

Galena City Water Quality Report 2023

Public Water System ID# AK2360272

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 14 of those contaminants, and found only 1 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).

Where does my water come from?

Two ground water wells at 336 feet and 307 feet deep provide our water. It is treated and disinfected through hypochlorination. Particulates are removed by flocculation, iron is removed by manganese greensand and permanganate filtration.

Source water assessment and its availability

Both groundwater wellheads received a susceptibility rating of Very High and the aquifer received a susceptibility rating of Very High. Combining these two ratings produce a Very High rating for the natural susceptibility of the well. For more information regarding the source water assessment or to receive a full copy of the report please contact ADEC at 907-269-7549. You can also find out more information about our drinking water system on the ADEC Drinking Water Watch webpage <https://dec.alaska.gov/DWW/>

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.

How can I get involved?

Contact the City office if you have questions about your water.

Monitoring and reporting of compliance data violations

1. We are required to sample monthly for Total Coliform; however, we did not submit TCR samples in August or September 2023. Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present. We returned to compliance with the submittal of the October 2023 samples.
2. We are required to report the level of chlorine found in the water in the distribution system when we perform our monthly total coliform sampling. We did not do this in August, September, or November 2023. Chlorine is a water additive used to control microbes. Some people who use water containing chlorine well in excess of the MRDL could experience irritating effects to their eyes, nose, and/or stomach discomfort. Untreated water may contain organisms, including bacteria, viruses, and parasites, that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and headaches. We returned to compliance with the submittal of the December 2023 samples.

Public Notice Violations

The public notice certification for the HAA5 exceedance in the 1st quarter was not completed and submitted to DEC. We can return to compliance by submitting the completed certification form.

Significant Deficiencies

Four significant deficiencies noted in the 2023 sanitary survey remain outstanding:

1. The surveyor noted that the ladders to the storage tanks were inaccessible due to snow and ice, so they were not able to inspect the storage tanks hatches, vents, roofs, and overflow outlets. The system operator or owner will need to provide photos to DEC once it is safe to access the storage tanks.
2. The system has a hose hooked up to the raw water tap for Well 1 which is left running to prevent the well lines from freezing. The hose goes to a PVC pipe and then to a drain. The PVC pipe needs to have at least two times the diameter air gap. The system owner or operator will need to resolve this deficiency and provide photos of the correction to DEC.
3. At the time of the survey, the wells could not be inspected to ensure the sanitary seals and well cases were in good condition. The operator did provide photos of Well 1 using a scope, but it cannot be determined if the top of the seal is in good condition. The system operator or owner will need to provide photos to DEC once the snow melts and inspection of the wells can be completed.
4. The surveyor could not verify that the water pump and lubricant used on the water haul truck is NSF compliant. The system will need to provide documentation and photos of the pump and the lubricant used to DEC.

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. Galena WTP1 - City 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>.

Additional Information for Arsenic

While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

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 | .48 | NA | .48 | 2023 | No | Water additive used to control microbes |
| Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb) | NA | 60 | 8 | 0 | 23.3 | 2023 | Yes | By-product of drinking water chlorination |
| TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb) | NA | 80 | 15 | 1.2 | 13.57 | 2023 | No | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| Total Organic Carbon (% Removal) | NA | TT | 47.96 | NA | NA | 2023 | No | Naturally present in the environment |
| Inorganic Contaminants | | | | | | | | |
| Arsenic (ppb) | 0 | 10 | 0 | NA | NA | 2020 | No | Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes |
| Barium (ppm) | 2 | 2 | .16 | NA | NA | 2020 | No | Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits |

| Contaminants | MCLG or MRDLG | MCL, TT, or MRDL | Detect In Your Water | Range | | Sample Date | Violation | Typical Source |
|--|---------------|------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------|--|---|
| | | | | Low | High | | | |
| Chromium (ppb) | 100 | 100 | 1.2 | NA | NA | 2020 | No | Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm) | 10 | 10 | 0 | NA | NA | 2023 | No | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Radioactive Contaminants | | | | | | | | |
| Alpha emitters (pCi/L) | 0 | 15 | 0 | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L) | 0 | 5 | .43 | NA | NA | 2019 | 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 | 1.1 | January to June 2023 | 0 | No | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits | |
| Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm) | 1.3 | 1.3 | .84 | July to December 2023 | 0 | No | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits | |
| Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb) | 0 | 15 | 13 | January to June 2023 | 0 | No | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits | |
| Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb) | 0 | 15 | 21 | July to December 2023 | 3 | Yes | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits | |

| Violations and Exceedances |
|---|
| <p>Lead - action level at consumer taps</p> <p>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. The exceedances occurred on 10/17/2023 when taking our twice-annual lead samples. 3 of the 11 sample locations throughout the distribution system exceeded the action level, and as a result the system exceeded the overall 90th percentile action level for lead. We are actively working to identify any source of lead and will replace any faucets or fixtures as necessary.</p> |
| Violations and Exceedances |
| <p>Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)</p> <p>Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Total Haloacetic Acid (HAA5) levels exceeded the Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA) MCL in the first quarter of 2023. During the summer of 2023 the system underwent upgrades to</p> |

| Violations and Exceedances |
|---|
| the treatment system that improved removal of disinfectant byproducts. As a result of the upgrades, we returned to compliance with the submittal of the HAA5 samples in the 4 th quarter of 2023, collected 12/8/23. |

| 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) |
| pCi/L | pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity) |
| 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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