

# DONNER SUMMIT PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT

## 2008 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

The Donner Summit Public Utility District provides this Consumer Confidence Report to its customers. This report is to insure that the water user is informed of the standards and quality of water in the District. If you have any question regarding this information, or if you experience any problems with your water, please contact Mr. Jim King or Mr. Tom Skjelstad at the District Offices at (530) 426-3456 or (530) 426-9144. You may also E-mail us at [tskelstad@dspud.com](mailto:tskelstad@dspud.com) or at [jking@dspud.com](mailto:jking@dspud.com). Our District Board meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at the District Office located at 53823 Sherritt Lane, Soda Springs, CA, call the office (530) 426-3456 for a meeting schedule. Please feel free to participate in these meetings.

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 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. USEPA/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).

All of the Drinking Water for the Donner Summit Public Utility District is obtained from our Surface Storage Facility located at Lake Angela.

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 waste water discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- **Pesticides and herbicides**, which 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, and septic systems.
- **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, USEPA and the California Department of Health Services, Office of Drinking Water prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to the Department's regulations. Department regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

The highest single turbidity measurement for the year was 1.00 NTUs, and the lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting the requirements for filtered water was 90%. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. We have maintained a Chlorine residual of 0.2 mg/l throughout the District, which is the State requirement. We maintain a pH of approximately 7.5. This pH makes the water less aggressive to any lead solder that may have been used in your pipes. 26 Coliform samples were taken this year, out of which none tested positive. Coliform bacteria are naturally present in the environment. Test results less than the detectable limit are not included in this report.

On October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008 the district was forced to issue a boil water notice to its customers after a failure occurred with the treatment plant's filtering system. This problem was due in part to excess algae in the districts water supply and the inability of the treatment process to handle it. The district rebuilt the filter media and began use of a polymer blend to help with filtration. Once the plant began making potable water again the entire distribution system was flushed out and tested for coliform bacteria, chlorine residual and turbidity. Once the water supply and distribution system was deemed safe for public use the boil notice was lifted by DHS on November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Since that time the district has taken a proactive stance and is monitoring the supply lake for algae. At no time after the notice has the district failed to produce potable water for its customers.

The districts water distribution system involves a number of elevation changes, which can cause the system to have significant pressure fluctuations. There is one Pressure Reducing Station located within the system at Snow Lab Road and Donner Pass Road. This station reduces water pressure down to between 35 and 40 Pounds Per Square Inch (PSI). Due to elevation changes following this station the pressure can increase to between 60 and 120 PSI farther down the line.

Pressure changes can also occur due to high water use, line breaks and fire hydrant use. To combat the problems this can create at a residential or commercial hookup the district recommends that the service line coming in have a Pressure Reducing Valve (PRV) installed. This will help protect fixtures and appliances from damage that can be caused by excessive water pressure.

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 1997-2008 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. For the contaminants the State requires us to monitor less than once per year our most recent result are used. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old.

Terms & abbreviations used below

- **MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level:** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHG (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of 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. MCLGs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- **AL = Regulatory Action Level:** The concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- **PHG = Public Health Goal:** 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.
- **PDWS = Primary Drinking Water Standard:** MCLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.
- **ppm** parts per million
- **ppb** parts per billion

CONSTITUENT	MCL	MCLG PHG	DSPUD Water	Sample Date	Major Sources in Drinking Water
<b>PRIMARY STANDARDS - HEALTH RELATED</b>					
TREATED WATER					
REGULATED ORGANIC CHEMICALS					
Nitrate as N			ND	2005	
INORGANIC CHEMICALS					
Aluminum (ppb)	1000	None	829	2004	erosion of natural deposits:
Total recoverable Antimony			ND	2005	residue from the surface water
Total recoverable Beryllium			ND	2005	treatment process
Total recoverable Nickel			ND	2005	
Fluoride (ppb)	1,400-2,400		280	1997	erosion of natural deposits
Total recoverable Thallium			ND	2005	
<b>SECONDARY STANDARDS – Aesthetic</b>					
Chlorides (ppm)	500	250	2	1997	runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Manganese (ppb)	50		7	1997	leaching from natural deposits
Sulfate (ppm)	500	250	3	1997	runoff/leaching from natural deposits
TDS (ppm)	1000		28	1997	runoff/leaching from natural deposits
<b>ADDITIONAL CONSTITUENTS ANALYZED</b>					
Alkalinity (Totals) (ppm)	No Standard	None	20.2	2008	
Bicarbonate (HCO3) (ppm)	No Standard	None	23.3	2001	
Magnesium (ppm)	No Standard	None	0.23	1997	
pH (units)	No Standard	None	7.6	2008	
Sodium (ppm)	No Standard	None	7	1997	
Gross Alpha Radioactivity	No Standard	None	ND	2006	
Radium 228	No Standard	None	0.000	2007	
<b>Lead &amp; Copper</b>	<b>AL</b>	<b>MCLG</b>	<b>DSPUD</b>	<b># Of Sites</b>	
			<b>Water</b>	<b>Found Above</b>	
				<b>The AL</b>	
				<b>2006</b>	
Lead (ppb)	15	0	4	0	corrosion of household
copper {ppb}	1,300	0	142	0	plumbing systems