

CITY OF COLVILLE—2015 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT



The City of Colville Water Department is excited to share with you another Water Quality Report. [We're pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets federal and state requirements.](#) We routinely monitor for constituents in our drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The state allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. This report is a reflection of last year's testing and shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2015. We conducted over 100 tests for over 90 contaminants and only detected (11) contaminants (see results table). Our goal is and always will be to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions concerning this report, please contact our Municipal Services Administrator, Eric Durpos or Water Specialist, Joe Merrill at 509-684-2244.



Would you like to be more involved in making decisions regarding our drinking water? The City of Colville holds regularly scheduled council meetings on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month at City Hall, located at 170 S. Oak. Council meetings start at 6:30 p.m. We are on the web! Visit us at www.colville.wa.us.

LANDLORDS—If a consumer confidence report has not been received by your tenants, please share this report, inform them of our website, or request they stop by City Hall (located at 170 S. Oak) or the Colville Water Department (located at 1044 N. Lincoln) for a copy.

HEALTH INFORMATION

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

Did You Know?

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 at 1-800-426-4791.

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DEFINITIONS

Parts per million (ppm) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) - 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.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) - nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

Maximum Contaminant Level - 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 - 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.

TEST RESULTS — UPPER SYSTEM

Detected Substance	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants					
Barium	N	.12 ppm	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate	N	.81 ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use, erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	N	.29 ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits
Copper	N	ND - 0.78 ppm	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Lead	N	ND - 0.0061 mg/L	0	0.015	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Sodium	N	11.4 mg/L	n/a	n/a	Erosion of natural deposits.
Volatile Organic Contaminants					
Trihalomethanes	N	6.01 ppb	n/a	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Microbiological Contaminants					
Turbidity	N	3.61 NTU	n/a	n/a	Soil runoff
Synthetic Organic Contaminants Including Pesticides and Herbicides					
The City of Colville currently has a waiver for the testing of Synthetic Organic Contaminants. The waiver was based on the <u>upper system</u> having a <u>moderate susceptibility</u> as determined by prior testing. The waiver was renewed in 2010.					
Radioactive Contaminants					
Radium 226	N	0.4+/-0.2 pCi/L	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228	N	0.4+/-0.8 pCi/L	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha	N	4.9+/-2.8 pCi/L	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits

The upper system has a hardness rating of 255 mg/L or approximately 14.9 grains per gallon. The Iron level is 0.099 mg/L and the Manganese level was not detected. The lower system has a hardness rating of 265 mg/L or approximately 15.43 grains per gallon. The Iron level is 0.22 mg/L and the Manganese level is 0.39 mg/L.

TEST RESULTS — LOWER SYSTEM

Detected Substance	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants					
Barium	N	.11 ppm	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	N	.24 ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits
Copper	N	ND - 0.78 ppm	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Lead	N	ND - 0.0061 mg/L	0	0.015	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Sodium	N	7.0 mg/L	n/a	n/a	Erosion of natural deposits.
Volatile Organic Contaminants					
Trihalomethanes	N	3.44 ppb	n/a	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Microbiological Contaminants¹					
Turbidity	N	.32 NTU	n/a	n/a	Soil runoff
Synthetic Organic Contaminants Including Pesticides and Herbicides					
The City of Colville currently has a waiver for the testing of Synthetic Organic Contaminants. The waiver was based on <u>lower system</u> having a <u>low susceptibility</u> as determined by prior testing. The waiver was renewed in 2010.					
Radioactive Contaminants					
Radium 226	N	0.5+/-0.2 pCi/L	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228	N	0.3+/-0.7 pCi/L	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha	N	3.2+/-2.0 pCi/L	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits

As you can see by the table, our system had [no violations](#). We're proud that our drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected but are well below the level of posing any long term health risks. 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 effect. The EPA has determined that [your water is safe](#) at these levels.

