2021 Whittier Water Quality Report PWSID# AK2211952

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). 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?

Our water system come from three groundwater wells located near 100 West Whittier Road in Whittier.

Source water assessment and its availability

A source water assessment was completed in 2004 for City of Whittier's three water wells and the results of the assessment are:

Well #1 - The Wellhead/Surface Intake Susceptibility is Low.
The Aquifer Susceptibility is Medium.
The overall vulnerability to potential contaminants is:
Bacteria and Viruses is Medium;
Nitrates/Nitrites is Medium;
Volatile Organic Chemicals is Medium;
Inorganics/Heavy Metals is Low;
Synthetic Organic Chemicals is Medium;
Other Organic Chemicals is Medium.

Well #2 - The Wellhead/Surface Intake Susceptibility is Low.
The Aquifer Susceptibility is Medium.
The overall vulnerability to potential contaminants is:

Bacteria and Viruses is Medium;
Nitrates/Nitrites is Medium;
Volatile Organic Chemicals is Very High;
Inorganics/Heavy Metals is Low;
Synthetic Organic Chemicals is Medium;
Other Organic Chemicals is Medium.

Well #3 - The Wellhead/Surface Intake Susceptibility is Low.
The Aquifer Susceptibility is Medium.
The overall vulnerability to potential contaminants is:
Bacteria and Viruses is Medium;
Nitrates/Nitrites is Medium;
Volatile Organic Chemicals is Medium;
Inorganics/Heavy Metals is Low;
Synthetic Organic Chemicals is Medium;
Other Organic Chemicals is Medium.

For further information regarding this source water assessment please contact the local water system operator, or the Alaska Resources Library & Information Services (ARLIS) located at 3211 Providence Drive, Room 111, Anchorage, Alaska 99508; phone number 907-272-7547. Or you may call Chris Miller at the ADEC Drinking Water Protection Program at 907-269-4791, or 907-269-7549. You may also access the public source water executive summary data at the ADEC website:
http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/dw/dwp/complete.aspx

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). 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?

Persons who would like further information regarding the City of Whittier water system can use the information in this report to contact us.

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.

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.
- 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.

Waivers

The City of Whittier has a Synthetic Organic Compound (SOC) waiver on file with the State of Alaska. This waiver is granted for the 2020 to 2022 compliance period. During this period of time the system does not have to monitor for SOC's.

Significant Deficiencies

In October 20, 2021 the sanitary survey identified the roof of the water storage tank man-door access area was not watertight. This poses a route of contamination into the water storage tank if the roofing leak progresses. The system plans to address this significant deficiency in June of 2022 when repair materials can be brought onsite to the water storage tank area. At that time the water storage tank manway access roof will be repaired to provide water tight protection.

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. City of Whittier 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			
Inorganic Contaminants								
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	.208	NA	NA	2021	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Volatile Organic Contaminants								
Toluene (ppm)	1	1	.000905	NA	NA	2021	No	Discharge from petroleum factories

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	.078	2019	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	1.7	2019	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.
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.

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
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: Scott Korbe
Address: PO Box 608
Whittier, AK 99693
Phone: 907-472-2327

Consumer Confidence Report Certification Form
(updated with electronic delivery methods)

(suggested format)

CWS Name: City of Whittier Water

PWSID No: AK 2211952

The community water system named above hereby confirms that its consumer confidence report has been distributed to customers (and appropriate notices of availability have been given). Further, the system certifies that the information contained in the report is correct and consistent with the compliance monitoring data previously submitted to the state/primacy agency.

Certified by:

Name: Scott Korbe Scott Korbe

Title: Director of Public Works

Phone #: (907) 472-2327 Date: 4-10-2022

Please check all items that apply.

____ CCR was distributed by mail.

__X__ CCR was distributed by other direct delivery method. Specify direct delivery methods:

__X__ Mail – notification that CCR is available on website via a direct URL

___ Email – direct URL to CCR

___ Email – CCR sent as an attachment to the email

___ Email – CCR sent embedded in the email

___ Other: _____

If the CCR was provided by a direct URL, please provide the direct URL Internet address:

www. https://www.whittieralaska.gov (2021-CCR-Final.pdf)

If the CCR was provided electronically, please describe how a customer requests paper CCR delivery:

Available at City Hall, Posted on community bulletin board, Customer can request it be mailed

X "Good faith" efforts were used to reach non-bill paying consumers. Those efforts included the following methods as recommended by the state/primacy agency:

- X posting the CCR on the Internet at www. whittieralaska.gov (2021-CCR-Final.pdf)
- ____ mailing the CCR to postal patrons within the service area (attach a list of zip codes used)
- ____ advertising availability of the CCR in news media (attach copy of announcement)
- ____ publication of CCR in local newspaper (attach copy)
- X posting the CCR in public places (attach a list of locations)
- ____ delivery of multiple copies to single bill addresses serving several persons such as: apartments, businesses, and large private employers
- ____ delivery to community organizations (attach a list)
- ____ electronic city newsletter or electronic community newsletter or listserv (attach a copy of the article or notice)
- X electronic announcement of CCR availability via social media outlets (attach list of social media outlets utilized)

X (for systems serving at least 100,000 persons) Posted CCR on a publicly-accessible Internet site at the address: www. whittieralaska.gov (2021-CCR-Final.pdf)

____ Delivered CCR to other agencies as required by the state/primacy agency (attach a list)

* Public Places - Begich Tower, Harbor Office and Anchor Inn Bulletin Boards

* Social Media Outlets - Face Book (City of Whittier)