

# 2010 Consumer Confidence Report

2011 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.*

### CHANGING OF THE GUARD

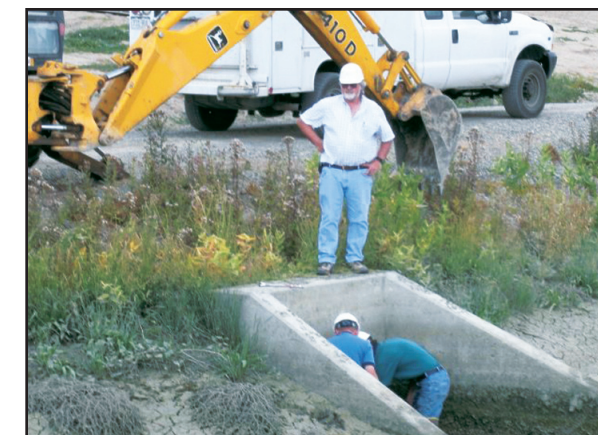
Dick Margetts, the first employee and only Manager of Project 7 Water Authority is retiring at the end of May 2011. Dick has been on the job since May 1st of 1980, completing thirty-one years of service. Project 7 bought the existing Water Plant from the City



of Montrose and built it into a Regional Plant capable of serving Montrose, Delta, and Olathe as well as Tri-County, Menoken, and Chipeta Water Districts. Project 7 continues to be a shining example of cooperation and sharing of resources that has worked well for everyone involved.

Dick leaves Project 7 in capable hands. The remaining staff of Project 7 combines for over 218 years of experience treating water! Adam Turner, who has been Dick's Assistant Manager for the past eleven years, will step into the lead role. The other nine employees will all take a share in shouldering the remaining responsibilities. Our goal is to continue to deliver quality drinking water at an affordable cost to the residents of the Uncompahgre Valley!

Dick will leave a legacy of running a "clean" plant, with visitors



always admiring the well-kept appearance of the facility. He is also known for a high commitment to cooperation, trying hard to keep everyone "in-the-loop" as to what is going on, while at the

same time staying out of the media spotlight and news reports. He is well known for being very protective of the pipeline and ensuring that Today's demands do not jeopardize future distribution needs. With funds in the bank to make the final payments on the original loan AND the 2009 Water Plant Upgrades complete, Dick leaves Project 7 well-positioned to continue to meet our customer's expectations for years to come. Thanks Dick! Enjoy your retirement!



### 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 or visit [www.project7water.org](http://www.project7water.org)

|                         |                          |                 |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Project 7 Water</b>  | <b>Adam Turner</b>       | <b>249-5935</b> |
| <b>City of Montrose</b> | <b>Jim Hougnon</b>       | <b>240-1480</b> |
| <b>City of Delta</b>    | <b>Andy Mitchell</b>     | <b>874-7566</b> |
| <b>Chipeta Water</b>    | <b>Matt Collier</b>      | <b>249-8871</b> |
| <b>Menoken Water</b>    | <b>John McMillan</b>     | <b>249-3242</b> |
| <b>Town of Olathe</b>   | <b>Terri Foechterle</b>  | <b>323-5601</b> |
| <b>Tri-County Water</b> | <b>Kathleen Margetts</b> | <b>249-3369</b> |

### 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 (lead/copper), though representative, is more than one year old.

