

2019 Consumer Confidence Report

Water System Name: Independence Town Supply

Report Date: June 23, 2020

We test the drinking water quality for many constituents as required by state and federal regulations. This report shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2019 and may include earlier monitoring data.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua para beber. Favor de comunicarse Inyo County Department of Public Works a (760) 878-0201 para asistirlo en español.

Type of water source(s) in use: Wells- Groundwater

Name & general location of source(s): Wells are located within the water service area of Independence.

Drinking Water Source Assessment information: Assessment completed 2002, available from Inyo County Public Works (760) 878-0201. Sources subject to recreational surface water with no contamination likely.

Time and place of regularly scheduled board meetings for public participation: Tuesday mornings at 08:30 am at Inyo County Board of supervisor's meetings.

For more information, contact: Keith Pearce

Phone: (760) 878-0210 (Office)

TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

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 are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA).

Public Health Goal (PHG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

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.

Primary Drinking Water Standards (PDWS): MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.

NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Unit is the measure of the cloudiness of water.

Secondary Drinking Water Standards (SDWS): MCLs for contaminants that affect taste, odor, or appearance of the drinking water. Contaminants with SDWSs do not affect the health at the MCL levels.

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

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

Variances and Exemptions: Permissions from the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) to exceed an MCL or not comply with a treatment technique under certain conditions.

Level 1 Assessment: A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

Level 2 Assessment: A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an *E. coli* MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

ND: not detectable at testing limit

ppm: parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

ppb: parts per billion or micrograms per liter (µg/L)

ppt: parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/L)

ppq: parts per quadrillion or picogram per liter (pg/L)

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

uS/cm: The unit of measurement for electrical conductivity is microSiemens per centimeter(uS/cm)

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:

- *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, that 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*, that 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, that are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.
- *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, the U.S. EPA and the State Board prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations and California law also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health.

Tables 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 list all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the most recent sampling for the constituent. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The State Board allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, are more than one year old. Any violation of an AL, MCL, MRDL, or TT is asterisked. Additional information regarding the violation is provided later in this report.

TABLE 1 – SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF COLIFORM BACTERIA

Microbiological Contaminants (complete if bacteria detected)	Highest No. of Detections	No. of Months in Violation	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source of Bacteria
Total Coliform Bacteria (state Total Coliform Rule)	(In a month) 0	0	1 positive monthly sample	0	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform or <i>E. coli</i> (state Total Coliform Rule)	(In the year) 0	0	A routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one of these is also fecal coliform or <i>E. coli</i> positive	0	Human and animal fecal waste
<i>E. coli</i> (federal Revised Total Coliform Rule)	(In the year) 0	0	(a)	0	Human and animal fecal waste

(a) Routine and repeat samples are total coliform-positive and either is *E. coli*-positive or system fails to take repeat samples following *E. coli*-positive routine sample or system fails to analyze total coliform-positive repeat sample for *E. coli*.

TABLE 2 – SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF LEAD AND COPPER

Lead and Copper (complete if lead or copper detected in the last sample set)	Sample Date	No. of Samples Collected	90 th Percentile Level Detected	No. Sites Exceedin g AL	AL	PHG	No. of Schools Requesting Lead Sampling	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	Sept 2019	16	ND	0	15	0.2	2	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	Sept 2019	16	0.15	0	1.3	0.3	Not applicable	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

TABLE 3 – SAMPLING RESULTS FOR SODIUM AND HARDNESS

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Sodium (ppm)	2017	19.2	17.5 - 21.0	None	None	Salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring
Hardness (ppm)	2017	55	53 - 58	None	None	Sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium, and are usually naturally occurring

TABLE 4 – DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	Typical Source of Contaminant
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	2019	3		15	(0)	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 (pCi/L)	2019	1		5(226+228)	0.05	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228 (pCi/L)	2019	1		5(226+228)	0.019	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (mg/L)	2017	0.111		2.0	1	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Chlorine (mg/L)	2019	0.37	0.1-0.5	4	4	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes) (ug/L)	2019	ND		80	N/A	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
HAA5(Sum of 5 Haloacetic Acids) (ug/L)	2019	ND		60	N/A	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection

TABLE 5 – DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Chloride (mg/L)	2017	9.94	9.18 – 10.7	250	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Color (Units)	2017	4		15	N/A	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance (uS/cm)	2017	196	184 - 208	900	N/A	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (mg/L)	2017	19.2	18.0 – 20.3	250	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (mg/L)	2017	130	126 - 134	500	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	2018	1.2	0.57 – 1.84	5	N/A	Soil runoff

TABLE 6 – DETECTION OF UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Notification Level	Health Effects Language
Chromium-6 (ug/L)	2017	0.67	0.67	N/A	N/A
Radon (pCi/L)	2017	1400		N/A	N/A

Additional General Information on 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 the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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. U.S. 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 Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Lead-Specific Language: 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. Inyo County Department of Public Works 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 do so, you may wish to collect the flushed water and reuse it for another beneficial purpose, such as watering plants. 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 (1-800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/lead>.

