

2003 Consumer Confidence Report

2004 Edition

Meeting the water needs of our customers

by working to provide safe, affordable water to the residents of the Uncompahgre Valley. Our goal is to provide you, the consumer, with a constant and dependable supply of safe water. We routinely monitor water supplies for quality.



TO YOUR GOOD HEALTH

The drinking water providers of the Uncompahgre Valley in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act are pleased to present this **annual water quality report**. It summarizes information that your water system already routinely collects concerning your domestic water. This report was prepared in cooperation with the Project 7 Water Authority who is responsible for treating our domestic water.

This report includes where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies.

If you wish to attend the next Board or Council meeting, please contact your water entity for the time and date at the telephone numbers furnished on this page.

Project 7 and all the water providers in our valley are committed to providing you and your family with safe drinking water that meets or exceeds the highest of standards.

EN ESPANOL

Esta informacion es importante.

Si no la pueden leer, necesitan que llame Project 7 Water Authority, el telefono 249-5935 durante las horas regulares de oficina.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL

Project 7 Water	Adam Turner	249-5935
City of Montrose	June Chandler	240-1400
City of Delta	Andy Mitchell	874-7566
Chipeta Water	Taggie Aultman	249-8871
Menoken Water	John McMillan	249-3242
Town of Olathe	Cheryl Suppes	323-5601
Tri-County Water	Kathleen Margetts	249-3369

CHANGE OF TREATMENT NOTICE

In the continual effort to increase the quality of your drinking water, Project 7 Water Authority will be changing from the use of chlorine as a water disinfectant to chloramines. While Project 7 water already meets or exceeds all state quality standards, this change is being made in advance of new, stricter water quality regulations that will go into effect in the future under the national Safe Drinking Water Act.

Switching to chloramines will reduce the amount of disinfection by-products called trihalomethanes formed when chlorine mixes with trace quantities of naturally occurring organic substances found in raw water. This change will make an improved, longer lasting disinfectant residual in the distribution system and minimize the taste and odor of chlorine in the drinking water.

Residents may find the taste and odor of chlorine will become more difficult to detect. Some customers in isolated areas may notice a temporary variation in color and odor of the water while the chloraminated water is introduced into the distribution system. These temporary impacts on water quality are similar to those experienced when a water main is replaced or routine maintenance is performed on the water distribution system and will cease as the system stabilizes.

The new chloraminated water is totally safe for daily use such as drinking, cooking, washing, watering plants and lawns. It will not effect home water filtration and softening equipment or septic systems. The only customers that will need to take special note of this change are the owners of fish aquariums and kidney dialysis patients.

Like chlorinated water, the chloraminated water will need to be treated before using in fish aquariums and kidney dialysis machines. Fish aquarium owners will need to add a de-chlorinating chemical to the water. This chemical is available in most pet stores. It should be noted that chloramines do not quickly dissipate like the chlorine currently used in your water. This means that the common practice of letting water sit out overnight to remove the chlorine before adding it to fish tanks will not remove the chloramines.

The DCI Dialysis Clinic in Montrose as *Continued on page 3*



Working on a valve cluster for the new Chloramination Project.
Project 7 Water Treatment Plant

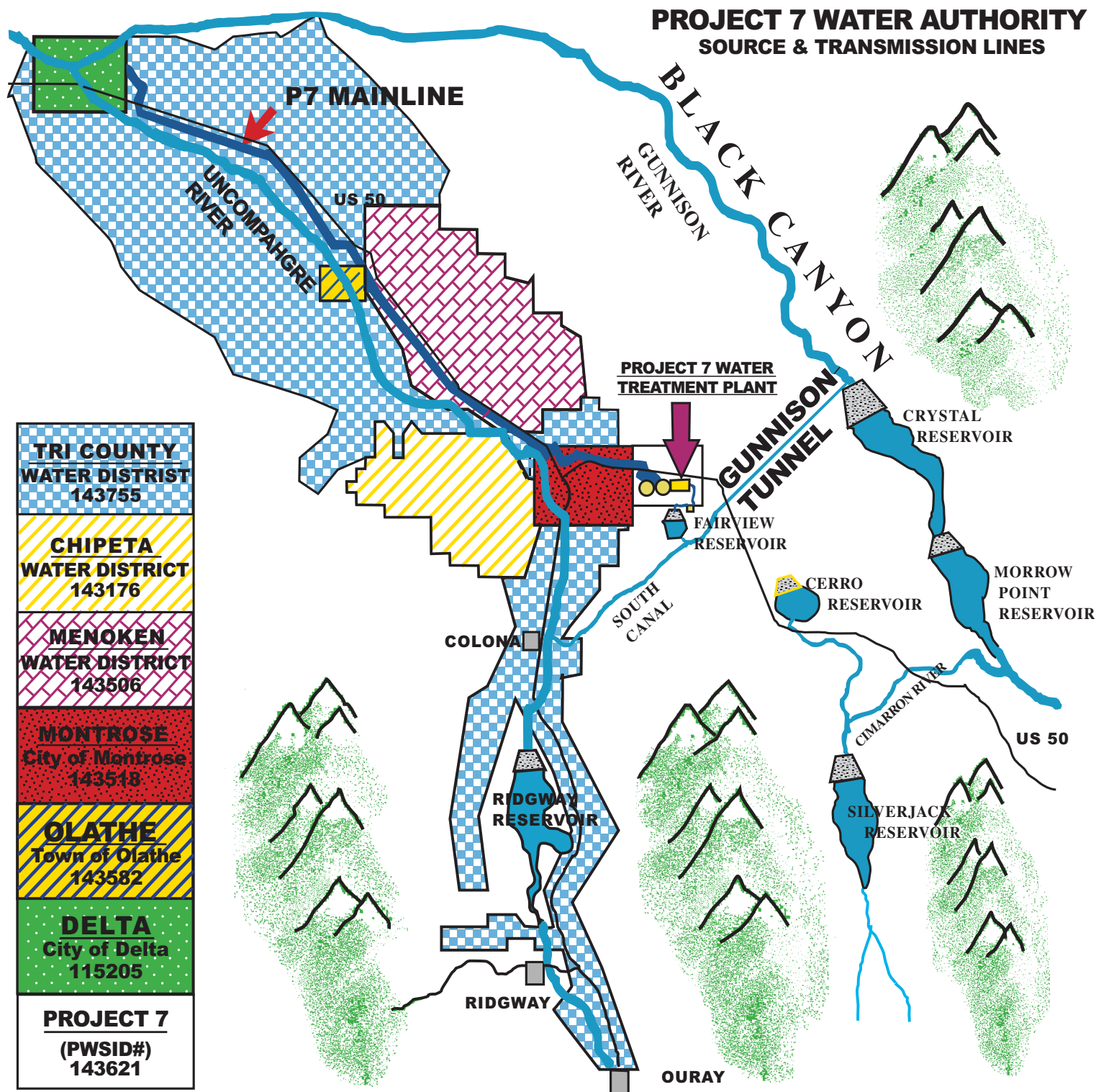
PLEASE CALL before YOU dig! 1-800-922-1987 for all underground utilities.

