

Frequently Asked Questions

What causes discolored water?

Rusting galvanized pipe in some plumbing is the usual cause of discolored water. If this is the case, the water clears after running a bit. Iron causes discoloration; but is not a health risk.

How often is our water tested?

EWU tap water is tested every month for bacteria, and as directed by the Dept. of Health for copper and lead. Twenty samples were tested for lead and copper in 2009. Water from each well was tested in 2009 for inorganic chemicals and in 2009 for volatile organic chemicals; synthetic organic chemicals were last tested in 2009, and all required testing is up-to-date per Dept. of Health requirements for 2010.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water:

- ◆ Contact Jim Butler
Water System Manager
359-6561
- ◆ See this report on the web at:
<http://www.ewu.edu/x10034.xml>
- ◆ Call EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline(800) 426-4791

We encourage you to become informed, and be involved in water protection. Water system tours can be arranged by calling 359-2245



2010 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER REPORT

Eastern Washington University is pleased to report that your water meets or exceeds all standards set for quality and safety.

This brochure is a summary of the quality of water provided during 2010 and is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day.

Inside, you will find analytical testing results for samples of Eastern's water and information on how these results compare to federal and state safety standards.

We are committed to providing you with safe, high quality water and we want you to understand the efforts we make to continually protect our water resources.

ORIGIN OF OUR WATER

Eastern provides drinking water from two drilled wells under a permit from the Washington State Dept. of Health.

Our well water is from a groundwater aquifer about 500 feet below the surface of the grounds. *The water is chlorinated.* It is safe to drink. On January 31, 2011 a new well was brought on line to replace SO#1.



The water is pumped through new plastic supply pipes to a 1.1 million gallon storage tank, which is cleaned and repaired on a regular basis. Water is distributed from the storage tank to university buildings.

To ensure your tap water remains safe to drink, there are 375 backflow assemblies installed to protect our water system. A Cross Connection Control Specialist and three Backflow Assembly Testers test all assemblies & repair or replace as required annually. A report is submitted to the Dept. of Health yearly.

What

is the Safe Drinking Water Act and what does it have to do with this report?

The Safe drinking Water Act, among other things, requires all public water systems to issue an annual report explaining what substances are in the water and in what amounts.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] and the Washington State Department of Health set standards for the amounts of various contaminants that are acceptable for drinking water safety. Eastern Washington University tests frequently for the presence of these substances.

Why

are there substances in the water?

As water travels through the ground it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animal or human activity. All drinking water, *including bottled drinking water*, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some substances.



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- ◆ **Non-Detected [ND]** - Laboratory analysis indicates that the substance is not present.
- ◆ **Parts per million [ppm] or Milligrams per liter [mg/l]** - One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000 or one half dissolved aspirin tablet [162.5] in a full bathtub of water [about 50 gallons].
- ◆ **Parts per billion [ppb]** - One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years or a single penny in \$10,000,000.
- ◆ **Action Level [AL]** - The concentration of a contaminant which if exceeded, trigger treatment or other requirements for a water system.
- ◆ **Maximum Contaminant Level [MCL]** - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLG as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- ◆ **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal [MCLG]** - The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

A public forum was held in June 2011 and will be continued in subsequent years for the purpose of keeping the public informed about our water use efficiency and good water conservation practices as well as to solicit public input on other ways to achieve the goals of water conservation.

Information on Detected Substances

Substances listed below were detected above laboratory detection limits on the dates indicated.

All are below levels allowed by federal and state agencies

Substance	Lowest Amount Detected	Highest Amount Detected	Laboratory Detection Limit	MCL	MCLG	Likely Source of Substance
Nutrients						
Nitrate-[ppm]	ND	0.71 [7-9-09]	0.05	10	10	Erosion of natural deposit Runoff from fertilizer
Metals						
Lead [ppb]	ND	0.044 [9-01-10]	2.0	15.0	0	Corrosion of plumbing systems Erosion of natural deposits
Other Minerals						
*Arsenic [ppb]	<2.00 [6-20-02]	<2.00 [6-20-02]	0.05	10.0	10.0	Naturally occurring element in the earth's crust

**Your drinking water currently meets EPA's revised water standard for arsenic. However, it does contain low levels of arsenic. There is a small chance that some people who drink water containing low levels of arsenic for many years could develop circulatory disease, cancer, or other health problems. Most types of cancer and circulatory diseases are due to factors other than exposure to arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arse-*

In 2010 there were 105 coliform (bacteriological) tests done through out the campus and 0 came back positive. Now that we chlorinate, daily chlorine readings are taken at random sites around campus to insure we have at least a trace of chlorine at all buildings. Because of the over the action level of lead detected last year, we are doing 120 more tests this year. We have an engineering firm on contract to guide us through this corrosion control process.

It is important to remember that the presence of these substances does not necessarily pose a health risk. Some people may be more vulnerable to substances 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 microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline

[800-426-4791].

In February of 2010 wells were tested for Radionuclide Radium 228 and gross alpha. Both wells tested as ND (non-detectable).

In August of 2009 both wells were tested for herbicides and pesticides to EPA standards. All tests were non-detectable.

Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hable con alguien que lo entienda.

このレポートには飲料水に関する重要な情報が記載されています。この英文を訳してもらるか、またはどなたか英語が分かる方にたずねてください。

A source water protection plan that provides more information is available for review.