Dedicated to Providing Affordable and Sustainable Water Resources

2015 Water Quality Report

A Summary of the Drinking Water Provided by the South Adams County Water & Sanitation District for the period January 1, 2014 thru December 31, 2014
About this Annual Report

This report is the South Adams County Water & Sanitation District’s (District) annual water quality report and summarizes the quality of the water that the District provided last year (2014). It includes information about where the District’s water comes from, what it contains, how it compares to the standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Colorado Department of Public Health (CDPHE), and where the public can obtain additional information.

The District is committed to delivering water that meets or exceeds all state and federal drinking water standards. Providing you with safe, high quality drinking water is our priority every day. We believe you should know the source of your water, how it is treated, tested and what substances it might contain after treatment.

We are pleased to report that during the past year, the water delivered to your home or business complied with all state and federal drinking water requirements. For your information and review, we’ve compiled information in the report about the substances tested, what was detected, and how those results compare to the maximum allowable standards for each substance.

We encourage you to read this report in its entirety and refer to it throughout the year. It is filled with valuable information everyone can use including important health notices, explanations about standard water quality processes, and ways to find more information.

Drinking Water Sources

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. It can also pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity. Contaminates that may be present in source water include:

- **Microbial contaminants**  Example: viruses and bacteria which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- **Inorganic contaminants**  Example: salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or can result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining and farming.
- **Pesticides and herbicides**  Example: may come from a variety of sources including agricultural applications, urban storm water runoff and residential uses.
- **Organic chemical contaminants**  Example: synthetic and volatile organic chemicals which are by-products of industrial processes, and petroleum production. These also may come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants**  Example: may be naturally-occurring or may be the result of oil and gas productions and mining activities.

Hard water is due to high levels of dissolved calcium and magnesium

Generally, water that comes from lakes and rivers (surface water) tends to be softer than water from shallow alluvial wells (groundwater) that has been exposed to underground mineral deposits.

The National Research Council (National Academy of Sciences) states that hard drinking water naturally contributes a small amount of the total calcium and magnesium in basic human dietary needs. They further state that in some instances, where these minerals are very high, water could be a major contributor of calcium and magnesium to the diet.

The typical total-hardness the District detected in 2014 was 21 grains per gallon (359 mg/L). Construction and maintenance projects that occur in any one year may vary the source of water supplies from time to time resulting in a wide range of water hardness.

Personal preferences for water hardness vary greatly. If lowering hardness is desired, it can be managed with packaged water softening devices. There are various types of residential water filtration systems including counter top, under sink and whole house systems. Various methods of filtration include a salt-based medium, carbon-based medium and reverse osmosis (RO). Due to the sodium content using a salt-based medium, some individuals should seek the advice of their physician prior to using this type of system. Important installation requirements are also available on our website at www.sacwsd.org.

South Adams County Water and Sanitation District serves a population of over 52,000 people (16,000 water connections) and delivers over 2.7 billion gallons of water per year. South Adams distributes drinking water to its customers traveling across a 65 sq-mi area throughout an extensive network of 350 miles of pipe.

The South Adams Board of Directors meets at 7:00 PM on the second Wednesday of each month in the Board Room at the Stevenson Administrative Offices located at 6595 East 70th Avenue in Commerce City.

Board Meetings are open to the public.
Please visit the District’s Website at www.sacwsd.org for additional information.
The Consumer Confidence Reports (CCR) Rule, 40 CFR 141 Subpart O, contains the Right-To-Know provisions in the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act. The South Adams County Water & Sanitation District's CCR Report for the year ending April 30, 2002. This information source of its water potable is important. If you do not have water, you should ask advice from your health care provider.

**Bone Pathophysiology and Gastroenterology**

The District analyzed all shallow wells that supply drinking water for their potable source as part of the study for identifying Cryptosporidium in the source water. Denver Water tested for Cryptosporidium in its source water supplies and it’s treated since the 1990s, and has never detected a viable indication of either in its drinking waters.

**Efficient Irrigation Practices and Other Water-Wise Tips**

Nearly fifty percent of residential water use is applied to landscape and lawns. By following simple tips like watering early in the morning or evening, Denver Water estimates that it could save 20 percent of water and even relax their water bills. Weeds are a costly and very effective because a large portion of water is tied to evaporation when you water your lawn during the heat of the day. By following these simple tips, customers can help water and even relax their water bills. Denver Water estimates that it could save 20 percent of water and even relax their water bills.

- **Water conservation**
  - Water a lawn, plants and trees - not streets or sidewalks.
  - Avoid watering during hot, windy conditions.
  - Use a lower water use lawn, avoid grass seed or mulch over bare soil areas.
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- **Water usage**
  - Water twice a week to make grass more resilient and drought resistant.
  - Install low-water landscape, efficient irrigation systems and use drip hoses.
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In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment prescribes drinking water standards. In determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted, the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE) has issued system monitoring waivers for the following compounds: Cyanide, Asbestos, Glyphosate and Unregulated Substances.

The compound 1,4-Dioxane, the compounds detected in 2014 Highest Hit and Lowest Hit concentrations of a contaminant allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set - milligrams per liter ppm - parts per million or mg/L MRL must be no lower than the lowest calibration standard.

The “Goal” is the level of a contaminant that health-based standard set under the Safe Drinking Water Act. The District expanded its water quality laboratory at the Klein Water Treatment Facility. The additional space allows them to conduct more advanced testing and monitoring of drinking water. The District is working with the EPA and CDPHE as we move forward with the development of ALGs. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.

The District samples distribution systems every quarter. Some people may drink water that contains contaminants in one of the MCLs. If your water has been identified as having a contaminant, you should contact your water supplier to see how you can take steps to reduce your exposure to the contaminant.