2022 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT
CUSTER WATER ASSOCIATION
Ferndale, WA 98248 (360) 961-0562
May, 2023

Why you're getting this report . . .
In 1996, Congress amended the Safe Drinking Water Act. It added a provision requiring all community water systems to deliver to their customers a brief annual water quality report.

Overview of operations . . .
Custer's source of water is from 4 wells, these wells are located on the corner of Grandview and Olson Rd. The water is pumped from the wells to the storage tanks, which is then gravity feeds throughout the system to the customers.

Information we're required to give you . . .
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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-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 cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the 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 materials, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA and/or the Washington state Board of Health prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration and/or the Washington state Department of Agriculture regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which 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 storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil or gas production, mining or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

What we don't test for . . .

We are able to purchase a waiver periodically, and do not test for dioxin, Endothall, Diquat and Glyphosate if this waiver is granted.

We are required to test for asbestos once every nine years.

Other substances we do not test for annually are: Volatile Organic Compounds, Herbicides, General Pesticides, Insecticides, EDB and other soil fumigants, Inorganic Contaminants, and Radionuclides. All of these are on a three-year testing schedule.

Herbicides and Pesticides Tested for in 2021 were found ND (Not Detected) or below the MCL in 2021.

Volatile Organic Compounds Tested for in 2022

All Regulated Volatile Organic Compounds were found to be ND (Not Detected) or below the MCL in 2022.

Inorganic Contaminates Tested for in 2020----Next Test 2023

All Regulated Inorganic Contaminates were found to be ND (Not Detected) or below the MCL in 2020.

Need more information?

This report was prepared by Brad Ferris, Certified Operator #6768, and compiled from information provided by the management of Custer Water Association. If you have specific health concerns or health questions, please contact your health provider, or call the EPA hotline at 800-426-4791.

Any customer who wishes to see the entire panel of tests for the past should contact the Custer Water Association directly to obtain more information regarding testing results.

Most of the data will remain the same unless we were required to perform that testing in the reporting year some testing is required every year and some from 3—9 years depending on the type of test.

The water quality information presented in the table(s) is from the most recent round of testing done according to the regulations. All data shown are the results of the latest test performed.

Type of Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	S06	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Inorganic Compounds (IOC) EPA Regulated					
Arsenic	10 ppb	n/a	<2 ppb	**NO**	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from glass & electronics production wastes.
Barium	2 ppm	2 ppm	<2 ppm	**NO**	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Cadmium	5 ppb	5 ppb	<0.5 ppb	**NO**	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from metal refineries; runoff from waste batteries & paints.
Chromium	0.1 ppm	0.1 ppm	<0.005 ppm	**NO**	Discharge from steel & pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits.
Mercury	2 ppb	2 ppb	<0.5 ppb	**NO**	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from refineries and factories; runoff from landfills; runoff from cropland.
Selenium	50 ppb	50 ppb	<5 ppb	**NO**	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines.
Beryllium	4 ppb	4 ppb	<2 ppb	**NO**	Discharge from metal refineries & coal-burning factories; discharge from electrical, aerospace & defense industries.
Nickel	100 ppb		<.01 ppb	**NO**	Industrial wastewater; corrosion product of stainless steel, nickel or cobalt alloys.
Antimony	6 ppb	6 ppb	<.05 ppb	**NO**	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder.
Thallium	2 ppb	0.5 ppb	<.01 ppb	**NO**	Leaching from ore processing sites; discharge from electronics, glass & drug factories.
Cyanide	200 ppb	200 ppb	<50 ppb	**NO**	Discharge from steel/metal factories; discharge from plastic & fertilizer factories.
Fluoride	4 ppm	4 ppm	0.2 ppm	**NO**	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrite	1 ppm	1 ppm	.190 ppm	**NO**	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate	10 ppm	10 ppm	.190ppm	**NO**	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits. Tested 7/05/22
Inorganic Compounds (IOC) EPA Regulated (Secondary)					
Iron	0.3 ppm		0.37 ppm	**YES**	Leaching of natural deposits; industrial wastes; acidic mine discharge.
Manganese	0.05 ppm		0.045 ppm	**NO**	Naturally occurring in ground water; not considered to be a health risk.
Silver	0.05 ppm		<0.002 ppm	**NO**	
Chloride	250 ppm		5.6 ppm	**NO**	Sea water intrusion; sewage effluent; animal manure; industrial waste.
Sulfate	250 ppm		22 ppm	**NO**	Naturally occurring; mines and industrial effluents are also a source.
Zinc	5 ppm		<0.025 ppm	**NO**	Naturally occurring in ground water; may also occur in industrial effluent.

