

2016 Eureka Treatment Plant Consumer Confidence 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. 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 one of those contaminants, and found only one 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). Health Effects Statements : Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a short period 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. Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level 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.

Where does my water come from?

The main supply for the Eureka System is the Eureka Filtration Plant. Normally, this plant is on standby and is only used in emergencies, but was used from May through December, in 2016. During this time the Eureka Plant produced just over seventeen million gallons, with the majority

of this water being distributed to the western and southern parts of the water system. The Eureka Filtration Plant is a package type plant which uses the conventional treatment processes', which include coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation and filtration through two rapid sand filters. Polyaluminium Chloride is used for coagulation, liquid chlorine is used for disinfection and a blended phosphate is used for corrosion control and sequestering purposes. Improvements to the system included the new 750,000 gallon storage tank at the Eureka Facility

Source water assessment and its availability

A Source Water Assessment of the Maple Avenue Wellfield and the Eureka/Mountain Pond sources was recently conducted by the Department of Public Health's Drinking Water Division. The updated assessment report can be found on the DPH's website: <http://www.dph.state.us/BRS/Water/SourceProtection/Assessment/Assessments.html>. The assessments found that these drinking water sources have a LOW susceptibility to potential sources of contamination. Additional source water assessment information can be found at the EPA'S website: www.epa.gov/safewater/protect/swap.html.

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). 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.

How can I get involved?

Public Utility Commission meetings are generally held on the first and third Monday of each month, in Meeting Room A, at the Municipal Center. Water related issues can be addressed to the Public Utilities Department at 203-794-8549. The current Utility Commissioners are: Matthew Knickerbocker, Richard Straiton, Paul Szatkowski, Dino Gualtieri, and Peter Valenti. Current Utility Department employees include: Doug Arndt, Director of Public Works, Kelly Curtis, Water Superintendant, Edward Knapp, Chief Plant Operator, Justin Bechtold, Richard Benzing, Norman Cook, Chris McCollam and Chris Cudzillo, all Water and Sewer Maintainers. Copies of this report are available on the Town Of Bethel's website at Bethel-ct.gov.com. and hard copies are available in the Public Works Office in the Municipal Center.

Description of Water Treatment Process

Your water is treated in a "treatment train" (a series of processes applied in a sequence) that includes coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation, filtration, and disinfection. Coagulation removes dirt and other particles suspended in the source water by adding chemicals (coagulants) to form tiny sticky particles called "floc," which attract the dirt particles. Flocculation (the formation of larger flocs from smaller flocs) is achieved using gentle, constant mixing. The heavy particles settle naturally out of the water in a sedimentation basin. The clear water then moves to the filtration process where the water passes through sand, gravel, charcoal or other filters that remove even smaller particles. A small amount of chlorine or other disinfection method is used to kill bacteria and other microorganisms (viruses, cysts, etc.) that may be in the water before water is stored and distributed to homes and businesses in the community.

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 up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and 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 for more information.

Cross Connection Control Survey

The purpose of this survey is to determine whether a cross-connection may exist at your home or business. A cross connection is an unprotected or improper connection to a public water distribution system that may cause contamination or pollution to enter the system. We are responsible for enforcing cross-connection control regulations and insuring that no contaminants can, under any flow conditions, enter the distribution system. If you have any of the devices listed below please contact us so that we can discuss the issue, and if needed, survey your connection and assist you in isolating it if that is necessary.

- Boiler/ Radiant heater (water heaters not included)
- Underground lawn sprinkler system
- Pool or hot tub (whirlpool tubs not included)
- Additional source(s) of water on the property
- Decorative pond
- Watering trough

Source Water Protection Tips

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides - they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community, or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with your local government or water supplier. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste - Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

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. Bethel Utility Department 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 or MRDLG | MCL, TT, or MRDL | Detect In Your Water | Range | | Sample Date | Violation | Typical Source |
|---|---------------|------------------|----------------------|-------------|------------------------|-------------|--|--|
| | | | | Low | High | | | |
| Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products | | | | | | | | |
| (There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants) | | | | | | | | |
| Chlorine (as Cl ₂) (ppm) | 4 | 4 | 2.35 | 1.01 | 2.35 | 2016 | No | Water additive used to control microbes |
| Total Organic Carbon (% Removal) | NA | TT | NA | NA | NA | 2016 | No | Naturally present in the environment |
| Inorganic Contaminants | | | | | | | | |
| Barium (ppm) | 2 | 2 | .01 | NA | NA | 2016 | No | Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Copper - source water (ppm) | NA | | .02 | NA | NA | 2016 | No | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Sodium (optional) (ppm) | NA | | 45 | NA | NA | 2016 | Yes | Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching |
| Microbiological Contaminants | | | | | | | | |
| Total Coliform (TCR) (% positive samples/month) | 0 | 5 | 0 | NA | NA | 2016 | No | Naturally present in the environment |
| Radioactive Contaminants | | | | | | | | |
| Alpha emitters (pCi/L) | 0 | 15 | .15 | NA | NA | 2016 | No | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L) | 0 | 5 | .4 | NA | NA | 2016 | 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 | .4 | 2016 | 0 | No | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits | |
| Inorganic Contaminants | | | | | | | | |
| Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb) | 0 | 15 | 2 | 2016 | 1 | No | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits | |

| Violations and Exceedances |
|---|
| <p>Sodium (optional) If you are on a sodium restricted diet please inform your physician that your drinking water contains 45 milligrams per liter of sodium. Chemical levels were lowered to reduce sodium levels.</p> |

Additional Contaminants

In an effort to insure the safest water possible the State has required us to monitor some contaminants not required by Federal regulations. Of those contaminants only the ones listed below were found in your water.

| Contaminants | State MCL | Your Water | Violation | Explanation and Comment |
|--------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-------------------------|
| Chloride | 250 ppm | 65 ppm | No | |

Undetected Contaminants

The following contaminants were monitored for, but not detected, in your water.

| Contaminants | MCLG or MRDLG | MCL, TT, or MRDL | Your Water | Violation | Typical Source |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|------------------|------------|-----------|---|
| Fluoride (ppm) | 4 | 4 | ND | No | Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories |
| Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm) | 10 | 10 | ND | No | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Nitrite [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm) | 1 | 1 | ND | No | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Uranium (ug/L) | 0 | 30 | ND | No | Erosion of natural deposits |

| Unit Descriptions | |
|-------------------|--|
| Term | Definition |
| ug/L | ug/L : Number of micrograms of substance in one liter of water |
| ppm | ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L) |
| ppb | ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L) |

| Unit Descriptions | |
|--------------------------|---|
| pCi/L | pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity) |
| % positive samples/month | % positive samples/month: Percent of samples taken monthly that were positive |
| 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 |

For more information please contact:

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