TEST RESULTS

The state requires Project 7 to monitor for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances are not expected to vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. Some of Project 7's data (e.g., radiological), though representative, is more than one year old.

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. Although all drinking water may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some substances, it is important to remember that the presence of these substances does not necessarily pose a health risk. More information on this subject can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- > **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** that 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 also may come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- > **Radioactive contaminants**, that can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.



Substance	Sample Date	Violation?	Level Detected	MCL (AL)	MCLG	Likely Source of Substance
Inorganic						
Fluoride	2x/Day	NO	1.00 ppm	4 ppm	4 ppm	Discharge from fertilizer & aluminum factories; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Erosion of natural deposits. Range .75 - 1.24 ppm
Barium	8/18/03	NO	.043 ppm	2 ppm	2 ppm	Discharge from metal refineries; Discharge of drilling wastes; Erosion of natural deposits.
Total Organic Carbon	Running Annual Average	NO	1.8 ppm	TT	N/A	Naturally present in the environment.
Turbidity	6X/Day	NO	0.055 NTU	TT	N/A	Soil runoff; Range .05 - .08 NTU
Lowest Monthly Percent of readings below the TT limits		NO	100%		N/A	
Volatile Organic						
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	3/20/03	NO	43.0		0	By-product of drinking water chlorination. Range 31.2 to 63.6 ppb (Avg 49.2 ppb)
Average of four distribution samples.	6/03/03	NO	54.6	100 ppb	0	
	8/27/03	NO	59.2		0	
	12/16/03	NO	40.0		0	
Haloacetic Acids (HAAs)	3/20/03	NO	33.0		N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination. Range 26.9 to 86.3 ppb (Avg 47.5 ppb)
Average of four distribution samples.	6/03/03	NO	46.0	60 ppb	N/A	
	8/27/03	NO	37.9		N/A	
	12/16/03	NO	72.8		N/A	
Samples from Customers' Private Service						
Lead	7/16/02 - 8/22/02	NO	5.9 ppb	(15 ppb)	0 ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems. Range pb<1-55 ppb Cu<.067 - 1.58 ppm
Copper	7/16/02 - 8/22/02	NO	0.53 ppm	(1.3 ppm)	1.3 ppm	
Notes:						
Of the 40 homes tested, 2 sites exceeded the action level for lead & 2 sites exceeded the action level for copper.						
Listed above are substances detected in our drinking water from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2003. Not listed are many other substances for which Project 7 tested but were not detected. A complete list of substances tested for is available from Project 7 Water Authority. Our systems have waivers for dioxin, glyphosate, cyanide, and asbestos.						
Definitions:						
MCL - (Maximum Contaminant Level) - The "Maximum Allowed" is the highest level of a substance that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.			MCLG - (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal) - The "Goal" is the level of a substance in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.			
ppm or mg/l - (parts per million or milligrams per liter) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.			NTU - (Nephelometric Turbidity Unit) - A measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.			
ppb - (parts per billion or micrograms per liter) - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.			TT - (Treatment Technique) - A required process intended to reduce the level of a substance in drinking water.			
Action Level - the concentration of a substance which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.						

- ◆ Each system has a six digit PWSID# assigned to it by the state for regulatory purposes.
- ◆ The majority of the water treated by Project 7 originates in the Gunnison River and the Blue Mesa system. The remainder of our water comes from the Silverjack Reservoir system.
- ◆ The treated water is disbursed to the six distribution entities through connections along Project 7's mainline.

Some people may be more vulnerable to substances in drinking water than the general public. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, those with HIV-AIDS or other immune systems disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk of infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers or the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Continued from page 1 well as all area medical facilities that will be affected, have been notified of this change. Although there are no known home dialysis patients in our service area, if you are a home kidney dialysis patient you should contact your dialysis service company and inform them of this change.

More information about the actual date of change, quality concerns, or specifics for fish owners or dialysis patients is available at the Project 7 website at; www.project7water.org, or by calling directly 249-5935.