

2009 Annual Drinking Water Quality

Ames Lake Water Association

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water source is a series of six wells that draw from local aquifers. We protect these six wells from possible contamination through a Wellhead Protection Plan. A copy of the Wellhead Protection Plan that provides more information, such as potential sources of contamination, is available from our office.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Scott Hemingway, General Manager, at 425-222-7003. We want our valued members 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 fourth Tuesday of the month, beginning at 7:00 pm at the Ames Lake Water Association's office, 33404 SE Redmond-Fall City Road, Suite 120, Fall City, WA.

Ames Lake Water Association routinely monitors for over 80 constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2009. 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.

TEST RESULTS						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Units	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Microbiological						
Total Coliform Bacteria	No	0		0	1 positive monthly sample	Naturally present in the environment
Inorganic						
Arsenic	No	9	ppb	n/a	10	Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine ¹	No	Range .03 - .10	ppm	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	Water additive used to oxidize iron and manganese and to control microbes.
Copper	No	.74	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA)	No	4.0	ppb	n/a	60	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Lead	No	5	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	No	Range 0 – 2.3	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
TTHM [Total trihalomethanes]	No	9.5	ppb	n/a	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination

¹Two of our six wells are treated for high levels of iron and manganese. Chlorine is used in the treatment process to remove the iron and manganese. As a result customers south of Ames Lake have a detectable chlorine residual in their water.

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

ppb - parts per billion or micrograms per liter - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

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

MCL - Maximum Contaminant Level - 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.

MCLG - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - 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.

MRDLG Maximum Residual Disinfectant 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 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.

In 2006 the arsenic MCL was lowered from 50 parts per billion to 10 parts per billion. Of our six wells only one has arsenic concentrations in excess of 10 parts per billion before treatment. In 2009 we made modifications to the treatment system to get the arsenic level below 10 parts per billion. Currently, we are working to optimize the treatment process to reduce the arsenic levels even farther.

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.

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.

Ames Lake Water Association
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