

## 2004 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report For

# Town of Georgetown, Co. PWSID CO0110015

*Esta es informacion importante. Si no la pueden leer, necesitan que alguien se la traduzca.*

We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual 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. Our water comes from South Clear Creek.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact John Curtis at (303) 569-2897. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please call the above contact about the utility's scheduled public meetings.

The State is conducting source water assessments for all public water systems. To find out the status of the source water assessment for our system, call the listed contact.

### **Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the public in general.**

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. 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 of infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. More information about contaminants and potential health effects, or to receive a copy of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and microbiological contaminants call the EPA *Safe Drinking Water Hotline* at 1-800-426-4791.

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. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Ø **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Ø **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.
- Ø **Pesticides and herbicides** that may come from a variety of sources, such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- Ø **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also may come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- Ø **Radioactive contaminants**, that 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 which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

The table of detected contaminants contains many terms and abbreviations that may be unfamiliar. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

- **Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements a water system must follow.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The “maximum allowed” 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.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The “goal” 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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU):** Nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of five NTU is just noticeable to the average person.
- **Not Detected (ND) or Below Detection Level (BDL):** Laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present. (“<” Symbol for less than, the same as ND or BDL)
- **Not Tested (NT):** Contaminant was not tested.
- **Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (µg/l):** One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or one penny in \$10,000,000.
- **Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l):** One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or one penny in \$10,000.
- **Parts per quadrillion (ppq) or Picograms per liter (pg/l):** One part per quadrillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000,000 years or one penny in \$10,000,000,000,000.
- **Parts per trillion (ppt) or Nanograms per liter (ng/l):** One part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years, or one penny in \$10,000,000,000.
- **PicoCuries per Liter (pCi/l):** A measure of radioactivity in water.
- **Total Organic Carbon (TOC):** A measure of the total amount of carbon in water, present as organic molecules.
- **Treatment Technique (TT):** A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

## Additional Information

**Nitrate** in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods-of-time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, and detected nitrate levels are above 5 ppm, you should ask advice from your health care provider.

If **arsenic** is less than 10 ppb, your drinking water meets EPA’s standards. 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 effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to **lead** in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home’s plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home’s water, you may wish to have your water tested. Flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the EPA *Safe Drinking Water Hotline* at 1-800-426-4791.

## Table of Detected Contaminants

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, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. Some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old.

This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2003 unless otherwise noted.

### Microbiological Contaminants

Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Unit	System Result	Violation Yes or No	Sample Date	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria for Systems that collects >40 samples per month	5% of monthly samples are positive	0	Absent or Present	Absent	N	Twice monthly	Naturally present in the environment
Total Coliform Bacteria for Systems that collects <40 samples per month	1 positive monthly sample	0	Absent or Present	Absent	N	Twice monthly	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal coliform and E. Coli	A routine sample & a repeat sample are total coliform positive, & one is also fecal coliform or <i>E. coli positive</i>	0	Absent or Present	Absent	N	Twice monthly	Human and animal fecal waste
Turbidity	TT (Lowest Monthly Percent of readings meeting TT limits)	N/A	NTU	100%	N	Calculated monthly	Soil runoff

### Radionuclides

Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Units	Level Detected & Range	Violation (Yes or No)	Sample Date	Likely Source of Contamination
Beta/photon emitters	Trigger level=50	0	pCi/l	3.5	N	1/8/2001	Decay of natural and man-made deposits

### Lead and Copper

Contaminant	AL	ALG	Units	Level Detected/ Range	Violation Yes or No	Sample Date	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	1.3	1.3	ppm	.15	N	12/31/99	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead	15	0	ppb	6	N	12/31/99	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits

### Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Units	Level Detected/ Range	Violation Yes or No	Sample Date	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium	2	2	ppm	.03	N	1/28/03	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Cadmium	5	5	ppb	.20	N	1/28/03	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from metal refineries; runoff from waste batteries and paints
Fluoride	4	4	ppm	.20	N	1/28/03	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	10	10	ppm	0.13	N	1/28/03	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

### Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts

Contaminant	MCL/ MRDL	MCLG/ MRDLG	Units	Level Detected & Range	Violation Yes or No	Sample Date	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	4	4	ppm	<4	N	Daily	Water additive used to control microbes

**Synthetic Organic Contaminants, including Pesticides and Herbicides**

All contaminants BDL- Sample Date 8/18/2003

**Volatile Organic Contaminants**

All contaminants BDL- Sample Date 8/18/2003

Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns.