

# City of Sugar City Water Quality Report for 2020

## **Spanish (Español)**

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua beber. Tradúscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

## **Is my water safe?**

Last year, as in years past, our tap water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards. The City of Sugar City vigilantly safeguards its water supplies and we are pleased to report that our system has not violated any maximum contaminant level.

## **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?**

Drinking water in Sugar City comes almost exclusively from a groundwater well drilled about 350 ft. deep into the lava rock beneath the City. Two other groundwater wells serve as backup wells or to supplement during peak summer use as needed.

## **Source water assessment and its availability**

Source Water Assessments for the City's water supply wells have been conducted which identify the groundwater supply flows into the wells from areas east of the City. City planners and elected officials carefully monitor proposed development and other activities in that area to help protect the water supply from contamination. Copies of the assessments are available for review at City Hall.

## **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).

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 such as the following:

- 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 stormwater 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 stormwater 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 stormwater 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?**

The City Council is ultimately responsible for regulating and protecting the water supply, storage, pumping, and distributions facilities. They meet the second and fourth Thursdays of every month and welcome citizen input on protection and improvement of the water system. You can also access EPA's drinking water web site at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/> to learn more about water quality.

### **Lead Informational Statement (Health effects and ways to reduce exposure)**

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. The City 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 drinking 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>.

### **Revised Total Coliform Rule**

We are required to monitor the drinking water for total coliform bacteria on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. On one occasion we found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in the water distribution system. Follow-up testing showed the distribution system to be clear of coliforms.

## Water Quality Data Table

We test our drinking water for over 80 potential contaminants. The table below lists only those that have been detected in our system and all are under their maximum allowable limit. 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 allows 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</u> or <u>MRDLG</u>	<u>MCL,</u> <u>TT, or</u> <u>MRDL</u>	<u>Our</u> <u>Water</u>	<u>Range</u>		<u>Sample</u> <u>Date</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
				<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>			
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Barium (mg/L)	2	2	0.021	NA		2019	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (mg/L)	4	4	1.00	NA		2019	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nickel (mg/L)	0.1	0.1	0	NA		2019	No	Erosion from naturally occurring deposits; Discharge from nickel plating, battery, magnet, electrode, and spark plug manufacturing.
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	1.69	1.19	1.95	2020	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>								
Total Coliform (positive samples/month)	0	1	0	0	1	2020	No	Naturally present in the environment
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>								
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	0	15	5.83	NA		2019	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L)	0	5	0.184	NA		2019	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (ug/L)	0	30	1.91	1.90	2.02	2019	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Beta particles (pCi/L)	0	50	1.86	NA	NA	2019	No	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Volatile Organic Contaminants</b>								
Toluene (mg/L)	1	1	0	0.00	0.00	2019	No	Discharge from petroleum factories

<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>AL</u>	<u>Our Water</u>	<u>Sample Date</u>	<u># Samples Exceeding AL</u>	<u>Exceeds AL</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.091	2019	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	2.000	2019	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

<b>Unit Descriptions</b>	
<u>Term</u>	<u>Definition</u>
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

<b>Important Drinking Water Definitions</b>	
<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.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances 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:**

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