Once Again, Your Water Meets All State & Federal Drinking Water Regulations

The Environmental Protection Agency (E.P.A.) prescribes limits on the amount of each constituent allowed in public water systems. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. The presence of constituents does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about constituents and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to constituents 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 constituents are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (1-800-426-4791).

Responsibilities To Our Customers

- Quick response to emergencies
- An adequate supply of water for fire protection
- Continual maintenance and upgrading of our water systems
- Consistent water pressure
- 24-hour customer service
- Participation in community events
- Water education programs
  -- For 24 hour emergency service call: 634-5835
  -- For water department call 627-4800
Since the early 1900’s, the City of St. George Water Department has been dedicated to producing safe water for all its customers. The City currently owns and operates 22 culinary wells, 11 located near Gunlock Reservoir, 5 in Snow Canyon, 3 near Winchester Hills/Ledges, 1 north of the Industrial Park, and 2 north of Washington City. The City also receives water from numerous springs located on the south and west sides of Pine Valley Mountain. In 2007 the City transferred ownership of the Quail Creek Drinking Water Plant over to the Washington County Water Conservancy District.

The water plant still provides approximately 40 to 60 percent of the drinking water for St. George City.

To ensure the on-going quality of water, City personnel routinely monitor for constituents in our drinking water in accordance with State and Federal laws. During 2007, over 2,500 tests were taken on chemical, physical and microbiological properties of the City’s water. Testing is done at all stages, from the water source all the way to your tap.

The information inside this brochure shows some of the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2007.

Over the past couple of years St. George City and the Washington County Water Conservancy District have formed a team of in-house Biologists and Engineers to study the changing ecosystem within the Quail Creek Reservoir. Over time all lakes and reservoirs harvest more nutrients with increasing plant life and microorganisms. Some types of plants, mainly certain strains of blue green algae can form populations in the lake and cause problems in the water treatment process. In 2006, St. George City received a high number of phone calls from residents, complaining their drinking water tasted musty and unpalatable.

Efforts to identify and manage these taste and odor events have led our team to focus on the source of the problem, blue green algae populations at the bottom of the reservoir in random locations. With permission from the Department of Environmental Quality and hours of research, our taste and odor team was able to treat Quail Creek Reservoir at the areas of concern with a product called Copper Sulfate. The product was dispersed from a helicopter using an agricultural spreader. Copper Sulfate has long been used as an algaecide in surface water reservoirs across the nation to destroy populations of blue green algae and has no harmful effects to the lake or fish populations when used under EPA guidelines, the copper precipitates into an inorganic form within 24 hours and does not reach the water plant or remain in the treated drinking water. Quail Lake underwent two treatments of Copper Sulfate during 2007 and ongoing monitoring has indicated the treatments were successful. If you have further questions about our taste and odor lake monitoring efforts, contact the Quail Creek Water Treatment Plant: 435-879-2361.

While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water.

EPA continues to research the health affects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health affects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

EPA established a new standard of 10 ppb effective January 2006. St. George City has been granted an extension until 2009. You can read how St. George City is complying to the new rule by visiting our website at www.sgcity.org/arsenic.

The St. George City Water Department is committed to protecting the watersheds, or the land around our water sources from pollution and contamination. We ensure water quality and safety by protecting the lakes and streams that are our water sources. We closely monitor any activity around watersheds, watching for potential erosion, runoff, or anything that could put our water sources in danger.

Our watershed policy provides guidance to developers who want to build without disturbing the streams and rivers. Our watershed and source protection programs are available to the public Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 811 E. Red Hills Parkway. For more information, call 627-4850.

Your water contains minerals (calcium and magnesium) that are commonly referred to as “hardness”. When setting your water softeners, it is important to know the hardness of your water so your water softener will operate efficiently. To determine the hardness of your water refer to the map inside this brochure. Locate your area on the map and refer to the chart to find the hardness in mg/l.

For most residents in St. George, setting your water softener to 18 grains will enable it work work properly.

Dispensing copper into Quail Creek Reservoir
How Do I Read This Chart?

Locate your area on the map to see which distribution zone it’s in. The corresponding color chart shows from which source/sources you receive water. Each source has its own unique water quality characteristics. Refer to each individual column in the chart for the latest water analysis. The column labeled “M.C.L.” provides you with the Maximum Contaminant Level as established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency for each compound. These are the standards with which all drinking water supplies must comply. In the first column, all of the compounds and test results are listed. The results are from the most recent water quality analysis performed.
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 contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions. ST George currently has an arsenic extension until 2009.

Turbidity: Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. Turbidity is a good indicator of water quality. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants.

Lead & Copper: To protect against adverse health effects EPA requires that 90% of tap water samples have lead concentrations below .015 ppm and copper below 1.3 ppm. This is known as the Action Level (AL).

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) One part per million is equivalent to one penny in $10,000.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - This is a measurement of the radioactivity in water.

MG - Million Gallons
MGD - Million Gallons Per Day
ND - Not Detected
N/A - Not Applicable