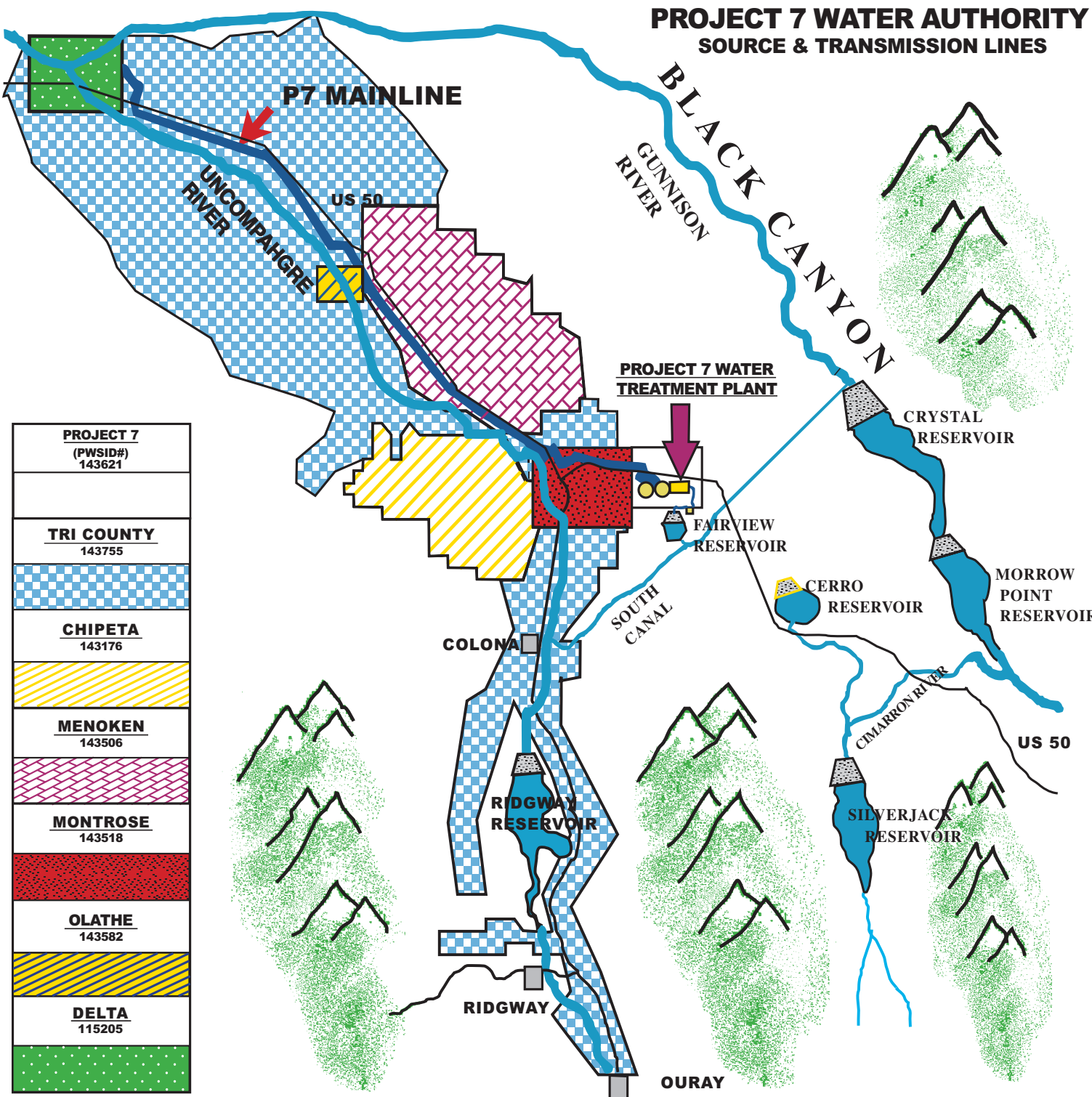
The sources of drinking water, both tap water and bottled water, include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick 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.

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. The Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

**Safe Digging is No Accident...Always call 811 Before You Dig!**



**PROJECT 7 WATER AUTHORITY  
SOURCE & TRANSMISSION LINES**

|  |
|--|
| <b>PROJECT 7</b><br>(PWSID#)<br>143621 |
| <b>TRI COUNTY</b><br>143755            |
| <b>CHIPETA</b><br>143176               |
| <b>MENOKEN</b><br>143506               |
| <b>MONTROSE</b><br>143518              |
| <b>OLATHE</b><br>143582                |
| <b>DELTA</b><br>115205                 |

- ◆ 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 Silver Jack Reservoir system.
- ◆ The treated water is disbursed to the six distribution entities through connections along Project 7's mainline.
- ◆ Project 7 uses chloramines to keep the water safe in the distribution system. Although chloramines are SAFE for people, they create special challenges for fish and dialysis patients. Please visit our website for more information: [www.project7water.org](http://www.project7water.org)

The Colorado Department of Health and Environment (CDPHE) completed a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) for the Project 7 watershed in 2004. This report cited potential sources of contamination, which mostly consisted of existing/abandoned mines and storage tanks. The full report is available online at: [www.cdphe.state.co.us/wq/sw/swaphom.html](http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/wq/sw/swaphom.html)

**Potential Health Effects from Long-Term Exposure Above the MCL (unless specified as short-term)**

**FLUORIDE** - Some people who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the MCL over many years could get bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones. Fluoride in drinking water at half the MCL or more may cause mottling of children's teeth, usually in children less than nine years old. Mottling, also known as dental fluorosis, may include brown staining and/or pitting of the teeth, and occurs only in developing teeth before they erupt from the gums.

