

# 2013 Water Report

## **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).

## **Where does my water come from?**

The wells are located at the end of Wellfield Road, approximately 1.5-miles west of the Chilkoot inlet.

## **Source water assessment and its availability**

Crystal Cathedrals Waterin Haines operates a class A water system that obtains water from a well located at the end of Wellfield road, approximately 1.5-miles west of the Chilkoot Inlet. The well received a susceptibility rating of Medium. The aquifer also received a susceptibility rating of Medium. Combining these two produces a rating of Medium for the natural susceptibility of the well. Potential and existing sources of the following contaminants were evaluated for the Source Water Assessment: bacteria and viruses, nitrates and/or nitrites, heavy metals, cyanide, and other inorganic chemicals, synthetic organic chemicals. Identified potential and current sources of contaminants for the well intake area include: sewer lines, residential areas, septic systems, and roads. This evaluation included all available water sampling data submitted to ADEC by the system operator. The samples may have been collected from either raw water or post-treated water. Combining the natural susceptibility of the well with the contaminant risk, the wells received a vulnerability rating of Medium for bacteria and viruses, and nitrates and/nitrites, and low for volatile organic chemicals, heavy metals, synthetic organic chemicals, and other organic chemicals. This assessment can be used as a foundation for local volunteer protection efforts as well as a basis for the continuous efforts on the part of the Haines Borough Water and Sewer to protect public health.

### **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).

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?**

The public may get involved by coming to the Haines Borough Assembly meetings. The dates and agendas are available online at [www.hainesborough.us](http://www.hainesborough.us) Meeting dates and agenda's are also posted at the Borough Offices, Library and Post Office.

### **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. Haines Borough 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>.

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## **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.

| <u>Contaminants</u>   | <u>MCLG<br/>or<br/>MRDLG</u> | <u>MCL,<br/>TT, or<br/>MRDL</u> | <u>Your<br/>Water</u> | <u>Range</u><br><u>Low</u>   <u>High</u> |        | <u>Sample<br/>Date</u> | <u>Violation</u> | <u>Typical Source</u>   |
|---|------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|--|--------|------------------------|------------------|---|
| <b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfectant By-Products</b>   |                              |                                 |                       |  |        |                        |                  |   |
| (There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants) |                              |                                 |                       |  |        |                        |                  |   |
| TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)   | NA                           | 80                              | 1.95                  | ND                                       | 1.95   | 2013                   | No               | By-product of drinking water disinfection   |
| <b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>   |                              |                                 |                       |  |        |                        |                  |   |
| Barium (ppm)  | 2                            | 2                               | 0.0421                | 0.0399                                   | 0.0421 | 2009                   | No               | Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits                                |
| Chromium (ppb)  | 100                          | 100                             | 1.3                   | 1.24                                     | 1.3    | 2009                   | No               | Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits  |
| Selenium (ppb)  | 50                           | 50                              | 7.42                  | 0.901                                    | 7.42   | 2009                   | No               | Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines                          |
| Fluoride (ppm)  | 4                            | 4                               | 0.214                 | 0.173                                    | 0.214  | 2009                   | No               | Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories |
| Beryllium (ppb)   | 4                            | 4                               | 0.265                 | NA                                       |        | 2009                   | No               | Discharge from metal refineries and coal-burning factories; Discharge from electrical, aerospace, and defense industries  |
| Arsenic (ppb)   | 0                            | 10                              | 0.764                 | NA                                       |        | 2012                   | No               | Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes                    |
| <b>Volatile Organic Contaminants</b>  |                              |                                 |                       |  |        |                        |                  |   |
| Xylenes (ppm)   | 10                           | 10                              | 0.00348               | NA                                       |        | 2013                   | No               | Discharge from petroleum factories; Discharge from chemical factories   |

| <b>Contaminants</b>                          | <b>MCLG</b> | <b>AL</b> | <b>Your Water</b> | <b>Sample Date</b> | <b># Samples Exceeding AL</b> | <b>Exceeds AL</b> | <b>Typical Source</b>  |
|--|-------------|-----------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| <b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>                |             |           |                   |                    |                               |                   |  |
| Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm) | 1.3         | 1.3       | 0.195             | 2011               | 0                             | No                | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)   | 0           | 15        | 7.38              | 2011               | 0                             | No                | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits |

| <b>Unit Descriptions</b> |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Term</b>              | <b>Definition</b>                                      |
| 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.          |

| <b>Important Drinking Water Definitions</b> |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Term</b>                                 | <b>Definition</b>   |
| 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.   |
| 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   |

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