

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
Pinos Altos MDWC Assoc.
June 1, 2000

We're very pleased to provide you with this year's Annual Quality Water Report. We want to keep you informed about the excellent water and services we have delivered to you over the past year. Our goal is and always has been, to provide to you a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. Our water source is the Town of Silver City.

I'm pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets federal and state requirements.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact David Vandenberg, 534-9367. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the third Thursday of each month, 7:00 P.M. at the Pinos Altos Fire Station.

The Pinos Altos MDWC Assoc. routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 1999. As water travels over the land or underground, it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. It's important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk.

In this table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

Non-Detects (ND) - laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

Action Level - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Maximum Contaminant Level - (mandatory language) The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is 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.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - (mandatory language) The "Goal" (MCLG) is 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.

TEST RESULTS

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants						
1. Total Coliform Bacteria	Yes	0	12 samples, only 11 samples taken	0	presence of coliform bacteria in 5% of monthly samples	Naturally present in the environment
Radioactive Contaminants						
4. Beta/photon emitters	No	3	Pci/l	0	50	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
5. Alpha emitters	No	9	pCi/l	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
6. Combined radium	No	1	pCi/l	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
Inorganic Contaminants						
8. Arsenic	No	1	ppb	n/a	50	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
10. Barium	No	0	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
15. Cyanide	No	5	ppb	200	200	Discharge from steel/metal factories; discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories
16. Fluoride	No	1	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
19. Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	No	1	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
21. Selenium	No	3	ppb	50	50	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines
22. Thallium	No	0.03	ppb	0.5	2	Leaching from ore-processing sites; discharge from electronics, glass, and drug factories
Volatile Organic Contaminants						
73. TTHM [Total trihalomethanes]	No	16	ppb	0	100	By-product of drinking water chlorination
UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS <u>Average</u> <u>Range</u>						
Bromodichloromethane		1	ND-2			This is a component of total trihalomethanes
Bromoform		5	ND-10			This is a component of total trihalomethanes
Chloroform		0.5	ND-1			This is a component of total trihalomethanes
Dibromochloromethane		2	ND-4			This is a component of total trihalomethanes
Nickel		1	ND-2			Most likely comes from erosion of natural deposits

As you can see by the table, our system had no violations. We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected. The EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels.

We constantly monitor for various constituents in the water supply to meet all regulatory requirements. This past year we failed to collect the required number of valid bacteriological water samples for the reporting period of January, 1999. This does not pose a threat to the quality of our water supply.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. All 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 the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

Total Coliform: The Total Coliform Rule requires water systems to meet a stricter limit for coliform bacteria. Coliform bacteria are usually harmless, but their presence in water can be an indication of disease-causing bacteria. When coliform bacteria are found, special follow-up tests are done to determine if harmful bacteria are present in the water supply. If this limit is exceeded, the water supplier must notify the public by newspaper, television or radio. To comply with the stricter regulation, we have increased the average amount of chlorine in the distribution system.

Nitrates: As a precaution we always notify physicians and health care providers in this area if there is ever a higher than normal level of nitrates in the water supply.

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. These improvements are sometimes reflected as rate structure adjustments. Thank you for understanding.

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/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Please call our office if you have questions at 534-9367.