**BARIUM** - Some people who drink water containing barium in excess of the MCL over many years could experience an increase in their blood pressure.

**TURBIDITY** - Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches.

**CARBON, TOTAL** - Total organic carbon (TOC) has no health effects. However, total organic carbon provides a medium for the formation of disinfection by products. These byproducts include trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAAs). Drinking water containing these byproducts in excess of the MCL may lead to adverse health effects, liver or kidney problems, or nervous system effects, and may lead to an increased risk of getting cancer.

**HEXACHLOROCYCLOPENTADIENE** - Some people who drink water containing hexachlorocyclopentadiene well in excess of the MCL over many years could experience problems with their kidneys or stomach.

**TOTAL TRIHALOMETHANES (TTHM)** - Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

**TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5)** - Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

**LEAD** - Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

**COPPER** - is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor.

| Substance  | Sample Date       | Violation ? | Level Detected   | AL/TT MCL | MCLG     | Range             | Likely Source of Substance   |
|--|-------------------|-------------|------------------|-----------|----------|-------------------|--|
| Fluoride   | 2X / day          | NO          | 0.98 ppm         | 4 ppm     | 4 ppm    | 0.54 to 1.11 ppm  | Discharge from fertilizer & aluminum factories;<br>Water additive which promotes strong teeth;<br>Erosion of natural deposits. |
| Barium   | 1/26/10           | NO          | 0.082 ppm        | 2 ppm     | 2 ppm    | N/A               | Discharge from metal refineries;<br>Discharge of drilling wastes; deposits.<br>Erosion of natural deposits                     |
| Carbon, Total  | 1 pair / month    | NO          | 1.019 avg. ratio | > 1 ratio | N/A      | 0.8 to 1.29 ratio | Naturally present in the environment   |
| Hexachlorocyclopentadiene  | 11/8/10           | NO          | 0.10 ppb         | 50 ppb    | 50 ppb   | 0.0 to 0.1 ppb    | Discharge from chemical factories  |
| Turbidity  | 6X / day          | NO          | 0.12 NTU         | 1.0 NTU   | 0.30 NTU | .05 to 0.12 NTU   | Soil Runoff  |
| Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) Average of four distribution samples. | 4X / year         | NO          | 22.6 ppb avg.    | 80 ppb    | N/A      | 15.9 to 26.4 ppb  | By-product of drinking water chlorination.   |
| Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) Average of four distribution samples.      | 4X / year         | NO          | 25.0 ppb avg.    | 60 ppb    | N/A      | 9.47 to 37.6 ppb  | By-product of drinking water chlorination.   |
| <b>Samples from Customers' Private Service</b>                     |                   |             |                  |           |          |                   |  |
| Lead   | 6/21/08 - 7/11/08 | NO          | < 5 ppb          | 15 ppb    | 0 ppb    | < 5 - 20 ppb      | Corrosion of household plumbing systems.   |
| Copper   | 6/21/08 - 7/11/08 | NO          | 1.17 ppm         | 1.3 ppm   | 0 ppm    | < 0.4 - 2.36 ppm  | Corrosion of household plumbing systems.   |

**Notes:** Of the 30 sites tested, 1 site exceeded the action level for lead & 1 site exceeded the action level for copper. 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. 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>

| Secondary Contaminants/Other Monitoring | Collection Date | Highest Value | Range     | Unit  | Secondary Standard |
|---|-----------------|---------------|-----------|-------|--------------------|
| MPA WTP RAW and FINISHED                | 8/16/10         | 5.68          | 5.68      | UNITS | Min = 4.0          |
| SODIUM                                  | 1/26/10         | 9.7 ppm       | 9.7       | ppm   | 10000              |
| SULFATE                                 | 2X / month      | 57.1 ppm      | 45-80 ppm | ppm   | 250                |

Secondary standards are non-enforceable guidelines for contaminants that may cause cosmetic effects such as skin or tooth discoloration or aesthetic effects (such as taste, odor or color) in drinking water. EPA recommends these standards but does not require water systems to comply.

Listed above are substances detected in our drinking water from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2010. 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.

**AL** - (Action Level) - the concentration of a substance which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

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 system 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.