



LYON COUNTY UTILITIES

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT 2011

Welcome to the 2012 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) covering water quality data for the 2011 calendar year. State and Federal regulations require water purveyors to provide customers with annual reports detailing the quality of water for the past year. In past years, along with the water quality data, blurbs about various related topics were part of the CCR. Topics such as Hard Water Issues, Water Conservation, Sprinkler Timer Operation and Source Water Protection are examples of information we included. In an effort to save on production and postage costs, this year's CCR is limited to the water quality data.

Lyon County Utilities is committed to, and takes pride in our ability to provide our customers with water that meets or exceeds all Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Standards. We have tried to make the Water Quality Test Results page more understandable. A thumbs-up symbol indicates our water meets or exceeds standards.

We hope you find this CCR informative. Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions or comments at (775) 246-6220.

Monday - Thursday * 7:30 am to 5:00 pm * Closed Fridays

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2011 WATER QUALITY TEST RESULTS*

CONTAMINANT	MCL	MCLG	Amount Detected	Range	Compliance	Major Sources
<u>Inorganic Chemicals</u>						
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	1.48	0.5 – 3.3		Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks. Sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic (ppb)	10	0	4.96	1.6 – 6.6		Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (ppm)	2	2	.038	.007 - .086		Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.30	0.01 – 0.84		Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2	2	.38	0.1 – 1.49		Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	15	0	3.1	2.5 – 5.7		Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Mercury (ppb)	2	2	.112	ND - 0.38		Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from croplands
Cyanide (ppb)	200	200	9	ND – 20		Disposal of cyanide wastes in landfills; use of cyanide-containing road salts; Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Selenium (ppb)	50	50	ND	ND		Erosion of natural deposits
<u>Disinfection Byproducts</u>						
Dibromochloromethane (ppb)	N/A	60	3	ND – 7.2		Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80	0	8.4	.6 - 19		Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Total Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	60	N/A	2.9	ND – 7.7		Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
<u>Radionuclides</u>						
Gross Alpha particles (pCi/L)	15	0	4.34	1.7 – 9.8		Erosion of natural deposits of certain minerals that are radio active and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation
Beta Particles (pCi/L)	50	0	3.58	2.1 – 6.6		Decay of natural and man-made deposits of certain minerals that are radioactive and may emit forms of radiation known as photons and beta radiation
Total Uranium (ppb)	30	-	1.08	ND – 3.9		Erosion of natural deposits of certain minerals that are radio active and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation
Radium (pCi/L)	5	0	.39	.3 - .6		Decay of natural and man-made deposits of certain minerals that are radioactive and may emit forms of radiation known as photons and beta radiation
<u>Miscellaneous</u>						
Hardness (mg/L)	Range = 197 – 506 (11.59 – 29.76 grains)					Minerals in water

TERMS:

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level) – The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.

MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal) – Contaminant level in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

ND (None Detected) – Contaminant was not detected during water testing.

ppb (Parts per Billion)

ppm (Parts per Million)

pCi/L (Picocuries per Liter) – A measure of radio activity.

mg/L (Milligrams per liter) – Milligrams per liter are equal to parts per million.



- Indicates the contaminant amount is below the MCL and is in conformance with established state and federal water standards

*Este informe contiene información importante sobre la calidad del agua en su comunidad. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Your Water The EPA requires us to report the highest recorded value for any constituent from the latest round of monitoring. Due to blending and multiple sources, the water you drink is likely a lower average of several readings. Due to an inter-connection with Carson City, users in the Mound House area also receive a blending of water.

Health Information About Water Quality

The sources of drinking water (both tap 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. It can also pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water before we treat it include:

Arsenic, While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which 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 storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.

Pesticides and herbicides, may come from a variety of sources such as storm water runoff, agriculture, and residential users.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or the result of mining activity.

Organic contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

In order 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. We treat our water according to the EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4191.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, such as those 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/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the State Drinking Water Hotline (800)426-4791.

Source Water Assessment Program

The Federal Safe Drinking Water Act was amended in 1996 and requires states to develop and implement source water assessment programs to analyze existing and potential threats to the quality of public drinking water throughout the state. A summary of the Lyon County Utilities water systems susceptibility to potential sources of contamination was initially provided by the State of Nevada in 2004. The summary of this source water assessment (SWA) was first included in the Lyon County Utilities 2005 Water Quality Report and now may be obtained by contacting us at 246-6220.

Those who wish to view additional information pertaining to the initial findings of the source water assessment may do so in person at the offices of the Bureau of Safe Drinking Water, 901 South Stewart St., Ste. 4001, Carson City, NV 89701. Appointments are suggested; call (775) 687-9520. Office hours are 8 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday.

Effective January 23, 2006, the Arsenic Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for public drinking water was reduced from 50 parts per billion (ppb) to 10 ppb. Three of the wells have had previous readings of Arsenic at or near the new standard of 10ppb, when sampled at the well. However, water quality monitoring indicates the new standard has never been exceeded. Also the water from these wells is blended with water from other wells, and the drinking water that is provided to the consumer meets all Federal and State drinking water standards.