

# 2014 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER REPORT Water System 3 PWS # 93353P

## 2014 Drinking Water Contaminant Testing

### Where Your Water Comes From

Your drinking water comes from the **Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer** (see reverse for map). This pristine and abundant aquifer lies in two states, holds ten trillion gallons of water, and is the sole source of drinking water for almost half a million people in the region. This groundwater source is recharged by the local precipitation and the snow pack in northern Idaho and western Montana and is naturally filtered by surface vegetation and the layers of gravel above the water line. The aquifer travels through northern Idaho and into Washington where it discharges into the Spokane River and the Little Spokane River.

The SVRP aquifer is unique because of its vast size, swift flow of water, porous soils and due to the fact that the land over the aquifer is extensively developed. These factors make our aquifer uniquely susceptible to contamination. We must all treat the aquifer with care to keep our drinking water clean for everyone to enjoy.

In the past one hundred years aquifer levels have remained constant, however scientific models have shown us that even though the aquifer is plentiful it is not unlimited. Careful planning will be required in the coming years to ensure that this aquifer remains clean and available for our community.

**LEAD** In Washington State, lead in drinking water comes primarily from materials and components used in household plumbing. The more time water has been sitting in pipes, the more dissolved metals, such as lead, it may contain. Elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially in pregnant women and young children.

To help reduce potential exposure to lead: for any drinking water tap that has not been used for 6 hours or more, flush water through the tap until the water is noticeably colder before using for drinking or cooking. You can use the flushed water for watering plants, washing dishes, or general cleaning. Only use water from the cold-water tap for drinking, cooking, and especially for making baby formula. Hot water is likely to contain higher levels of lead. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water is available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or online at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

#### ENGLISH

This report contains important information about your drinking water. Have someone translate it for you, or speak with someone who understands it.

#### SPANISH

Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hable con alguien que lo entienda.

Your drinking water is brought to your home by **Spokane County Water District #3**. SCWD#3 operates 9 independent water systems in Spokane County and is dedicated to making sure that every drop of water delivered to your tap is clean and safe for your family. Water District Board Meetings are held weekly on Tuesday mornings at 10:00am.

Spokane County Water District #3  
1225 N. Yardley Street  
Spokane, WA 99212-7001

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Department of Health and EPA prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Washington Department of Agriculture regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

### Always Working To Improve

SCWD#3 strives to be a good steward of the aquifer and your water system. Year round water quality monitoring, replacing aging or leaking pipes and pumps, and planning for growth are just some of the responsibilities of the district. We set water use efficiency goals for our system in 2008 and report our progress to you annually.

**REDUCE SYSTEM LEAKAGE TO LESS THAN 10%:** "Unaccounted for" water decreased from 16% to 11% in 2014. Several leaks were also discovered and repaired in 2014. Effort is ongoing to meet this goal.

**HIGH EFFICIENCY CLOTHES WASHER AND LOW FLOW TOILET REBATE PROGRAM:** SCWD #3 continues to cooperate with Spokane County Utilities and their rebate program.

**CONSERVATION ORIENTED RATE STRUCTURE:** SCWD #3 adjusted the second tier of the "inclining" block rate structure in 2008 to provide an incentive for customers to reduce their water usage.

**RADON** Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that is common in the Spokane area. Exposure to excessive amounts of radon may increase cancer risk. Your drinking water, in most cases is a very small source of radon in indoor air. For local assistance concerning radon in your home, contact the Spokane County Health District at (509) 324-1560 ext. 5

#### RUSSIAN

В этом сообщении содержится важная информация о воде, которую вы пьёте. Попросите кого-нибудь перевести для вас это сообщение или поговорите с человеком, который понимает его содержание.

#### VIETNAMESE

Tài liệu này có tin tức quan trọng về nước uống của quý vị. Hãy nhờ người dịch cho quý vị, hoặc hỏi người nào hiểu tài liệu này.

In order to insure that your water is *clean and safe*, your utility tests for contaminants all year long. We are proud to report that your water meets or exceeds all state and federal regulations. While some contaminants were found in the water, the Environmental Protection Agency has determined that your water is safe at these levels for you and your family. Keep in mind that the presence of contaminants doesn't mean the water is unsafe. MCLs are set at very stringent levels. 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. Health related standards are set by the Washington State Department of Health

### SOURCE WATER TESTING (sample taken at the well)

CONTAMINANT	UNITS	MCLG	MCL	HIGHEST DETECTION	POSSIBLE SOURCE
SYNTHETIC ORGANIC CHEMICALS	ppb	Varies by Chemical	Varies by Chemical	ND	Varies by Chemical
VOLATILE ORGANIC CHEMICALS	ppb	Varies by Chemical	Varies by Chemical	ND	Varies by Chemical
NITRITE	ppm	10	10	1.3	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
ARSENIC (2010)	ppb	NA	10	3.0	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards and glass and electronic production waste

### DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM TESTING (sample taken at the tap)

CONTAMINANT	UNITS	MCLG	AL	90th PERCENTILE	POSSIBLE SOURCE
LEAD	ppb	0	50	1.7	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.
COPPER	ppm	1.3	1.3	0.088	

CONTAMINANT	UNITS	MCLG	MCL	HIGHEST DETECTION	POSSIBLE SOURCE
TOTAL TRIHALOMETHANE	ppb	0	80	0.93	By-product of chlorination
TOTAL HALOACETIC ACID	ppb	0	60	ND	By-product of chlorination
E. COLI BACTERIA		0	A routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one is also E. coli positive	ND	Human and Animal Fecal Waste

### ABBREVIATIONS:

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

**MCL** - Maximum Contaminant Level - The highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water.

**MCLG** - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

**ND** - Not Detected

**NA** - Not Applicable

**pCi/L** - Pico Curies per Liter - a unit of radioactivity

**90th Percentile** - 90% of at risk homes had this concentration or less of lead/copper.

**ppb** - parts per billion or micrograms per liter. About 1 drop in one of the largest tanker trucks used to haul gasoline would represent 1 ppb.



**ppm** - parts per million or milligrams per liter. About 4 drops in a 55 gallon barrel would represent 1 ppm.

