Sulwhanon 2019 Water Quality Report

Is my water safe?

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

Do I need to take special precautions?

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/Centers 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 Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

Where does my water come from?

The Sulwhanon community water system serves the Housing Units, the Community Building and several other non-residential units. The Sulwhanon Housing Development water system was supplied by one groundwater well, Well #1, until 2012 when it was combined with the Genesis II Water System and Well #2. The Genesis II recovery center was vacated and is now being used as a tribal office. In 2017, the system stopped using Sulwhanon Well #1 and is now solely using the Genesis Well #2. Well #1 is not yet physically disconnected from the system.

Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

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's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (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 minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity:

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, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses; organic chemicals, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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

Water Conservation Tips

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference - try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers - a 5-minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
- Visit www.epa.gov/watersense for more information.

Cross Connection Control Survey

The purpose of this survey is to determine whether a cross-connection may exist at your home or business. A cross connection is an unprotected or improper connection to a public water

distribution system that may cause contamination or pollution to enter the system. We are responsible for enforcing cross-connection control regulations and insuring that no contaminants can, under any flow conditions, enter the distribution system. If you have any of the devices listed below please contact us so that we can discuss the issue, and if needed, survey your connection and assist you in isolating it if that is necessary.

- Boiler/ Radiant heater (water heaters not included)
- Underground lawn sprinkler system
- Pool or hot tub (whirlpool tubs not included)
- Additional source(s) of water on the property
- Decorative pond
- Watering trough

Source Water Protection Tips

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides - they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community, or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with your local government or water supplier. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste - Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

Additional Information for Lead

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 associated with service lines and home plumbing. Sulwhanon Water System is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing 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.

For more information please contact:

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Water Quality Data Table

To ensure tap water is safe to drink, EPA sets limits on contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all drinking water contaminants detected during 2019. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water.

All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels.

The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. In the table below, you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you.

Unit Descriptions	
Term	**Definition**
mg/L	milligrams per liter

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	**Definition**
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
TT	Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

2019 Regulated Contaminants Detected

CONTAMINANT	SAMPLE DATE	RESULT or RANGE	AL	UNITS	CONTAMINANT DESCRIPTION
LEAD	7/31/2019	0.002 - 0.275	0.015	MG/L	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
COPPER	7/31/2019	0.034 - 1.16	1.3	MG/L	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.

CONTAMINANT	SAMPLE DATE	RESULT or RANGE	MCL	UNITS	CONTAMINANT DESCRIPTION
NITRATE	7/31/2019	0.15	10	MG/L	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.

2019 Violations Table

DRINKING WATER REGULATION	COMPLIANCE PERIOD	VIOLATION DESCRIPTION
Failure to Submit Corrosion Control Plan/Treatment	7/1/2019	We failed to submit a corrosion control plan/treatment on time. The Tribe and I.H.S. are currently developing an OCCT plan.
Lead Consumer Notice	4/3/2019	We failed to provide timely lead tap water results to consumers where it was tested. Violation was corrected 10/5/2018.
Failure to Distribute Public Education	3/2/2019	We failed to distribute Public Education information
Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) LCR protects public health by minimizing lead and copper levels in drinking water, primarily by reducing water corrosivity. Lead and copper enter drinking water mainly from corrosion of lead and copper containing plumbing materials.		
Ground Water Rule Source Sampling	11/20/2019	
Groundwater Rule Treatment Technique: Failure to Correct Deficiencies	2/10/2020-	Improper storage tank overflow
Groundwater Rule Treatment Technique: Failure to Correct Deficiencies	2/10/2020-	Septic system is within 100 feet of well
Groundwater Rule The Ground Water Rule (GWR) improves drinking water quality and protects from disease-causing microorganisms and fecal contamination at water systems. The GWR requires water systems at risk of contamination to take corrective action to reduce potential illness.		
Failure to Conduct Level 1 Assessment for Total Coliform	12/13/2019	Assessment was conducted in early 2020 and violation resolved

Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR) RTCR prevents waterborne diseases caused by E. coli bacteria whose presence indicate contamination by animal or human waste. These pathogens can cause short terms health effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, headaches or nausea.		
Arsenic Monitoring	1/1/2017-12/31/2019	We failed to test our drinking water for this contaminant and are unsure of your drinking water quality during that time. Samples taken, received untimely.
Inorganic Chemicals (IOCs) Monitoring	1/1/2017-12/31/2019	
Synthetic Organic Chemicals (SOC) Monitoring	1/1/2017-12/31/2019	
Volatile Organic Chemicals (VOC) Monitoring	1/1/2017-12/31/2019	
Chemical Contaminants Rules These regulations protect public health by reducing the levels of over 65 contaminants that cause chronic, or long-term risks, such as organ damage, cancer, circulatory, nervous and reproductive system disorders.		

Unaddressed Significant Deficiencies

These sanitary defects have the potential to compromise your water quality.
For progress on their correction, contact your water system.

Issue Description
Finished water storage structure/tank is provided an overflow that neither discharges to daylight nor in a way that will preclude the possibility of backflow to the reservoir.
Finished Water Storage - Improper screens and/or risk of cross connection at overflow.
Well #1 is less than 100 ft from an individual home disposal field.
Well #1 casing does not extend a minimum of 18-inches above the final ground surface and/or 12-inches above the pump house floor or slab.
There is no sample tap provided on the Well #1 discharge pipe prior to treatment.
Well is not metered.