFOA (perfluorooctanoic acid). These chemicals are used in carpets and fabrics (to make them stain resistant), clothing, food packaging, some cookware and some aircraft fire-fighting foam materials. These chemicals are currently not recognized as contaminants under the Safe Drinking Water Act, however the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has developed a lifetime health advisory level of 70 ppt (parts per trillion) for the combined values of PFOS and PFOA,

above which long-term ingestion (over the course of a lifetime) is not recommended.

On May 16, 2017, the City was informed that three City wells had levels above the lifetime health advisory level. The test results showed that Wells 1 and 4 had levels of 1,400 ppt and Well 9 had a level of 1,520 ppt. Subsequently, it was determined that a substantial number of wells in an area surrounding Fairchild Air Force Base had been similarly affected.

Upon being informed of the presence of PFOS/PFOA chemicals above the lifetime health advisory level, the City immediately

turned off the affected wells and disconnected them from the water system. The City went through an extensive public outreach process advising customers to not drink City water until further notified. The water system was flushed with clean water obtained from the City of Spokane until June 8, when our customers were informed that the water met EPA requirements. Although not required by regulatory agencies, the City continues to test for PFOS/PFOA periodically in order to assure customers that our water meets the EPA PFOS/PFOA lifetime health advisory requirements.

2017 TEST RESULTS CITY OF AIRWAY HEIGHTS

2017 TEST RESULTS

Microbiological Contaminants

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria (8 samples per month)	N	ND	n/a	0	(Systems that collect 40 or more samples per month) 5% of monthly samples are positive; (Systems that collect fewer than 40 samples per month) 1 positive monthly sample	Naturally present in the environment

2017 TEST RESULTS

Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) SO8	N/A	N/A	mg/L	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) SO11	N/A	N/A	mg/L	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) SO10	N	ND	mg/L	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
THM	N/A	N/A	ug/L	n/a	N/A	Disinfection By-Product
HAAS	N/A	N/A	ug/L	n/a	N/A	Disinfection By-Product

Contaminant	Units	Date Sampled	90 th Percentile (d)	Number of Sites exceeding AL	Number Positive Samples	Number of Samples	MCL	MCLG	MAJOR SOURCES
Copper (c)	mg/L	Aug-13	<0.2	0	20	20	TT, AL= 1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching
Lead (c)	µg/L	Aug-13	<0.002	0	20	20	TT, AL= 15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

A total of 96 routine samples were collected and tested in 2016. Data presented, if not from 2016, is from the most recent testing completed in accordance with regulations.

As you can see from the items listed in the Test Results table, our system had no violations. We are 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.

To help you better understand the terms in this report, we provide the following definitions:

ACTION LEVEL (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL (MCL): The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is 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 "Goal" (MCLG) is 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.

NON-DETECTS (ND): Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

PARTS PER MILLION (PPM) OR MILLIGRAMS PER LITER (MG/L): One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years, or a single penny in \$10,000.

PARTS PER BILLION (PPB) OR MICROGRAMS PER LITER: 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.

TREATMENT TECHNIQUE (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

VARIANCES & EXEMPTIONS (V&E): State or EPA permission not to meet and MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

Microbiological Contaminants:

TOTAL COLIFORM: Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially harmful bacteria may be present. If coliforms are found in more samples than allowed, this is a warning of potential problems.

FECAL COLIFORMS/E COLI: Fecal coliforms and E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children and people with severely compromised immune systems.

TURBIDITY: 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.

Inorganic Contaminants:

NITRATE: Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue baby syndrome. Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask advice from your health care provider.

COPPER: Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's disease should consult their personal doctor.

LEAD: Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight defects in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

SOURCE PROTECTION INFORMATION

We compiled Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) data for all community PWSs in Washington. SWAP data for your PWS is online at:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/DrinkingWaterSourceWaterProtection/Assessment.aspx>.

If you don't have access to the Web, we encourage you to use the Internet service available through the public library system.

SPOKANE WATER SOURCE

With the City of Spokane as a water source through an intertie, we are required to provide testing results for all sources. The testing information and table below is provided by the City of Spokane for their water system. This report provides a summary of the drinking water monitoring conducted during 2017, as well as a comprehensive overview of past monitoring. A complete copy of the City of Spokane's Water Quality Report can be found on our website, www.cawh.org.

