AUTEC Utilities Dept.

2023 Annual Water-Quality Report

Dear Customer:

AUTEC is pleased to present a summary of the quality of the water provided to you during the past year. The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires that stateside utilities issue an annual "Consumer Confidence" report to customers, in addition to other notices that may be required by law. Although the SDWA does not technically apply to AUTEC, the Utilities Department strives to provide you with a product and service comparable to that you could expect to receive in the States. This report details where our water comes from, what it contains, and the risks our water testing and treatment are designed to prevent. As in past years, AUTEC water has been well below the maximum contamination limits set by the SDWA as well as AUTEC's Final Governing Standards (the environmental regulations that apply at AUTEC). As always, AUTEC Utilities Department is committed to providing you with a safe and reliable water supply.

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?

AUTEC's Utilities Department is supplied by surface water originating from a number of shallow wells, a 2000-foot infiltration gallery, and a rainwater catchment apron. All sources are located on the AUTEC premises. Our drinking water is processed through a reverse osmosis facility, which is capable of removing greater than 95% of most inorganic contaminants. Furthermore, reverse osmosis is among the most effective technologies available for removal of bacteria, viruses, and other microorganisms. In addition, AUTEC has an activated carbon adsorption system capable of removing all but trace levels of most organic contaminants from our drinking water. This technology complements the reverse osmosis system in place to produce water of enviable quality.

Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

All 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 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. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

(A) Microbial contaminants such as viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

(B) 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 and gas production, mining, or farming.

(C) Pesticides and herbicides that may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.

(D) Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals that are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, can come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

(E) Radioactive contaminants that 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 (40 CFR, Part 141) that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water.

Water Quality Data Table

The table below shows the results of our ongoing water-quality analysis program. Every regulated contaminant that we detected in our water is listed. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in the table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. AUTEC's Final Governing Standards (the environmental regulations that apply at AUTEC) allow us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

Important Drinking Water Definitions:

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.

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.

Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL): The highest level of a secondary contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Secondary contaminants are those that primarily affect the aesthetic qualities relating to the public acceptance of drinking water.

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.

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.

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

CY2023 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) Regarding PFAS

What are per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances and where do they come from?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of thousands of manufactured chemicals. PFAS have been used in a variety of industries and consumer products around the globe, including in the United States, since the 1940s. PFAS have been used to make coatings and products that are used as oil and water repellents for carpets, clothing, paper packaging for food, and cookware. They are also contained in some foams (aqueous film-forming foam or AFFF) used for fighting petroleum fires at airfields and in industrial fire suppression processes because they rapidly extinguish fires, saving lives and protecting property. PFAS chemicals are persistent in the environment and some are persistent in the human body – meaning they do not break down and they can accumulate over time.

Is there a regulation for PFAS in drinking water?

There is currently no established federal water quality regulation for any PFAS compounds. In May 2016, the EPA established a health advisory (HA) level at 70 parts per trillion (ppt) for individual or combined concentrations of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS). Both chemicals are types of PFAS.

Out of an abundance of caution for your safety, the Department of Defense's (DOD) PFAS testing and response actions go beyond EPA Safe Drinking Water Act requirements. In 2020, the DOD promulgated a policy to monitor drinking water for PFAS at all service owned and operated water systems at a minimum of every three years.

The EPA's health advisory of 2016 states that if water sampling results confirm that drinking water contains PFOA and PFOS at individual or combined concentrations greater than 70 parts per trillion, water systems should quickly undertake additional sampling to assess the level, scope, and localized source of contamination to inform next steps.

In June 2022, EPA issued interim, updated drinking water health advisories for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) that replace those EPA issued in 2016. The updated advisory levels, which are based on new science and consider lifetime exposure, indicate that some negative health effects may occur with concentrations of PFOA or PFOS in water that are near zero and below EPA's ability to detect at this time. The lower the level of PFOA and PFOS, the lower the risk to public health. EPA recommends states, Tribes, territories, and drinking water utilities that detect PFOA and PFOS take steps to reduce exposure.

Has AUTEC tested its water for PFAS?

Yes. In June and August 2023, samples were collected from the First Point of Entry into the system.

