

# **2022 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report George E. Wahlen Veterans Affairs Medical Center (UTAH18173)**

At the George E. Wahlen Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) located in Salt Lake City (SLC VAMC), our community's health and safety are our top priorities. Providing a safe and dependable supply of drinking water for Veterans and their families, employees, visitors, and customers is vital for our community. It is our goal to always deliver the best drinking water possible. This report is a snapshot of last year's (January 1 through December 31, 2022) water quality data and how it compares to federal and state drinking water standards. There were no violations of the standards in 2022. The SLC VAMC is committed to providing drinking water that meets or exceeds all standards.

## **WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?**

Our water source is Salt Lake City (UTAH18026). The Salt Lake City Public Utilities Department obtains water from mountain streams, reservoirs, and a network of groundwater wells and springs. The water provided to SLC VAMC receives an additional level of disinfection prior to entering the hospital's water distribution system, further ensuring the quality of drinking water to our Veterans.

## **SOURCE PROTECTION**

Salt Lake City Public Utilities has developed drinking water source protection and management plans that contain information about source protection zones, potential contaminant sources and management strategies to protect our drinking water. For more information, to get involved, or to see a map of the protected watershed areas visit [www.slc.gov/utilities/watershed/watershedmanagementplan](http://www.slc.gov/utilities/watershed/watershedmanagementplan) or for more information on protecting groundwater sources, visit [www.slc.gov/utilities/groundwater-source-protection](http://www.slc.gov/utilities/groundwater-source-protection).

## **WHY ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN DRINKING WATER?**

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by compounds that are naturally occurring or manufactured. As water travels over the land or underground, it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and naturally occurring radioactive materials. 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. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA developed regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in the water provided by public water systems. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

## **CROSS CONNECTIONS**

There are several connections to the SLC VAMC water distribution system. When connections are properly installed and maintained, quality concerns are very minimal; however, unapproved, and improper piping changes or connections can adversely affect not only the availability, but also the quality of the water. A cross connection may let polluted water or even chemicals into the water supply system. This not only compromises the water quality but can also affect your health. Through our cross-connection program, we continually monitor the distribution system to ensure there are no improperly installed connections that could degrade the quality of our water supply.

## **ARE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS REQUIRED?**

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 from their health care providers about drinking water. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

## **HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?**

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact our SLC VAMC Green Environmental Management System Program Manager at 801-582-1565 x4533 or email [VHASLCEGEMS@va.gov](mailto:VHASLCEGEMS@va.gov). We want our valued customers to be informed about their water supply.

## **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 building plumbing. SLC VAMC water distribution system does not have any lead piping in its distribution system; however, there are welded solder connections that may contain lead throughout the distribution system. When water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing the tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water. 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>.

Lead in drinking water is rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning, but it can add to a person's total lead exposure. All other potential sources of lead should be identified and removed, replaced, or reduced.

## **DRINKING WATER TREATMENT PROCESS**

SLC Public Utilities supplies drinking water to the SLC VAMC. They treat and test the drinking water for more than 170 contaminants to ensure it meets all state and federal standards. The SLC VAMC also treats and tests the water prior to distribution throughout the medical center

campus. Last year, VA conducted more than 1,000 tests. The table below provides a listing of compounds monitored by SLC Public Utilities and SLC VAMC.

## **WATER QUALITY DATA**

This report shows our water quality and what it means to you, our customer. In the report, you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms, we've provided the following definitions:

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

**Date** – Because of required sampling time frames i.e. yearly, 3 years, 4 years and 6 years, sampling dates may seem outdated, but are the most recent data available.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** – The “Maximum Allowed” is 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.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)** – The “Goal” is 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.

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)** – nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**Non-Detects (ND)** - laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present above laboratory equipment detection levels.

**Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)** – one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

**Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (µg/l)** – one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

**Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)** – picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

**Treatment Technique (TT)** - A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

## 2022 WATER QUALITY DATA

2022 WATER QUALITY DATA	MCL	Level Detected (Low - High)	Violation Y/N	Sample Year	Likely Source
<b>Primary Inorganics</b>					
Antimony	6 ppb	ND-0.00003	N	2022	Erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic	10 ppb	ND-1.2	N	2020, 2021, 2022	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium	2000 ppb	19-107	N	2020, 2021, 2022	Erosion of natural deposits
Cadmium	5 ppb	ND-0.00002	N	2022	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium	100 ppb	ND-4.75	N	2022	Erosion of natural deposits
Cyanide	200 ppb	ND-8	N	2020, 2021, 2022	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	4 ppm	ND-0.692	N	2020, 2021, 2022	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth
Lead a. 90% results b. # of sites that exceed the Action Level	AL=15 ppb	a. 2.8 b. 0	N	2022	Corrosion of plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Nickel	100 ppb	ND-2.43	N	2022	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	10 ppm	0.1-4.4	N	2020, 2021, 2022	Erosion of natural deposits
Selenium	50 ppb	ND-1.4	N	2020, 2021, 2022	Erosion of natural deposits
Sulfate	1000 ppm	8.74 - 270	N	2020, 2021, 2022	Erosion of natural deposits
Thallium	2 ppb	ND-0.00001	N	2022	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Secondary Parameters</b>					
Aluminum	0.05-0.2 ppm	ND-0.1	N	2022	Erosion of natural deposits
Chloride	250 ppm	ND-221	N	2022	Erosion of natural deposits
Conductance/ Conductivity	µmhos/cm	330-1277	N	2022	Naturally occurring

Copper a. 90% results b. # of sites that exceed the action level (AL)	AL=1.3 ppm	a. 0.735 b. 0	N	2022	Erosion of natural deposits; corrosion of plumbing systems
Iron	0.3 ppm	ND-0.06	N	2022	Erosion of natural deposits
Manganese	50 ppb	ND-3.2	N	2022	Erosion of natural deposits
pH	6.5-8.5	7.7-7.86	N	2022	Erosion of natural deposits
TDS (Total Dissolved solids)	2000	180-868	N	2020, 2021, 2022	Erosion of natural deposits
Zinc	5 ppm	ND-0.06	N	2022	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Disinfection By-products</b>					
TTHM (Total trihalomethanes)	80	10.4-38.3	N	2022	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids	60	13.3-29.4	N	2022	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>					
Gross Alpha	15 pCi/L	-4.3	N	2019, 2021, 2022	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228	5 pCi/L	-0.59	N	2019, 2020, 2021, 2022	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Organic Material</b>					
Carbon, Total Organic (TOC)	TT	ND-2.14	N	2020, 2021, 2022	Naturally occurring
Carbon, Dissolved Organic (DOC)	TT	ND-1.91	N	2020, 2021, 2022	Naturally occurring

<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>					
	<b>Presence/Absence</b>	<b># of Samples</b>	<b>% Positive</b>	<b>Sample Year</b>	<b>Likely Source</b>
Total Coliform Bacteria	Not >5%	84	0%	2022	All monthly samples were negative. Bacteria is naturally present in the environment from human and animal fecal waste
Fecal coliform and E. coli	--	Not Required	--	2022	