

Ketchikan Gateway Borough Mountain Point 2010 Water Quality 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. This report is reflective of the Fork's Creek source which was used last year. The 2011 report will be reflective of the new Whitman's source. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies. Last year, we conducted tests for over 80 contaminants. We only detected 6 of those contaminants, and found only 2 at a level higher than the EPA allows. As we informed you at the time, our water temporarily exceeded drinking water standards. (For more information see the section labeled Violations at the end of the report.)

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?

Our water source is Forks Creek located in the Mountain Point area of the South Tongass Service Area. Water flows to the water plant where it is filtered by four low pressure multimedia sand filters. The water is disinfected and treated with soda ash to reduce the corrosion in the distribution system. The water is stored in two storage tanks which also provide ample contact time for disinfection. One storage tank is located at the water plant and stores 215,000 gallons. The other storage tank is located at Fawn Mountain School and stores 800,000 gallons.

Source water assessment and its availability

Source water assessments have been completed by the ADEC as a first step towards voluntary local source water protection efforts. Vulnerability rankings are assigned based on the susceptibility of the drinking water source, recent sampling results and the presence of potential contaminant sources - they do not necessarily indicate these contaminants will reach your source of water. Water System has received the following vulnerability rankings: The public water

system for Mountain Point Service Area is a Class A water system consisting of 1 source intake. The water system is located in Ketchikan and the intake for this PWSID is a surface water source. The overall protection area received a susceptibility rating of "very high". In addition, this water system has received a vulnerability rating of "high" for bacteria/viruses, "high" for nitrates/nitrites, "very high" for volatile organic chemicals, "very high" for heavy metals, "medium" for other organic chemicals, and "medium" for synthetic organic chemicals. Completed source water assessments are available at ADEC's Drinking Water Protection Program at 555 Cordova St, Anchorage, AK; or the Alaska Resources Library and Information Services, 3150 C St, Anchorage, AK.

For more information, call the Drinking Water Protection Program at 269-7521.

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).

How can I get involved?

There is an opportunity to receive information about your water using FlashAlert(TM) newswire. This service provides Mountain Point Water quality notices, news releases, and water advisory board meeting locations and times. Please subscribe for this service at www.FlashAlert.net. South Tongass Service Area water advisory board meetings are usually scheduled on the first Wednesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. at Station Four, 5690 Roosevelt Drive, Ketchikan, Alaska. You may also visit the Ketchikan Gateway Borough's website at: <http://www.kgbak.us/news.htm>

Monitoring and reporting of compliance data violations

The following violations occurred as a result of the system's plans to switch to a new water source. Sampling was to be done on the new source. Due to engineering requirements the new source was not brought on line in 2010. ADEC was apprised in 2010 of the pending changes to the water system source, as well as the construction delay, and the Borough and ADEC have worked together to establish a complete 2011 water testing schedule which will include any tests not completed in 2010.

VOC Sampling

We are required to sample for volatile organic chemicals every year. We did not do this in 2010. All tests taken have shown no chemical detections. Some people who drink water containing volatile organic chemicals in excess of the MCLs over many years could experience one or more of the following: skin damage, problems with their circulatory system, increased cholesterol, increased blood pressure, liver damage, kidney problems, nervous system problems and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Nitrate

We are required to sample for nitrate annually. We did not do this in 2010. All tests taken in the past have reported no chemical detected. Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue baby syndrome.

Arsenic

We are required to monitor for arsenic annually. We did not do this in 2010. In past arsenic sampling no arsenic has been detected in the water. Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Inorganics

We are required to sample for inorganic chemicals every nine years. We did not do this in 2010. Some inorganic chemicals are essential nutrients. Some people who drink water containing inorganic chemicals in excess of the MCLs over many years could experience one or more of the following: skin damage, problems with their circulatory system, increased cholesterol, increased blood pressure, liver damage, kidney problems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

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. Mountain Point Service Area 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>.

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.

Contaminants	MCLG	MCL, TT, or	Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
	or MRDLG	MRDL		Low	High			
Disinfectants & Disinfectant By-Products								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	63.7	2.17	115	2010	Yes	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	107.9	78.7	140	2010	Yes	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine (as Cl ₂) (ppm)	4	4	1.43	0.87	3.9	2010	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Microbiological Contaminants								
Turbidity (NTU)	NA	0.3	67	NA		2010	Yes	Soil runoff
67% of the samples were below the TT value of 0.3. A value less than 95% constitutes a TT violation. The highest single measurement was 1.391. Any measurement in excess of 1 is a violation unless otherwise approved by the state.								
Radioactive Contaminants								
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	0	15	0.54	NA		2007	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L)	0	5	0.94	NA		2007	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source	
Inorganic Contaminants								
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.547	2008	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	9.9	2008	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	

Violations and Exceedances
<p>Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. ** More frequent flushing.</p>
<p>TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. In our 2010 TTHM's sampling we have tested consistently over the allowable amount. Our current plant treatment process does not adequately remove enough organics to meet the current EPA standard. The operators are monitoring our daily water quality and trying to meet these standards, but the plant was not designed to remove these contaminants.</p>
<p>Turbidity Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. October 2010 Extra backwashing of filters.</p>

Unit Descriptions

Term	Definition
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
pCi/L	pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
NTU	NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	Definition
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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