

2009 Consumer Confidence Report

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).

Where does my water come from?

The City of Truth or Consequences currently mines YOUR water from a group of six deep water wells. The construction of these wells and the naturally occurring filtration of the surrounding strata combine to provide a safe and refreshing final product.

Source water assessment and its availability.

In the span of this past year we did not perform a source water assessment on the water system. The last broad spectrum analysis was conducted in 2008 and will be again performed within the next one to three years.

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, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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 stormwater 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 stormwater 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 also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and 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) regulations establish limits for

How can I become involved?

If you would like to become involved in the operation of YOUR City utilities, you might choose to attend various advisory meetings conducted throughout the year and/or attend the City Commission meetings held monthly.

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. TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES 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>. The City of Truth or Consequences conducts mandatory testing and monitoring of lead and copper levels in various homes throughout the water service area. To date, our findings have found the levels for both of these metals to be far below the state and federal maximum levels.

Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. 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 change frequently.

<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG or MRDLG</u>	<u>MCL, TT, or MRDL</u>	<u>Your Water</u>	<u>Range</u>		<u>Sample Date</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
				<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>			
Disinfectants & Disinfectant By-Products								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	3	NA		2009	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Inorganic Contaminants								
Antimony (ppb)	6	6	0.07	NA		2008	No	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder; test addition.
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	2.25	NA		2008	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.05214	NA		2008	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Beryllium (ppb)	4	4	0.22	NA		2008	No	Discharge from metal refineries and coal-burning factories; Discharge from electrical, aerospace, and defense industries
Cadmium (ppb)	5	5	0.27	NA		2008	No	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from metal refineries; runoff from waste batteries and paints
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	2.19	NA		2008	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.74	NA		2008	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Mercury [Inorganic] (ppb)	2	2	0	NA		2008	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from refineries and factories; Runoff from landfills; Runoff from cropland

Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	0.39	NA		2009	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	1	1	0.39	NA		2009	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppb)	50	50	0.8	NA		2008	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines
Thallium (ppb)	0.5	2	0.04	NA		2008	No	Discharge from electronics, glass, and Leaching from ore-processing sites; drug factories
Microbiological Contaminants								
Total Coliform (positive samples/month)	0	1	0	NA		2009	No	Naturally present in the environment
Radioactive Contaminants								
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	0	15	3.8	NA		2004	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Beta/photon emitters (pCi/L)	0	50	9.9	NA		2004	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits. The EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for Beta particles.
Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L)	0	5	0.26	NA		2004	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (ug/L)	0	30	3	NA		2004	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Synthetic organic contaminants including pesticides and herbicides								
Chlordane (ppb)	0	2	0	NA		2008	No	Residue of banned termiticide
Methoxychlor (ppb)	40	40	0	NA		2008	No	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on fruits, vegetables, alfalfa, livestock
2,4,5-TP (Silvex) (ppb)	50	50	0	NA		2008	No	Residue of banned herbicide
2,4-D (ppb)	70	70	0	NA		2008	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Carbofuran (ppb)	40	40	0	NA		2008	No	Leaching of soil fumigant used on rice and alfalfa
Dalapon (ppb)	200	200	0	NA		2008	No	Runoff from herbicide used on rights of way
Dibromochloropropane (DBCP) (ppt)	0	200	0	NA		2008	No	Runoff/leaching from soil fumigant used on soybeans, cotton, pineapples, and orchards
Dinoseb (ppb)	7	7	0	NA		2008	No	Runoff from herbicide used on soybeans and vegetables
Diquat (ppb)	20	20	0	NA		2008	No	Runoff from herbicide use

Endothall (ppb)	100	100	0	NA		2008	No	Runoff from herbicide use
Glyphosate (ppb)	700	700	0	NA		2008	No	Runoff from herbicide use
Hexachlorobenzene (ppb)	0	1	0	NA		2008	No	Discharge from metal refineries and agricultural chemical factories
Hexachlorocyclopentadiene (ppb)	50	50	0	NA		2008	No	Discharge from chemical factories
Lindane (ppt)	200	200	0	NA		2008	No	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on cattle, lumber, gardens
Oxamyl [Vydate] (ppb)	200	200	0	NA		2008	No	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on apples, potatoes and tomatoes
Pentachlorophenol (ppb)	0	1	0	NA		2008	No	Discharge from wood preserving factories
Picloram (ppb)	500	500	0	NA		2008	No	Herbicide runoff
Toxaphene (ppb)	0	3	0	NA		2008	No	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on cotton and cattle
Volatile Organic Contaminants								
Trichloroethane (ppb)	200	200	0	NA		2008	No	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
Trichloroethane (ppb)	3	5	0	NA		2008	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
1,1-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	7	7	0	NA		2008	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Trichlorobenzene (ppb)	70	70	0	NA		2008	No	Discharge from textile-finishing factories
1,2-Dichloroethane (ppb)	0	5	0	NA		2008	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
1,2-Dichloropropane (ppb)	0	5	0	NA		2008	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Benzene (ppb)	0	5	0	NA		2008	No	Discharge from factories; Leaching from gas storage tanks and landfills
Carbon Tetrachloride (ppb)	0	5	0	NA		2008	No	Discharge from chemical plants and other industrial activities
Chlorobenzene (monochlorobenzene) (ppb)	100	100	0	NA		2008	No	Discharge from chemical and agricultural chemical factories
cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	70	70	0	NA		2008	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Ethylbenzene (ppb)	700	700	0	NA		2008	No	Discharge from petroleum refineries
o-Dichlorobenzene (ppb)	600	600	0	NA		2008	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories

p-Dichlorobenzene (ppb)	75	75	0	NA		2008	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Styrene (ppb)	100	100	0	NA		2008	No	Discharge from rubber and plastic factories; Leaching from landfills
Tetrachloroethylene (ppb)	0	5	0	NA		2008	No	Discharge from factories and dry cleaners
Toluene (ppm)	1	1	0	NA		2008	No	Discharge from petroleum factories
Dichloroethylene (ppb)	100	100	0	NA		2008	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Trichloroethylene (ppb)	0	5	0	NA		2008	No	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
Vinyl Chloride (ppb)	0	2	0	NA		2008	No	Leaching from PVC piping; Discharge from plastics factories
Xylenes (ppm)	10	10	0	NA		2008	No	Discharge from petroleum factories; Discharge from chemical factories
<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>AL</u>	<u>Your Water</u>	<u>Sample Date</u>	<u># Samples Exceeding AL</u>	<u>Exceeds AL</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>	
Inorganic Contaminants								
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.07363	2007	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	2.19	2007	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	

Undetected Contaminants

The following contaminants were monitored for, but not detected, in your water.

<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG or MRDLG</u>	<u>MCL or MRDL</u>	<u>Your Water</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	ND	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Atrazine (ppb)	3	3	ND	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Cyanide [as Free Cn] (ppb)	200	200	ND	No	Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories; Discharge from steel/metal factories
Di (2-ethylhexyl) adipate (ppb)	400	400	ND	No	Discharge from chemical factories
Di (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (ppb)	0	6	ND	No	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories
Simazine (ppb)	4	4	ND	No	Herbicide runoff

Benzo(a)pyrene (ppt)	0	200	ND	No	Leaching from linings of water storage tanks and distribution lines
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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)
ppt	ppt: parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter
pCi/L	pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
positive samples/month	positive samples/month: Number of samples taken monthly that were found to be positive
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	Definition
MCLG	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

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