

2015 City of Cordova Water Quality Report

PWSID# AK2293205

Is my water safe?

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence 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.

Where does my water come from?

The City of Cordova gets its drinking water from 5 surface water sources: Heney Creek, Meals Lake, Murcheson Falls, Eyak Lake, and the Orca reservoir. The Eyak Lake surface water source acts as a backup water source. To protect you against microbial contamination we add sodium hypochlorite as a disinfectant. Due to the pristine nature of these waters, Cordova meets the filtration avoidance criteria as defined by the EPA. The City of Cordova has an on-going Watershed Control Program that restricts activities that may contaminate these sources. A copy of the Watershed Control program is available at the Water Division Office. We encourage all residents be respectful of your watershed areas.

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. Water can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Including microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which 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 storm water 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 storm water 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, come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems. 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) also regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health as public water systems.

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 Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

Source water assessment

A source water assessment is a study and report unique to each water system that provides basic information about the area that provides water to the community. The assessments provide owner and operators of a public drinking water system with information on exactly where their water supply comes from and what condition (s) and/or practices may pose a future potential threat to its quality. A copy is kept at the Water Division office. There is also a copy at the Alaska Resources Library and Information Services (ARLIS) phone number (907) 272-7547. For further information regarding this source water assessment please contact the local water system operator, or the Alaska Resources Library & Information Services (ARLIS) located at 3211 Providence Drive, Room 111, Anchorage, Alaska 99508; phone number 907-272-7547. Alternatively, you may call Chris Miller at the ADEC Drinking Water Protection Program at 907-269-4791, or 907-269-7549. You may also access the public source water executive summary data at the ADEC website: <http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/dw/dwp/complete.aspx>.

How can I get involved?

Persons interested in the City of Cordova water system can contact us using the contact information included in this report.

Waivers

ADEC has granted the City of Cordova a monitoring waiver for Synthetic Organic Compounds (SOC). We are not required to monitor during the waived compliance period. We will continue to apply for waiver renewal at the end of each compliance period.

Monitoring and Reporting of Compliance Data Violations

Below are the monitoring and reporting violations for Chlorine, Total Coliforms, and Turbidity. For all violations, we returned to compliance (RTC) by submitting follow-up samples either immediately or the next month.

Chlorine:

We either did not sample or report a chlorine residual for the months of June and November at the Eyak Lake treatment plant.

We missed one sample for Chlorine at the Murcheson Falls treatment plant in June.

We either did not sample or report a chlorine residual for the month of June at the Meals Lake treatment plant.

We either did not sample or report a chlorine residual for the month of June at the Orca Reservoir treatment plant.

We either did not sample or report a chlorine residual for the months of March and June in our water distribution system.

Total Coliforms:

We either did not sample or report the required number of Total Coliform samples in March and June.

Turbidity:

We either did not sample or report the turbidity for the month of June at the Eyak Lake treatment plant.

Consumer Confidence Report: We did not complete our Consumer Confidence Report before the July 1, 2015 deadline, which is a monitoring and reporting violation. We were also unable to complete the distribution of the CCR and the certification page which was due by October 1, 2015. We did complete the CCR, distributed the report, and submitted the certification page by 12/7/15 and returned to compliance.

Compliance Order by Consent (COBC) The City of Cordova entered into a Compliance Order by Consent (COBC) on 11/12/2014 stating that the City will be fully compliant with the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule to treat for Cryptosporidium by 10/1/2016. Ultra Violet units have been placed in all water treatment locations and final approval from ADEC is expected prior to 10/2016

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. City of Cordova 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>.

Additional Information for Arsenic

While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations, and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

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.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
Chlorine (as Cl ₂) (ppm)	4	4	1.14	.22	1.14	2015	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	36	16.4	36	2015	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	24.6	NA		2014	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Inorganic Contaminants								
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	.422	NA		2013	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2	2	.0063	NA		2015	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Cyanide (ppb)	200	200	4	NA		2014	No	Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories; Discharge from steel/metal factories
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	.12	.1	.12	2012	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Radioactive Contaminants								
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	0	15	.62	NA	60	2015	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L)	0	5	.052	NA	.052	2015	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (ug/L)	0	30	.011	NA		2013	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Contaminants	MCLG	AA	Your Water	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
Inorganic Contaminants							
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	.28	2015	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Inorganic Contaminants							
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	2.3	2015	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Additional Contaminants

In an effort to insure the safest water possible, the State has required us to monitor some contaminants not required by Federal regulations. Of those contaminants only the ones listed below were found in your water.

Contaminants	State MCL	Your Water	Violation	Explanation and Comment
Nickel	0 UG/L	.287 UG/L	No	Nickel is a secondary contaminant and EPA has not set an MCL for Nickel.

Unit Descriptions	
Term	Definition
ug/L	ug/L : Number of micrograms of substance in one liter of water
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
pCi/L	pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected

Unit Descriptions	
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.
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

For more information please contact:

IF you would like additional information or a paper copy of this report, please contact Rich Rogers at 907-424-6200.