



## *Annual Drinking Water Quality Report*

### **Section 1.** *Annual Drinking Water Quality Report – Saratoga Water System – June 2016*

**Section 2.** We're pleased to present to you this year's (2015) Annual Quality Water 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. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water supply is a groundwater source from the North Park Formation.

**Section 3.** The Saratoga Water System is owned and operated by the Town of Saratoga and the Town of Saratoga, Carbon County, Impact Joint Powers Board.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact the EPA at 1-800-227-8917 or the Saratoga Town Hall, Jon Winter at 307-326-8335. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings, which are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:00 P.M. at the Saratoga Town Hall.

**Section 4.** The Saratoga Water System routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015. As water travels over the land or underground, it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. 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 results 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 byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- 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 which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these constituents 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800-426-4791).

**Section 5.** In this table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

*Non-Detects (ND)* - Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

*Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)* -Parts per million (ppm) is a measure of the concentration of a contaminant in water. One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

*Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter* - Parts per billion (ppb) is a measure of the concentration of a contaminant in water. One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

*Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)* - Picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

*Millirems per year (mrem/yr)* - Measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

*Million Fibers per Liter (MFL)* - Million fibers per liter is a measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

*Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)* - Nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

*Variances & Exemptions (V&E)* - State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

*Action Level* - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

*Treatment Technique (TT)* - A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

*Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)* - 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.

*Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)* - 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.

**Section 6.**

<b>TEST RESULTS</b>						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>						
Total Coliform Bacteria	N	ND		0	presence of coliform bacteria in 5% of monthly samples	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal coliform and <i>E.coli</i>	N	ND		0	a routine sample and repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one is also fecal coliform or <i>E. coli</i> positive	Human and animal fecal waste
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b> ( <i>Previous years sample results - next scheduled sample 2016</i> )						
Beta/photon emitters	N	3.4	mrem/yr	0	4	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Alpha emitters	N	4.6	pCi/l	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>						
Antimony	N	ND	ppb	6	6	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder
Arsenic	N	ND	ppb	n/a	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Asbestos ( <i>Previous sample - next scheduled sample 2020</i> )	N	0.17	MFL	7	7	Decay of asbestos cement water mains; erosion of natural deposits
Barium (Previous sample)	N	0.1	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Beryllium	N	ND	ppb	4	4	Discharge from metal refineries and coal-burning factories; discharge from electrical, aerospace, and defense
Cadmium	N	ND	ppb	5	5	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from metal refineries; runoff from waste batteries and
Chromium	N	ND	ppb	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits

Copper (Previous years sample - next scheduled sample 2016)	N	0.32	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Cyanide	N	ND	ppb	200	200	Discharge from steel/metal factories; discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories
Fluoride (Previous sample)	N	0.5	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead (Previous sample - next scheduled sample 2016)	N	4	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Mercury (inorganic)	N	ND	ppb	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from refineries and factories; runoff from landfills; runoff from cropland
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	N	0.8	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite (as Nitrogen)	N	ND	ppm	1	1	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural
Selenium	N	ND	ppb	50	50	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines
Thallium	N	ND	ppb	0.5	2	Leaching from ore-processing sites; discharge from electronics, glass, and drug factories
<b>Volatile Organic Contaminants</b>						
Halocetic Acids	N	1.1	ppb	0	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHM	N	2.6	ppb	0	100	By-product of drinking water chlorination.

The contaminants listed above are the only ones which had a detectable limit.

**Lead & Copper:** The 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value for the most recent round of sampling for lead and copper was 0.004 mg/l for lead and 0.32 mg/l for copper. The highest lead value measured was 0.004 mg/l. The highest copper value measured was 0.41 mg/l.  
(previous years sample - next scheduled sample 2016)

**Section 7.** MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

**Section 8.** 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/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

**Section 9.** 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. The Saratoga Water System 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>.

**Section 10.** 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 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](http://www.epa.gov/watersense) for more information.

**Section 11.** We constantly monitor for various constituents in the water supply to meet regulatory requirements. In particular, we are required to monitor for total coliforms, nitrates, inorganic chemicals, volatile organic chemicals, synthetic organic chemicals, disinfection byproducts, and lead and copper on a regulated schedule established by EPA.

***Section 12.*** Please call our office if you have questions. We at the Saratoga Water System work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future. Customers can obtain a copy of the 2015 Consumer Confidence Report at Town Hall.