

2013 Drinking Water Quality Report

Underwood Water System

ABOUT THIS REPORT

We're pleased to provide you with our 2013 Drinking Water Quality Report. We want to keep you informed about the excellent water and services we've continued to deliver to you over the past year. Our goal remains to be providing you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. These reports are prepared each year.

TEST RESULTS

(Detected contaminants only)

Contaminant (Year)	Violation	Level Detected (Range)	Units	MCLG	MCL	Typical Source(s) of Contaminant
Nitrate (2011)	No	1.67	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; septic tank leaching; erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic(2011)	No	ND		.01	.01	Natural deposits in the ground, and runoff from agricultural.
Sodium (2011)	No	4.61	ppm	No Standard	No Standard	erosion of natural deposits; water treatment chemicals
Hardness (2011)	No	64	ppm	No Standard	No Standard	General hardness is primarily the measure of calcium (Ca++) and magnesium (Mg++) ions in the water.
Halo-Acetic Acids (2012)	No	ND	ppb	80	80	Can occur when chlorine is added to water containing organic material.
Total Trihalomethanes (2012)	No	.35	ppb	80	80	Can occur when chlorine is added to water containing organic material.

This table indicates the results of our 2011 monitoring. The state allows monitoring for some contaminants less than once per year because their concentrations do not frequently change. Therefore, some of this data, although representative, may be older than 1 year. We offer the following terminology to increase your understanding:

- **Not Detected (ND):** *Not detectable at testing limit.*
- **Nitrate:** *Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.*
- **Sodium:** *Monitoring of sodium levels is required by the State of Washington, but not by the EPA. The EPA has established an advisory level of 20 ppm with concern for persons on sodium restricted diets.*
- **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):** *One part per billion corresponds to a single penny in \$10,000,000.*
- **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** *The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.*
- **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** *The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as possible using the best treatment technology available.*
- **Action Level (AL):** *The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must adhere to.*
- **Water hardness follows these guidelines:**

0 - 70 ppm : very soft	70-140 ppm: soft
140 - 210 ppm : medium hard	210-320 ppm fairly hard
320 - 530 ppm : hard	531 or higher: liquid rock

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WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

As the table on the front illustrates, our water system had no violations of water quality standards in 2012. We are proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements.

Through our monitoring and testing, we have detected a low-level presence of some contaminants. However, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has determined that your water is protective of public health at these levels.

PROTECTING YOUR WATER

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, such as cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy, individuals 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 individuals 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

THE SOURCE OF YOUR WATER

The source of water for the Underwood System currently consists of Galligan Springs, Shaddox Springs, and Galligan Well. All of these sources are situated on properties owned by Skamania PUD.

WATER QUALITY

The term *contaminant* refers to any substance that may be found in water, some can be desirable (such as some minerals) and some are not. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it can pick up a variety of contaminants. We regularly monitor more than 70 potential contaminants in accordance with Federal and State laws.

Among the undesirable contaminants that may be present in our source water are: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals which can be naturally occurring or result from human activities; pesticides and herbicides; organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals; and radioactive contaminants, which also can be naturally occurring or the result of mining activities.

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 may be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

LEAK DETECTION

Leaks repaired in the last 5 years:

2013: 4
2012: 12
2011: 4
2010: 12
2009: 5

Underwood Water System has budgeted \$72,000 between now and 2018 to reduce the percentage of unaccounted water to below 20% based on a three year average. Currently unaccounted loss is 27%. Most of unaccounted water loss is the cause of leaks, but can also be theft, stopped meters or billing errors.

Skamania County PUD works around the clock to provide high quality water to every tap.

If you have any questions about this report or your water utility,
Please contact Tom Vance, Water Distribution Manager at:
(509) 427-5126 or (800) 922-5329

The Skamania County PUD Board of Commissioners holds regularly scheduled meetings on the first and third Monday of each month at the PUD office located at 1492 Wind River Highway, Carson WA.