

City of Deer Park Water Quality Report – 2014

This brochure is a snapshot of the quality of the water that the utility provided last year. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and State standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies. Please share this information with all the other people who drink the water and may not have received this notice directly.

WATER & WATER USE EFFICIENCY

As your public water purveyor, the City of Deer Park invests significant time and money maintaining our distribution system to eliminate leaks and any other wasted water. At the same time, we are asking our customers to do likewise. Well logs for the year 2014 indicate a production of 444,168,500 gallons of water or on average approximately 447 gallons per connection per day, slightly above 2013 consumption of 413 gallons per day. Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 350 gallons of water per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost or no-cost ways to use water efficiently without required conservation measures required by the state.

WHERE DOES MY WATER COME FROM?

Your water comes from seven shallow municipal wells sunk into an underground source of water identified as the Deer Park Basin. The depth of the wells and lack of city owned land around them places them in a high rating for contamination according to Department of Health guidelines. After the water comes out of the wells, we treat it by adding disinfectant to protect you against public health hazards. We are required to monitor our drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis, and those results are an indicator of our water meeting health standards.

WATER QUALITY INFORMATION

This report provides data on the quality of your drinking water and also serves as notification that all of our community is located within wellhead protection areas associated with the City public water supply wells. In a wellhead protection area, any contaminants released on the ground are expected to eventually reach a water supply well. We hope that informing you about our aquifer will result in your increased precautions to prevent contamination of our drinking water.

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 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. Contaminants that may be present include: Microbial contaminants such as viruses, parasites and bacteria. Inorganic contaminants such as salts and metals, which can occur naturally or result from urban stormwater runoff. Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from various sources such as agriculture and residential uses. Organic chemical contaminants including synthetic and volatile chemicals which are by-products of industrial processes. Radioactive contaminants which can occur naturally. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence 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.**

WHAT ABOUT LEAD IN DRINKING WATER?

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. The City of Deer Park 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>.

DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-compromised persons such as person 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 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 at 1-800-426-4791.**

WATER QUALITY DATA

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants the City tested and/or detected during the 2011 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year.

Terms and abbreviations used below:

- **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.
- **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.
- **Action Level (AL):** the concentration of a contaminant or constituent which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** 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.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** 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.
- **n/a:** not applicable, **nd:** not detectable at testing limit, **ppb:** parts per billion or micrograms per liter, **ppm:** parts per million or milligrams per liter (**mg/l**), **pCi/l:** picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation), **nar:** no analysis required for year,

Parameter	Unit of Measure	MCL	MCLG	Highest Detected Level							Likely source of Contamination
				Pump Stations*							
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Microbiology - 36 tests completed during this reporting period											
Total Coliform Bacteria				No Constituents Detected							
Fecal Coliform and E. Coli				No Constituents Detected							
Inorganic Chemicals - 29 Constituents tested				nar	nar	nar	nar	nar	nar	nar	
Nitrate	ppm	10	10	5.2	3.44	3.83	3.55	3.71	4.21	0.42	Farm practices, septic tanks
Synthetic Organic Compounds											
EDP / DBCP	mg/l	varies	varies	nar	nar	nar	nar	nar	nar	nar	
	mg/l	.02/.04		nar	nar	nar	nar	nar	nar	nar	
Volatile Organic Compounds											
Constituents tested - 62		varies	varies	nar	nar	nar	nar	nar	nar	nar	Spills and contamination acts
Gross Alpha											
	pCi/l	15		0.412	nar	nar	nar	nar	nar	nar	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228											
	pCi/l	15		0.348	nar	nar	nar	nar	nar	nar	
Lead & Copper - 20 Homes were tested in 2012 for Lead & Copper which is regulated at Customer tap				Action Levels Not exceeded							
				New testing round - 2015							

* Pump Numbers: 1 – West, 2 – South, 3 – Swinyard, 4 – North, 5 – North Dalton, 6 – South Dalton, 7 – Perrins.

** MCLs are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described from the many constituents, a person would have to drink 2 Liters of water every day at the MCL for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect. Further, samples are taken at the source, prior to entering the distribution system, where once the water enters the piping system, the water is blended to further reduce the constituent levels.

Is my water safe? To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Department of Health and EPA prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Washington Department of Agriculture regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health. Last year, as in years past, your tap water met all Environmental Protection Agency and state drinking water standards. Your local utility vigilantly safeguards its supplies and once again we are proud to report that our system has not violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard.