Girdwood 2023 Consumer Confidence Report PWS# AK2212021(for publication in 2024)

Is my water safe?

Anchorage Water & Wastewater Utility complies with all Drinking Water regulations

There were no violations of any Maximum Contaminant Levels or Treatment Techniques during the last required sampling period for all regulated and unregulated contaminants.

Anchorage Water & Wastewater Utility is pleased to present you with its annual Drinking Water Quality Report, also known as the Consumer Confidence Report. This 2024 report is about 2023 water quality. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) require all water agencies to produce for its customers an annual report about the previous year's drinking water quality. AWWU's annual Drinking Water Quality Report details where your water comes from, and what it contains. The Utility's commitment to water quality excellence results in the production of drinking water that meets and/or exceeds all state and federal drinking water standards for 2023. Your Utility safeguards your public water supplies and is pleased to report AWWU has never violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard. AWWU ensures safe and reliable drinking water with use of efficient and state-of-the-art technology operations. This Water Quality Report contains results of both federal and Alaska regulated drinking water tests, as well as other drinking water information. For more information about your water, contact AWWU's Water Quality Section at (907) 751-2212, or email awwucustomerserv@awwu.biz. Please include "Water Quality Report" in the subject line. To receive a written report by mail, request one by phone at (907) 786-5636

Anchorage Water & Wastewater Utility water samples are collected routinely from source waters, individual homes, and points throughout the distribution system to ensure quality. Certified laboratories verify the water always meets required federal and Alaska standards.

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?

Drinking water in Girdwood comes from two groundwater wells, located in the forest northeast of the Girdwood airport.

Source water assessment and its availability

Girdwood Well 1: Wellhead Susceptibility Low

Girdwood Well 2: Wellhead Susceptibility Low

Aquifer Susceptibility: Very high

Well 1 Overall Vulnerability to potential contaminants:
Bacteria and Viruses Low
Nitrates/Nitrites Low
Volatile Organic Chemicals Low
Inorganics and Heavy Metals Low
Synthetic Organic Chemicals Low
Other Organic Chemicals Low

Well 2 Overall Vulnerability to potential contaminants:
Bacteria and Viruses Medium
Nitrates/Nitrites Low

Volatile Organic Chemicals Low
Inorganics and Heavy Metals Low
Synthetic Organic Chemicals Low
Other Organic Chemicals Low

The State of Alaska, Department of Environmental Conservation's Drinking Water Program maintains source water assessments on it's Drinking Water Watch website, available here: https://dec.alaska.gov/DWW/JSP/ExecutiveSummary.jsp?tinwsys_is_number=1127&tinwsys_st_code=AK

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 Chemical Contaminants, 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. 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. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

How can I get involved?

Please contact us or visit us on the web at Awwu.biz.

Description of Water Treatment Process

Your water is treated by disinfection. Disinfection involves the addition of chlorine or other disinfectant to kill dangerous bacteria and microorganisms that may be in the water. Disinfection is considered to be one of the major public health advances of the 20th century.

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

Results of voluntary monitoring

In February of 2021 ADEC determined that GWS well #2 is ground water under direct influence of surface water (GWUDISW). Following such determinations, water systems have 18 months in which to have specific source water treatment requirements operational and in place.

Because of the complex nature of the necessary system upgrades and the difficulty in securing relevant funding, AWWU did not

anticipate meeting the August 2022 deadline.

ADEC and AWWU developed and entered into a Compliance Order by Consent, (COBC), a legal agreement outlining a schedule of activities and milestones which AWWU must complete to maintain compliance with Drinking Water regulations.

Following the designation of GWUDISW, AWWU now voluntarily monitors raw, untreated source water for Total coliform and E. Coli. each week to more closely watch indicators of potential water contamination prior to completion of facility improvements.

In 2023, all raw, untreated source water samples were negative for Total Coliforms and E.coli.

All treated water samples from the distribution system were negative for Total Coliform and E. coli.

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. Girdwood 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. 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. Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility 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.

Water Quality Data Table

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. 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 actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. 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. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
Chlorine (as Cl2) (ppm)	4	4	1.16	.37	1.16	2023	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	1	NA	1	2023	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	5.9	2.36	5.9	2023	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Inorganic Contaminants								
Barium (ppm)	2	2	.00984	NA	.00984	2023	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper - source water (ppm)	NA		.00926	NA	.00926	2023	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Cyanide (ppb)	200	200	3.7	NA	3.7	2023	No	Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories; Discharge from steel/metal factories
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.02	.07	1.02	2023	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	.247	NA	.247	2023	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (optional) (ppm)	NA		8.8	NA	8.8	2023	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching

Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
Inorganic Contaminants							
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	.242	2021	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	1.37	2021	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Unit Descriptions	
Term	**Definition**
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	**Definition**
MCLG	MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
MCL	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.

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection level goal. The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
MRDL	MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level. The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

For more information please contact:

Contact Name: Paul W. Smith
Address:
Phone: 907-751-2212