Radon: We constantly monitor the water supply for various contaminants. We have consistently detected radon in the groundwater supply. There is no federal regulation for radon levels in drinking water. Exposure over a long period of time to air transmitting radon may cause adverse health effects.

Radon is a radioactive gas that you cannot see, taste, or smell. It is found throughout the U.S. Radon can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in the foundation. Radon can build up to high levels in all types of homes. Radon can also get into indoor air when released from tap water from showering, washing dishes, and other household activities. Compared to radon entering the home through soil, radon entering the home through tap water will in most cases be a small source of radon in indoor air. Radon is a known human carcinogen. Breathing air containing radon can lead to lung cancer. Drinking water containing radon may also cause increased risk of stomach cancer. If you are concerned about radon in your home, test the air in your home. Testing is inexpensive and easy. You should pursue radon removal for your home if the level of radon in your air is 4 picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L) or higher. There are simple ways to fix a radon problem that are not too costly. For additional information, call your State radon program (1-800-745-7236, the U.S. EPA Safe Drinking Water Act Hotline (1-800-426-4791), or the National Safe Council Radon Hotline (1-800-767-7236).

Summary Information for Uncorrected Significant Deficiencies

SPECIAL NOTICE FOR UNCORRECTED SIGNIFICANT DEFICIENCIES

On March 12, 2018 we were cited by the State Water Board (Citation No. 05-13-18C-008 & -009) for failure to test all backflow preventers annually for 2012-2016 and to implement a cross connection control program within Independence (-008) and Lone Pine (-009). We were returned to compliance on January 2, 2020. Part of the required compliance is the establishment of a residential cross connection control component to our program. We are still encouraging customers who have not completed a water use survey form to please do so & sent it to us. For all of you who have submitted the form, we say Thank You! Please feel free to call (760) 878-0201 with questions or comments. Thank you.

APPENDIX F: Certification Form (Suggested Format)

Consumer Confidence Report Certification Form (to be submitted with a copy of the CCR)

(To certify electronic delivery of the CCR, use the certification form on the State Water Board's website at http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/drinking_water/certific/drinkingwater/CCR.shtml)

Water System Name: Independence Town Supply
Water System Number: 1410008

The water system named above hereby certifies that its Consumer Confidence Report was distributed on 06-25-2020 (date) to customers (and appropriate notices of availability have been given). Further, the system certifies that the information contained in the report is correct and consistent with the compliance monitoring data previously submitted to the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water.

Certified by: Name: Kate Paterson
Signature: Kate Paterson
Title: Water System Operator
Phone Number: (760) 878-0208 Date: 06-25-2020

To summarize report delivery used and good-faith efforts taken, please complete the below by checking all items that apply and fill-in where appropriate:

- ☒ CCR was distributed by mail or other direct delivery methods. Specify other direct delivery methods used: _____
- ☒ "Good faith" efforts were used to reach non-bill paying consumers. Those efforts included the following methods:
- ☒ Posting the CCR on the Internet at www.inyoCounty.us
 - ☐ Mailing the CCR to postal patrons within the service area (attach zip codes used)
 - ☐ Advertising the availability of the CCR in news media (attach copy of press release)
 - ☐ Publication of the CCR in a local newspaper of general circulation (attach a copy of the published notice, including name of newspaper and date published)
 - ☒ Posted the CCR in public places (attach a list of locations)
 - ☐ Delivery of multiple copies of CCR to single-billed addresses serving several persons, such as apartments, businesses, and schools
 - ☐ Delivery to community organizations (attach a list of organizations)
 - ☐ Other (attach a list of other methods used)
- ☐ For systems serving at least 100,000 persons: Posted CCR on a publicly-accessible internet site at the following address: www._____
- ☐ For investor-owned utilities: Delivered the CCR to the California Public Utilities Commission

This form is provided as a convenience for use to meet the certification requirement of the California Code of Regulations, section 64483(c).

2019 Independence Town Supply CCR Posted Locations

Inyo County Administration Office

247 S. Edwards Street, Independence, CA 93526

Inyo County Library

168 N. Edwards Street, Independence, CA 93526

Inyo County Public Works

168 N. Edwards Street, 2nd Floor, Independence, CA 93526