

# Whiterocks

## Consumer Confidence Report 2020



### **What is a Consumer Confidence Report?**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires that owners of community drinking water systems prepare a report each year that summarizes the quality of their drinking water. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) mandates that every water system serving at least 15 homes provide its consumers with an annual report on the quality of the water it serves. The purpose of the report is to alert consumers of potential health concerns and allow them to make informed choices regarding the water that they consume. The tables included in this report summarize results of drinking water testing performed between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020. Some of the results are from previous years because we are required to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year.

### **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. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

### **Do I need to take special precautions?**

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 the drinking water in Whiterocks come from?**

The water supply for Whiterocks comes from the Whiterocks Springs. Groundwater is collected within the springs and flows by gravity to the Whiterocks sedimentation basin. Water then flows through the vault where chlorine is added to disinfect the water and phosphoric acid is added for corrosion control. Water then flows by gravity to our distribution system and stored into one storage tank. Water pressure in the distribution system is provided by gravity.

Type of water source: **Groundwater**

Name & Location of sources: **Whiterocks Springs**

For more information, contact: **Waylon Murdock or Tyrone McKewan**

Phone: **(435)-722-5176**

### **Source Water Assessment**

A Source Water Assessment has not been completed for our water sources.

### **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). 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: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; 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; pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses; organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and radioactive contaminants, which 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 that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

### **Information Regarding Your Drinking Water**

This notice is being sent to you by the Ute Tribe Water System. EPA Water System ID#: 084990003. Below is information where you can obtain further information included within this report. Please contact our office at 435-722-5176

More information about water quality may be found at EPA's hotline available on the following web site – [EPA.gov](http://EPA.gov)

### **Description of Water Treatment Process**

Your water is treated by chlorine to disinfect the water. Disinfection involves the addition of chlorine to kill dangerous bacteria and microorganisms that may be in the water. Disinfection is considered to be one of the major public health advances of the 20th century.

### **Water Conservation Tips**

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference - try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers. A 5-minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to 25 to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving can save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.

- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
- Visit [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense) for more information.

## 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 or MRDLG | MCL, TT, or MRDL | Detect In Your Water | Range |      | Sample Date | Violation | Typical Source   |
|---|---------------|------------------|----------------------|-------|------|-------------|-----------|--|
|   |               |                  |                      | Low   | High |             |           |  |
| <b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfection By-Products</b>   |               |                  |                      |       |      |             |           |  |
| (There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants) |               |                  |                      |       |      |             |           |  |
| Chlorine (as Cl <sub>2</sub> ) (ppm)  | 4 ppm         | 4                | 1                    | 1.0   | 1.0  | 2020        | No        | Water additive used to control microbes.   |
| Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)   | NA            | 60 ppb           | 0                    | 0     | 0    | 2020        | No        | By-product of drinking water chlorination  |
| TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)   | NA            | 80 ppb           | 0                    | 0     | 0    | 2020        | No        | By-product of drinking water disinfection.   |
| <b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>   |               |                  |                      |       |      |             |           |  |
| Asbestos (MFL)  | 7 MFL         | 7                | 0.2                  | 0.2   | 0.2  | 2015        | No        | Decay of asbestos cement water mains; Erosion of natural deposits                    |
| Arsenic   | 0 ppm         | 10               | 1                    | 1     | 1    | 2020        | No        | Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics |

| Contaminants                                    | MCLG or MRDLG | MCL, TT, or MRDL                           | Detect In Your Water | Range |             | Sample Date | Violation  | Typical Source  |
|---|---------------|--|----------------------|-------|-------------|-------------|--|---|
|   |               |  |                      | Low   | High        |             |  |   |
|   |               |  |                      |       |             |             |  | production wastes.  |
| Barium (ppm)                                    | 2             | 2  | 0.242                | 0.242 | 0.242       | 2020        | No   | Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits                                |
| Fluoride (ppm)                                  | 4             | 4  | 0.48                 | 0.48  | 0.48        | 2020        | No   | Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories |
| Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)            | 10            | 10   | 0.3                  | 0.3   | 0.3         | 2020        | No   | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits                               |
| Radioactive Contaminants                        | MCLG          | MCL  | Detect in Your Water |       | Sample Date | Violation   | Typical Source   |   |
| Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium (pCi/L) | 0             | 15   | 0.8                  |       | 2020        | No          | Erosion of natural deposits.   |   |
| Lead and Copper                                 | MCGL          | 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile level detected | AL                   |       | Sample Date | Violation   | Typical Source   |   |
| Lead (ppb)                                      | 0             | 2  | 15                   |       | 2020        | No          | Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits. |   |
| Copper (ppm)                                    | 1.3           | 0.69                                       | 1.3                  |       | 2020        | Yes         | Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.               |   |

| 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)                |
| MFL               | MFL: million fibers per liter, used to measure asbestos concentration |
| pCi/L             | pCi/L: picocuries per liter   |
| NA                | NA: not applicable  |
| ND                | ND: Not detected  |
| NR                | NR: Monitoring not required but recommended.                          |

| <b>Important Drinking Water Definitions</b> |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Term</b>                                 | <b>Definition</b>  |
| 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  |
| Level 1 Assessment                          | A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.  |
| Level 2 Assessment                          | A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions. |

## Violations

| <b>Ground Water Rule</b>  |            |      |  |
|---|------------|------|--|
| The Ground Water Rule specifies the appropriate use of disinfection while addressing other components of ground water systems to ensure public health protection. |            |      |  |
| Failure to Address Deficiency (GWR)   | 04/12/2014 | 2020 | We failed to properly respond to a significant deficiency in our water system. |

## 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. Whiterocks 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>.

**For more information please contact:**

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