

Annual Water Quality Report for 2012

Consumer Confidence Report

Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe PWS# 105311106

Is my water safe?

Last year, as in years past, your tap water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) drinking water health standards. The Sauk-Suiattle Utility vigilantly safeguards its water supplies and once again we are proud to report that our system has not violated a maximum contaminant level during the 2012 testing period, and the results are listed in the table below

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?

The drinking water used and supplied by the Sauk-Suiattle Utility comes from a well source located adjacent to the pump house, which was drilled in June of 2005, and is distributed from a 60ft storage tower constructed in 2006.

Source water assessment and its availability

The source water for the Sauk-Suiattle Utility comes from an underground aquifer. The Utility installed a new well in June of 2005. The well was constructed by Dahlman Pump & Well Drilling Inc, located in Burlington, WA. The well is 6 inches in diameter and 140 feet deep and initial pump test done indicating a yield of 61 gpm with a 1 inch drawdown over an 8 hour period. You can contact the Utility/Roads Director, Aron Harris, at 360-436-0131 to view the well log and the initial sampling reports at anytime during normal operating hours. Indian Health Services conducted a Sanitary Survey in May of 2011 and noted several Deficiencies all which have been corrected with the exception of 1 which we are currently working with IHS to resolve by decommissioning well # 1 on the Sauk-Suiattle Reservation, and the RFP will be sent out soon.

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 storm water 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 storm water 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 storm water 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?

You can get involved by properly discarding household chemicals, automobile oil and antifreeze, as well as notifying the Utility of any leaks outside the home. To report leaks inside your home please notify the Housing Authority and call a certified plumber.

Conservation Tips

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 350 gallons of water per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost or no-cost ways to conserve water. Water your lawn at the least sunny times of the day. Fix toilet and faucet leaks. Take short showers - a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath. Turn the faucet off while brushing your teeth and shaving; 3-5 gallons go down the drain per minute. 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 use.

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. Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe 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>. The Sauk-Suiattle Indian Utility tests every 3 years for Lead. The last test was 09/2012 the next scheduled tests are in 2015. The results of that test will be posted on that year's CCR.

See the Water Quality Data Table for the results of the 2012 test for lead.

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>

Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. 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 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 change frequently.

<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG or MRDLG</u>	<u>MCL, TT, or MRDL</u>	<u>Your Water</u>	<u>Range</u>		<u>Sample Date</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
				<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>			
Inorganic Contaminants								
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	.37	None	None	06/2012	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposit.
Total Coliform Bacteria % Positive			Absent	None	None	Monthly	No	Total Coliform Bacteria testing is used to monitor microbial quality in the water distribution system. Sauk-Suiattle takes 1 sample per month of which none tested positive for Coliform Bacteria
Asbestos			Absent	None	None	3/28/2011	No	
Barium	2	2	.01	None	None	5/5/2010	No	
Iron	.3	.3	.088	None	None	5/5/2010	No	
Chloride	250	250	.75	None	None	5/5/2010	No	
Sulfate	250	250	3	None	None	5/5/2010	No	
Zinc	5	5	.007	None	None	5/5/2010	No	
Sodium			1.92	None	None	5/5/2010	No	
Hardness as Calcium Carbonate			29.4	None	None	5/5/2010	No	

Contaminates	MCLG Or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range Low High	Sample Date	Violation
Electrical Conductivity	700	700	66.2	None None	5/5/2010	No
Turbidity	1	1	.96	None None	5/5/2010	No
Total Dissolved Solids	500	500	37	None None	5/5/2010	

<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>AL</u>	<u>Your Water</u>	<u>Sample Date</u>	<u># Samples Exceeding AL</u>	<u>Exceeds AL</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
Inorganic Contaminants							
Lead – action level at consumer taps (ppb)	.015	.015	ND-.002	9/2012	0	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper – action level at consumer tap	1.3	1.3	.160-.453	9/2012	0	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Undetected Contaminants

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

<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG or MRDLG</u>	<u>MCL or MRDL</u>	<u>Your Water</u>	<u>Violation</u>
Inorganic Contaminants, Synthetic Organic Compounds, Volatile Organic Compounds, Disinfectant By-Products, Herbicides and others that are available in the Utility Office between 8:30 A.M.-4:30 P.M. Mon.-Fri.				

<u>Unit Descriptions</u>	
<u>Term</u>	<u>Definition</u>
ppm	
ppb	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
positive samples	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
NA	positive samples/yr: The number of positive samples taken that year
ND	NA: not applicable
NR	ND: Not detected
	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

<u>Important Drinking Water Definitions</u>	
<u>Term</u>	<u>Definition</u>
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.

Variations and Exemptions	Variations 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:

Aron Harris
Address:
5318 Chief Brown Lane
Darrington, WA 98241
360-436-0131
360-436-1511
aron@sauk-suiattle.com or www.sauk-suiattle.com