

2007

City of Ephrata

Consumer Confidence  
Reports  
(CCR)

**2007**  
**CITY OF EPHRATA**  
**CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT (\*ESPANOL)**

**WHAT IS A CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT (CCR)?**

A Consumer Confidence Report is a report on the quality of drinking water supplied by your public water system. Consumer Confidence Reports are required to be published annually under the 1996 Safe drinking Water Act Amendments administered by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

The City of Ephrata has historically provided full disclosure of information about the City's water supply to interested parties and views the Consumer Confidence Report as an opportunity to enhance its public awareness program.

**Consumer Confidence Report Translation**

"Este Informe contiene informacion muy importante. Traduscalo o hable con un amigo quien lo entienda bien."

**Where can I find out more information about my drinking water?**

Environmental Protection  
Agency (EPA)  
Safe Drinking Water Act  
Hotline  
**(1-800-426-4791)**

City of Ephrata  
121 Alder SW  
Ephrata, WA 98823  
**(509-754-4601)**

Health Dept. of Health  
Suite 305  
1500 West Fourth Avenue  
Spokane, WA 99204  
**(509-456-3115)**

**DEFINITIONS**

- **Action level.** "The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers a treatment or other requirement which a water system must follow."
- **Maximum contaminant level (MCL).** "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 (MCLG).** "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."
- **Part per million (ppm).** "One part per million or one milligram per liter (mg/L)."
- **Part per billion (ppb).** "One part per billion or one microgram per liter (µg/L)."

## DESCRIPTION OF THE CITY'S WATER SYSTEM

The City of Ephrata derives its water supply from seven wells, which supply water to the City's estimated 7,065 residents. Water from the wells is stored in four reservoirs in the City, giving the City a capacity of 5,350,000 gallons to provide protection against fire, power outages, and high water use periods. A fifth reservoir, constructed in 1939, is no longer in service. Water is carried from the wells and reservoirs to customers homes through approximately 43 miles of water distribution pipe. The City operates one booster station which provides service to development above 1520 feet mean sea level.

## WATER QUALITY MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

Existing state law contains regulations of bacteriological contaminants, inorganic chemicals, nitrates, lead and copper, physical characteristics, trihalomethanes, volatile organic chemicals, synthetic organic chemicals, and radionuclides. A number of additional federal drinking water regulations are expected within the next ten years. These regulations will define new or additional water quality requirements. The City is currently in compliance with existing water quality monitoring requirements. The following table summarizes the City's water quality monitoring requirements.

<b>Contaminant Type</b>	<b>Monitoring Requirement [1]</b>
<b>Bacteriological contaminants</b>	<b>8 samples per month in the distribution system</b>
<b>Inorganic chemicals</b>	<b>1 sample every 3 years at each well</b>
<b>Nitrates</b>	<b>1 sample each year at each well</b>
<b>Lead and Copper</b>	<b>20 samples every 3 years at selected residents' taps</b>
<b>Volatile organic chemicals</b>	<b>1 sample every 3 years at each well</b>
<b>Synthetic organic chemicals</b>	<b>The City currently has a monitoring waiver for 4 of its wells because its previous sample recorded no detections. The remaining 3 wells are monitored with one sample every 3 years</b>
<b>Radionuclides</b>	<b>The City has not yet been directed by the State Department of Health to begin monitoring for radionuclides; once directed, the City will take 1 sample every 4 years at each well</b>
<b>Trihalomethanes</b>	<b>The City is not required to monitor for trihalomethanes but includes it in its volatile organic chemical monitoring every 3 years</b>
<b>Asbestos</b>	<b>1 sample every 3 years in the distribution system</b>

[1] Increased monitoring is required for any chemicals detected above an "Action Level" or a "MCL".

## **WATER QUALITY MONITORING RESULTS**

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. 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 microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The City has detected some contaminants in its drinking water, most of which are naturally occurring minerals found in groundwater. In the levels detected, these constituents pose no health risk to City residents.

The following table summarizes those contaminants that have been detected in the City's drinking water, the MCL for those contaminants, the MCLG set by the Environmental Protection Agency, and the major sources of the contaminants. For those contaminants that have been detected and exceed either an action level or MCL, further information on monitoring, treatment, and health effects is given in the following section.

Table 1: List of Contaminants Detected in City of Ephrata's Water Supply

Contaminant (units)	Level Detected [1]						MCL	MCLG	Possible Sources
	Well No. 2	Well No. 3	Well No. 4	Well No. 5	Well No. 6	Well No. 7			
Total Coliform Bacteria	2 coliform-positive samples taken in distribution system in 1999--no fecal coliform or E. Coli detected on repeat sample; no further action required						Present in ≥5% of monthly samples	0	Naturally present in the environment
Fluoride (ppm)	0.41	0.46	0.34	0.46	0.44	0.35	0.56	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (ppm)	0.88	1.78	0.84	1.51	0.30	1.13	0.07	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Tetrachloro- ethylene (ppb)	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	5	Leaching from PVC pipes; discharge from factories and dry cleaners

[1] ND means the contaminant was not detected above the detectability limit of the test method.

## **Tetrachloroethylene Monitoring**

Tetrachloroethylene (sometimes called perchloroethylene or perc) is a chlorinated solvent typically used in the dry cleaning industry and as an industrial solvent. Other applications include vapor degreasing, cold cleaning of metals, and the manufacture of chlorofluorocarbons.

The area around Well No. 6 was previously used by the military as an airforce base. Tetrachloroethylene has historically been a common solvent used by the military before the hazardous waste regulations passed in the 1980s began to restrict its use. The City believes that improper disposal of this chemical has resulted in low level contamination of the ground around Well No. 6. However, the detections recorded by the City have been well below the MCL. The City will continue to monitor for the chemical and may investigate treatment options if levels increase.

## **Nitrate Monitoring**

The City has not recorded a sample above the MCL of 10 ppm.

## **Water Quality Protection Programs**

The City is committed to supplying its customers with high quality and aesthetically pleasing drinking water. The City has adopted the following practices to ensure that the drinking water supplied to its customers meets or exceeds all federal and state standards.

- \_ **2004 WATER SYSTEM PLAN.**
- \_ **1999 WELLHEAD PROTECTION PROGRAM.**
- \_ **1997 WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM.**
- \_ **CITY WEBSITE: [HTTP://WWW.EPHRATA.ORG](http://www.ephrata.org)**

Residents with input on water issues or this report may contact City staff at City Hall or attend the regularly scheduled City Council meetings on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

This Consumer Confidence Report is required by law to be published and distributed to City residents annually. The average cost per report for each residence is \$1.10.