

City of George Water Quality Report - 2008

Each 3-year period we conduct tests for over 80 drinking water contaminants. We have only detected eleven contaminants, with none at a level higher than the state allows. This brochure is a snapshot of the quality of the water that we provided last year. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies. For more information about your water, call 785-5081 and ask for Wallace Bushman.

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 (800-426-4791).

Your water comes from two deep wells located at the north end of the City near the intersection of Washington Way and Frontage Street. The water is chlorinated on its way into the 150,000 gallon elevated storage reservoir to protect users from bacteriological contaminants. This reservoir provides the normal 50 psi water pressure, and provides sufficient water to supply the city during power outages, fires, and high water use periods. Water is carried throughout the city via approximately 4 miles of PVC distribution pipe. The state preformed of our source water and rated our wells as highly to moderately susceptible to contamination. If you would like a copy of this report contact City Hall.

The City Council meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the City Hall. Please feel free to participate in these meetings.

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 (800-426-4791).

In general, 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, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water before we treat it include:

- *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 and residential uses.
- *Radioactive contaminants*, which are naturally occurring.
- *Organic chemical contaminants*, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

WATER QUALITY DATA

The following table lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2008 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old.

Terms and abbreviations used below:

- **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 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 Residual Disinfection 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.
- **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(e.g. chlorine, chloramines, chlorine dioxide).
- **ppb:** parts per billion or micrograms per liter • **ppm:** parts per million or milligrams per liter • **pCi/l:** picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation) • **ND:** Not Detected

Inorganic Contaminants	MCL or MRDLG	MCLG or MRDL	George Water		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Fluoride (ppm)	4	2	0.78		2003	NO	Naturally Occurring
Nitrate as nitrogen (ppm)	10	10	5.66		2008	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use & septic systems
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.061		2003	NO	Naturally Occurring
Arsenic (ppb)	0	50	2.6		2007	NO	Naturally Occurring
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.0102		2003	NO	Naturally Occurring
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.196		2008	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead (ppb)	15	0	1.2		2008	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Volatile Organic Contaminants							
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80		5.6		2007	NO	Byproducts of drinking water disinfection
Disinfection Byproducts							
Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	Low 0.02	High 0.56	2008	NO	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	60		1.6		2007	NO	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80		4.8		2004	NO	Byproducts of drinking water disinfection
Radionuclides							
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L)	15	0	2.90	6.60	2007	NO	Naturally Occurring
Radium (combined 226/228)(pCi/L)	5	0	Low ND	High 0.51	2007	NO	Naturally Occurring

About Nitrate: Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. 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 for advice from your health care provider. *Contact City Hall for a fact sheet on Nitrates published by the American Water Works Association.*

About Arsenic: Arsenic exposure can cause a variety of adverse effects, depending upon the level of exposure. The Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) is currently under review and discussion. Evidence suggests that the World Health Organization's standard of 10 ppb is appropriate for protecting the public's health. *Contact City Hall for a fact sheet on Arsenic published by the American Water Works Association.*

The City welcomes input from its residents on ways to protect and conserve its water supplies and would be happy to supply you with additional information on ways you can help protect groundwater. Additionally, the City is required to publish an updated Consumer Confidence Report annually and welcomes any input you might offer on how to improve this report. Residents with input on water issues or this report may contact City staff at City Hall or attend the regularly scheduled City Council meetings at 7:30 pm on the third Tuesday of each month.

If you detect problems or feel that there is a problem with your drinking water, please call City Hall at (509) 785-5081, or contact one of the city staff at (509) 785-6283 or (509) 398-3901 in emergencies.

This Consumer Confidence Report is required by law to be published and distributed to City residents annually. The average cost per report for each residence is \$1.15

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¡Este Informe contiene información muy importante. Tradúscalo o hable con un amigo quien lo entienda bien!