Type of Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	S06	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Inorganic Compounds (IOC) State Regulated					
Sodium	n/a	n/a	38 ppm	**NO**	Naturally present in the environment.
Hardness	n/a	n/a	97.2 ppm	**NO**	Refers to the calcium carbonate content of water (a naturally occurring mineral).
Conductivity	700 umhos/cm		353 umhos/cm	**NO**	A measure of the ability of water to carry an electric current.
Turbidity	1 NTU	n/a	3.0 NTU	**Yes**	A measure of the relative clarity of water. Indicates the presence of dispersed, suspended solids; particles not in true solution such as silt, clay, algae, and other microorganisms.
Color	15 color units	n/a	12 color units	**NO**	
Inorganic Compounds (IOC) State Unregulated					
Lead	15 ppb	0 ppb	0.0010ppm	**NO**	Erosion of natural deposits. Tested 2020
Copper	1.3 ppm	1.3 ppm	0.1303 ppm	**NO**	Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from Wood preservatives. Tested 2020
Asbestos	7.0 ppm	7.0 ppm	0.1310 ppm	**NO**	The major sources of Asbestos in drinking water are decay Of Asbestos cement water mains: and erosion of natural deposits.
Radioactive Contaminants					
Alpha emitters	15 pCi/l	n/a	n/a	**NO**	Erosion of natural deposits.
Beta/photon emitters	4 mrem/yr	n/a	n/a	**NO**	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.

Terms and abbreviations used in the tables above:

=>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.

=>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.

=>mrem/year: millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)

=>n/a: not applicable

=>ND: not detected

=>NTU: nephelometric turbidity units

=>ppb: parts per billion or micrograms per liter

=>ppm: parts per million or milligrams per liter

=>pCi/l: picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)

=>umhos/cm: micro ohms per centimeter

=>MRDL: 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.

=>MRDLG: ***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.

Possible health effects from substances found in our water samples

Arsenic: 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.

Barium: Some people who drink water containing barium in excess of the MCL over many years could experience an increase in their blood pressure.

Cadmium: Some people who drink water containing cadmium in excess of the MCL over many years could experience kidney damage,

Chromium: Some people who use water containing chromium well in excess of the MCL over many years could experience allergic dermatitis.

Mercury: Some people who drink water containing inorganic mercury well in excess of the MCL over many years could experience kidney damage.

Selenium: Selenium is an essential nutrient. However, some people who drink water containing selenium in excess of the MCL over many years could experience hair or fingernail losses, numbness in fingers or toes, or problems with their circulation.

Beryllium: Some people who drink water containing beryllium well in excess of the MCL over many years could develop intestinal lesions.

Nickel: Nickel is considered relatively nontoxic to humans.

Antimony: Some people who drink water containing antimony well in excess of the MCL over many years could experience increases in blood cholesterol and decreases in blood sugar.

Thallium: Some people who drink water containing thallium in excess of the MCL over many years could experience hair loss, changes in their blood, or problems with their kidneys, intestines, or liver.

Cyanide: Some people who drink water containing cyanide well in excess of the MCL over many years could experience nerve damage or problems with their thyroid.

Fluoride: Some people who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the MCL for many years could get bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones. Fluoride in drinking water at half the MCL or more may cause mottling of children's teeth, usually in children less than nine years old. Mottling, also known as dental fluorosis, may include brown staining and/or pitting of the teeth, and occurs only in developing teeth before they erupt from the gums.

Nitrite and **nitrate:** Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrite or nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue baby syndrome.

Iron: Iron usually does not occur in concentrations of health concern to humans. Excess iron could cause a metallic taste and orange-brown stains that would make it unsuitable for drinking and clothes washing.

Manganese: Not considered to be a health risk. Manganese causes dark stains in laundry and on plumbing fixtures, tends to deposit in water lines, and imparts an objectionable taste to beverages such as coffee and tea.

Silver: No information available.

Chloride: Excess amounts of chloride may cause a salty taste in the water.

Sulfate: Sulfate in excess of the MCL may have a bitter taste. Sulfate in excess of 500 ppm may have a laxative effect and cause other gastrointestinal upset.

Zinc: Is essential to human metabolism and has been found to necessary for proper growth. High concentrations of zinc in water act as stomach irritants but the effects are temporary.

Sodium: Excess amounts may contribute to high blood pressure.

Hardness: Does not pose a health threat, but does cause aesthetic problems. It can ruin hot water heater elements, reduce soap lathering, and make laundry difficult to clean. Moderate levels of hardness are beneficial because they inhibit plumbing system corrosion.

Turbidity: Turbidity in excess of the MCL might shield disease-causing bacteria from chlorine or ultraviolet light treatment and provide nutrients for bacteria and viruses to flourish.

Lead: Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level (15 ppb) could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

Copper: Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level (1.3 ppm) over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's disease should consult their personal doctor.

Alpha and **beta emitters:** Some people who drink water containing these forms of radiation in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

WATER LEAK FACTS:

- A 1/8 inch hole in a metal pipe, at 60 psi, leaks 3,800 gallons of water in 24 hours.
- A leak the size of a pinhead can waste 360,000 gallons per year, enough to fill 12,000 bathtubs to the overflow mark.
- A leaking toilet can use 90,000 gallons of water in 30 days.
- A dripping faucet/hose bib can lose up to 450 gallons a month or 5,400 gallons per year.
- A typical toilet leak at today's rate can add $$$ to a single water bill.
- Using a broom to clean the sidewalk instead of a hose saves 200 gallons of water.

If your toilet is running constantly, you could be wasting 3000 gallons of water or more every day.

If your toilet is leaking, the cause is most often an old, faulty toilet flapper. Over time, this inexpensive rubber part decays, or minerals build up on it. It's usually best to replace the whole rubber flapper—a relatively easy, inexpensive do-it-yourself project that pays for itself in no time.