Our lower system has an abundant and widespread concentration of manganese which is a constituent of rocks and soil in the Colville area. At sufficient concentrations, manganese can adversely affect the color and taste of water and leave brown or black discolorations on laundry, plumbing, fixtures, and porcelain. Manganese is a secondary contaminant, which is considered a nuisance problem. The City of Colville currently manages the manganese levels by flushing mains and chemically treating with polyphosphates. The upper system has concentrations of the secondary contaminants magnesium and calcium. These produce what is commonly referred to as "hardness" in water. Iron and sulfate were also detected. Iron, like manganese, can affect the color and taste of water. High levels of sulfate can give water a bitter or astringent taste. The City of Colville also chlorinates our drinking water supply. This is simply a precautionary measure, as chlorine kills many bacteria that can find their way into water systems. Because water is the universal solvent, it picks up some of everything it touches.

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. The City of Colville 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 at 1-800-126-4791 or on the USEPA Web site. <http://water.epa.gov/drink/info/lead/index.cfm>



WATER USE EFFICIENCY



Growing communities, agriculture, industry, and the importance of conserving water for fish, animals, and humans have placed an increasing demand on our state's water resources. In 2003, Washington State Legislature passed the Municipal Water Supply—Efficiency Requirements Act, better known as the Municipal Water Law (MWL). This law gives municipal water suppliers certain benefits and obligations. One of the obligations we must comply with is the Water Use Efficiency (WUE) Rule. This rule requires municipal water systems to use water efficiently and demonstrate that we are doing so.

Water Use Efficiency Rule Requirements

- ◆ Collect data, forecast demand, evaluate leakage, evaluate rate structures that encourage water use efficiency, and evaluate/ implement water use efficiency measures.
- ◆ Reduce distribution system leakage to 10% or less.
- ◆ Develop goals through a public process and enact water use efficiency measures to manage water use.
- ◆ Develop water use efficiency goals through a public process and report annually on performance.
- ◆ Install service meters, if not already installed, within 10 years to account for water use and leakage.

How Will The City of Colville Comply?

- ◆ Use reclaimed water for irrigation purposes at our Wastewater Treatment facility (WWTF).
- ◆ Conduct a rate study to be completed by 2018.
- ◆ Report to the Department of Health and our customers yearly through the consumer confidence report. Distribute brochures to help educate customers on conservation.
- ◆ Show consumption history on utility bills.
- ◆ Distribute indoor/outdoor conservation kits to customers.
- ◆ Provide education to elementary school students on water conservation.

WATER SAVING IDEAS:

- ◆ Collect water from your roof by installing gutters and downspouts or direct the runoff to plants and trees.
- ◆ Leave lawn clippings on your grass, this cools the ground and holds in moisture.
- ◆ Monitor your water bill for unusually high use your bill and water meter are tools that can help you discover leaks.
- ◆ If your toilet flapper doesn't close properly after flushing, replace it!
- ◆ Soak pots and pans instead of letting the water run while you scrape them clean.



Colville's Water - Where Does It Come From?

Our water source comes from seven groundwater wells located within one large aquifer. Wells #1, #2, #3, and #6 comprise the upper system, which is located east of Highway #20 on Church Flat and Prouty Corner. This system serves the areas on the North Hill from 8th Avenue to 11th Avenue, extending to Main Street, Summit Street (East), Swede Anderson Road, and Garden Homes Drive. Wells #4, #5, and #7, which are located North of Highway #20 on Church Flat, comprise the lower system and serve Church Flat, Silke Road, and the remaining sections of the City.

We have a source water protection plan available from our office that provides more information such as potential sources of contamination. To learn more about susceptibility, wellhead protection, and source water assessment programs (SWAP), check out <http://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/DrinkingWater/SourceWater/Assessment.aspx>

We at the Colville Water Department appreciate the opportunity to serve our customers year round with safe and dependable water. 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 future. Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply, we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. These improvements are sometimes reflected as rate structure adjustments. Thank you for understanding.