2019 Water Quality Report

Wilson Creek Water Department

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to help you, the consumer, better understand the Town of Wilson Creek's drinking water operations and heighten awareness of the need to protect our water resources. Each annual report contains data from the previous year. The data in this report reflects water system operations and tests conducted in 2018 For public participation in matters that affect drinking water quality, the Wilson Creek City Council meets at the City Hall on the second Thursday of each month. Any questions please contact:

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About Our Water System

We are supplied by a primary and a backup well which draw from underground aquifers. Water is pumped up to the two storage reservoirs located north of the school. Each reservoir is capable of storing nearly 250,000 gallons of water. From there distribution is made through over 30,000 feet of water main supplying more than 130 active residential connections. Annually, we use almost 30 million gallons of water.

The cost to maintain our system throughout the year usually exceeds $50,000 (this amount includes electrical use, water tests, salary, excise taxes, audits and routine maintenance)

Educational 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 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 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 and the Center 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 Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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 materials 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 include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from storm water runoff, domestic wastewater discharges, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, such as synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of petroleum products and can, come from gas stations, storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Water Testing Results

In 2018 tests were conducted for seven volatile organic chemicals (VOC), two inorganic chemicals (IOC) which included nitrates and lead/copper testing and over seventy synthetic organic chemicals (SOC). None of these contaminants exceeded EPA maximum contaminant levels

Based upon the size of our water system, we were also required to submit one routine sample a month to test for coliform bacteria. Coliforms are naturally present in the environment and are used as indicators that other potentially harmful bacteria may be present. All positive tests for coliforms are also tested for Escherichia coli (E. Coli). E. Coli is a bacterium whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause short-term health problems (diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, etc.) and may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, and people with severely compromised immune systems. During 2018, no coliforms were detected in any routine water samples.

Water Quality Data

The table below lists detected drinking water contaminants that exceeded either EPA minimum detection limits, Department of Health (DOH) trigger levels (requiring additional tests), or state reporting levels (report required only). The state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of those contaminants do not change frequently. Therefore some of the data, though representative of the water quality, may be more than a year old.

Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Sample	Range	Date	Violation	Typical Source
Nitrate (mg/l).....	10	10	1.16	nd-1.16	May 14	No (SRL only)	Runoff from fertilizer use

Key: **MCL** (Maximum Contaminant Level), the highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water; **MCLG** (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal), the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health; mg/l (milligrams per liter), the amount of substance in water which is equal to ppm (parts per million); **nd** (not detected); **NTU** (Nephelometric Turbidity Unit), used to measure cloudiness in water which does not pose a health risk but can interfere with the disinfection process; **TT** (Treatment Technique); **SRL** (State Reporting Level, indicates the minimum reporting level required by WA-DOH

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.

WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

Conserve water – Don't leave the water faucet on while you brush your teeth
Install a faucet aerator – this will cut your tap water flow from 3 to 4 gallons per minute
Conserve water – Don't leave the water on while you shave your face or legs