

2006 Consumer Confidence Report

2007 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.

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.

If you wish to attend the next Board or Council meeting of your water provider, please contact your respective entity at the telephone number provided on this page.

Esta información es con respeto a la calidad del agua que Usted recibe. Si tiene alguna pregunta o comentario, por favor comuníquese con el Project 7 Water Authority, al 249-5935 en horas de oficina.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL

Project 7 Water	Adam Turner 249-5935
City of Montrose	Bob Hurford 240-1498
City of Delta	Andy Mitchell 874-7566
Chipeta Water	Matt Collier 249-8871
Menoken Water	John McMillan 249-3242
Town of Olathe	Cheryl Suppes 323-5601
Tri-County Water	Kathleen Margetts 249-3369

GREAT NEWS ON CRYPTOSPORIDIUM

Several years ago Project 7 embarked on a plan to estimate the number of Cryptosporidium oocysts (Crypto) that were present in our watershed. The good news is that there are not nearly as many as we had expected!

In response to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issuing a rule called the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2ESWTR or LT2 for short), Project 7 started a process to systematically study our Watershed over a two year cycle to assess just how many Crypto to expect in our untreated water. Crypto, you may recall, is the younger brother to Giardia Lamblia, a native protozoan of the Rocky Mountains that causes extreme gastro-intestinal distress. Giardia is a football shaped cyst almost fifteen microns in length, whereas Crypto is spherical and only three to five microns in size. Considering the average human hair is 100 microns wide, that is a very small yet formidable foe. For years, the assumption water treatment plants made was if you had beaver and muskrats in the watershed, you had abundant Crypto and Giardia in the source water. The LT2 is a plan to find out exactly how many may be present.

The minute size of Cryptosporidium is the main difficulty to overcome in searching the haystack for the needle. Of all the mud, plant debris and organic life in a healthy Rocky Mountain source water, the challenge is to find and positively identify microscopic organisms that are designed to pass through a digestive tract, lay dormant for years if necessary, and come dramatically to life again when accidentally ingested into the warm, moist environment of a new host. We collected nearly thirty samples of untreated reservoir water and passed them through very fine filters. The filters were kept on ice, rushed to a lab, and painstakingly examined through powerful microscopes. In the twenty four samples that met Quality Control standards, only three Crypto oocysts were found in our raw water. That is Great News.

The USEPA has established guidelines for follow-up on these results called the microbial toolbox. It adds a specific amount of treatment for each level of Crypto present. They range from no additional treatment to a complete change of process for high risk waters. The guidelines assume anything less than nine oocysts in twenty-four samples poses no significant challenge to a traditional water treatment plant and therefore we need no additional treatment to meet our low level Crypto challenge.

Of course, Project 7 will continue to follow-up these tests and make sure our Crypto hazard remains low. That is our job!

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?	Detected	MCLG	MCL(AL)	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 .60 - 1.2 ppm
Barium	1/31/06	NO	.041 ppm	2 ppm	2 ppm	Discharge from metal refineries; Discharge of drilling wastes; deposits. Erosion of natural deposits
Total Organic Carbon	Running Annual Average	NO	1.8 ppm	TT	N/A	Naturally present in the environment. Range 1.4 - 2.2 ppm —
Turbidity Lowest Monthly Percent of readings below the TT limits	6X/Day	NO NO	0.100 NTU 100%	TT	N/A	Soil runoff; Range .04- .09 NTU
Volatile Organic						
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) Average of four distribution samples.	3/21/06	NO	28.20	80 ppb	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination. Range 24.0 to 35.5 ppb (Avg 30.4 ppb)
	6/1 4/06	NO	30.40		0	
	9/19/06	NO	34.30		0	
	12/12/06	NO	28.80		0	
Haloacetic Acids (HAAs) Average of four distribution samples.	3/21/06	NO	36.50	60 ppb	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination. Range 20.6 to 40.6 ppb (Avg 27.4 ppb)
	6/14/06	NO	25.30		N/A	
	9/19/06	NO	22.00		N/A	
	12/12/06	NO	25.80		N/A	
Samples from Customers' Private Service						
Lead	6/21/05 - 7/11/05	NO	9 ppb	(15 ppb)	0 ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems. Range Pb< 5-47 ppb; Cu<0.03 -2.2 ppm
Copper	6/21/05 - 7/11/05	NO	0.61 ppm	(1.3ppm)	1.3 ppm	
Notes:						
Of the 30 homes tested, 1 site 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, 2006. 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. 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.. 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.. Action Level -the concentration of a substance which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.				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. NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Unit) -A measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person TT (Treatment to Technique) -A required process intended to reduce the level of a substance in drinking water		

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.