The City of Spokane's water is of very high quality. Many different tests are conducted at varying intervals to confirm that the City's drinking water meets Washington State and federal EPA drinking water quality standards. The City drinking water supply, to date, has consistently met all state and federal standards. This report is meant to provide consumers and other interested parties with insight into what analytical tests have been conducted, and in some cases, substances that have been detected. The state and federal Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) information is provided as a risk benchmark. This report also summarizes the amount of water the City used in 2016, and documents some indicators to show the progress being made to meet conservation goals adopted by the City in its Water Stewardship Strategic Plan.

All of the City of Spokane's drinking water comes from the Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer – designated a sole source aquifer in 1978. The Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer slowly flows through two different states and a number of different counties and is the source water for a large number of water purveyors, including the City of Spokane. This water and any contaminants freely move across political boundaries. Many groups and/or private individuals may claim this water to be used for diverse purposes. Some of these competing interests include (but are not limited to) drinking water rights, irrigation, fisheries, hydroelectric power and industrial processes. The Spokane Aquifer (that portion of the larger aquifer lying within Washington State) and the Spokane River exchange water. While the aquifer contains a large volume of water, many factors play into the volume of water in the Spokane River, complicating the management of these resources. Some



of these factors include (but are not limited to) pumping for irrigation and potable water, hydroelectric dam operations and the variations of weather and precipitation. The rates and locations of exchange between the aquifer and the Spokane River have been reexamined as part of the Bi-State Aquifer Study. In January 2008, the states of Washington and Idaho announced signing a Memorandum of Agreement concerning the "...continued coordination involving the maintenance and improvement of the technical tools developed in a bi-state water study." Discussions to agree on how to utilize these technical tools to manage this valuable resource will continue.

Due to the porous nature of the ground surface and the number of potential contaminant sources, the possibility of contaminating the aquifer exists if good housekeeping measures are not followed for all activity over and adjacent to the aquifer. The physical and economic health of our area depends on the quality of our drinking water. In order to

safeguard water quality, the City continues its efforts to make available to the community information about, and appropriate disposal mechanisms for, dangerous wastes that are generated in the Aquifer Sensitive Area. The City, in cooperation with other local governments and the Spokane Aquifer Joint Board, continues to work toward strengthening regulations for the storage and use of critical materials to safeguard the local water supply.

For further information regarding the City of Spokane's drinking water, and to view their full report for 2016, please contact us at (509) 244-5429 or:

City of Spokane Water Department
(509) 625-7800 www.spokanewater.org

For additional information regarding the City of Spokane's drinking water or related issues:

City of Spokane Water Department
(509) 625-7800 | www.spokanewater.org

City of Spokane- Environmental Programs
(509) 625-6570 | www.greenspokane.org

Spokane County - Water Resources
(509) 477-3604 | www.spokanecounty.org/wqmp

**Spokane Regional Health District -
Environmental Health Div.**
(509) 324-1560
www.srhd.org/services/environment.asp

**Washington State Department of Health -
Eastern Regional Office (Drinking Water)**
(509) 329-2100
[www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/
HealthyHome/DrinkingWater](http://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/HealthyHome/DrinkingWater)

**Washington State Department of
Ecology- Eastern Regional Office**
(509) 329-3400 | www.ecy.wa.gov

U.S. EPA Safe Drinking Water
(800) 426-4791 | www.epa.gov/your-drinking-water



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City of Airway Heights Municipal Code

13.04.181 Restrictions on Irrigation

Irrigation shall be prohibited between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. during the months of June, July, August and September.

Please call our office at (509) 244-5429 if you have questions.

We work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all of our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

Our **Water**.

Our **Future**.

Our **Priority**.

2017 ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

WATER ... EVERY DROP COUNTS

Did you know that an average American home can waste more than 10,000 gallons of water every year due to running toilets, dripping faucets and other household leaks?

Nationwide, more than 1 trillion gallons of water leak from U.S. homes each year. That's why the City of Airway Heights reminds you to check your plumbing fixtures and irrigation systems every year to reduce the potential losses.

If you feel your usage appears higher than normal, please call City Hall at (509) 244-5578 to request our services.

IMPORTANT HEALTH INFORMATION

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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. EPA/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 (1-800-426-4791).