Below MRL

We are pleased to report that drinking water testing results were below the Method Reporting Limit (MRL) for all 18 PFAS compounds covered by EPA Method 537.1, including PFOA and PFOS, and for all 25 PFAS compounds covered by EPA Method 533. This means that PFAS compounds were not detected in your water system. In accordance with DOD policy, the water system will be resampled every **3** years for your continued protection. Therefore, the next sampling and analysis for PFAS is scheduled for 2026.

If interested in further information about PFAS, here is an EPA link:

www.epa.gov/pfas/pfas-explained

Contaminants (Units)	MCLG	MCL	Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Inorganic Contaminants								
Barium (ppm)	2.0	2.0	0.0054	N/A	N/A	04/19/2023	No	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge of drilling waste from metal refineries.
Fluoride (ppm)	4.0	4.0	0.042	N/A	N/A	04/19/2023	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate (ppm) [measured as Nitrogen]	10	10	0.49	0.15	0.49	05/03/2023	No	Runoff from fertilizer use. Leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion or natural deposits.
Disinfectant Residual (Free Chlorine mg/L)	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	1.2	0.3	1.2	Various	No	Water additive to control microbes.
Sodium (ppm)	N/A	N/A	34.7	N/A	N/A	04/19/2023	No	Sea water intrusion into aquifer. Water treatment chemicals. Erosion of natural deposits and leaching.
Radioactive Contaminants								
Tritium (pCi/L)	0	20,000	<476	N/A	N/A	02/2022 – 11/2022	No	Decay of manmade deposits.
Note: According to the Federal Governing Standards, analysis for Radioactive Contaminants has a frequency of once every **4** years. Therefore, the next sampling and analysis for Radioactive contaminants is scheduled for 2026.								
Microbiological Contaminants								
Turbidity (Conventional Direct Filtration) (NTU)	N/A	TT<=0.30	0.24	0.02	0.24	Various	No	Soil runoff.
Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water. It is used to indicate water quality and filtration effectiveness (e.g., whether disease-causing microorganisms are present). Per national primary drinking water regulations, TT is the 95th percentile for each month. Higher turbidity levels are often associated with higher levels of disease-causing microorganisms such as viruses, parasites and some bacteria. These organisms can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.								
Disinfection By-products								
TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes) (ppb)	N/A	80	57.3	7.3	57.3	02/01/2023-11/07/2023	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	N/A	60	3.5	1.1	3.5	02/01/2023-11/07/2023	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Unregulated Contaminants								
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	0	MNR	25.0	1.6	25.0	02/01/2023-11/07/2023	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination, an individual THM.
Bromoform (ppb)	0	MNR	10.0	0.58	10.0	02/01/2023-11/07/2023	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination, an individual THM.
Chloroform (ppb)	MNR	MNR	12.1	0.79	12.1	02/01/2023-11/07/2023	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination, an individual THM.
Dibromochloromethane (ppb)	60	MNR	22.4	1.1	22.4	02/01/2023-11/07/2023	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination, an individual THM.
Dibromoacetic Acid (ppb)	MNR	MNR	2.2	0.6	2.2	02/01/2023-11/07/2023	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination, an individual HAA.
Dichloroacetic Acid (ppb)	0	MNR	1.3	N/D	1.3	02/01/2023-11/07/2023	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination, an individual HAA.

Contaminants (units)	MCLG	AL	Your Water 90%<	# of Samples > AL	Sample Date	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
Inorganic Contaminants							
Lead (ppb)	0	15	1	0 of 10	08/03/2023	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.1	0 of 10	08/08/2023	No	Erosion of natural deposits. Leaching from wood preservatives. Corrosion of household plumbing systems.

Contaminants (Units)	MCLG	MCL	Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Secondary Drinking Water Contaminants								
Calcium Carbonate (ppm)	N/A	MNR	48	6	48	01/02/2023	No	Intentionally added to control corrosion.
Chloride (ppm)	N/A	250	24	8	24	09/18/2023	No	Sea water intrusion into aquifer.

Units Description
N/A: Not Applicable
N/D: Not Detected
N/R: Not Reported

MNR: Monitoring not required, but recommended (No MCL has been established);

mg/L: Number of milligrams of substance in one liter of water;

pCi/L: Picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity);

ppm: Parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L);

ppb: Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L);

NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is monitored to ensure the effectiveness of our filtration system.

For more information contact:
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