

CITY OF PRESCOTT PWS 13-045
2014 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY AND CONSUMER
CONFIDENCE REPORT



(FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2013)

Esta es información importante. Si no la pueden leer, necesitan que alguien se la traduzca.

The City of Prescott's Drinking Water

Applicable Federal and State Requirements

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) require purveyors of drinking water to annually report the quality of the water they deliver. The annual report provides information to customers to assist them in making decisions regarding their drinking water consumption. This report identifies the sources of Prescott's drinking water, provides water quality information, and summarizes analytical tests of the City's drinking water supply for Calendar Year 2013. During 2013, water from the City system met all applicable EPA and state drinking water health standards. The City of Prescott safeguards its water supplies, and once again is pleased to report compliance with prescribed maximum contaminant levels. The City regularly conducts testing beyond the minimum regulatory requirements to further assure the safety of our drinking water.

The most frequently asked questions about water quality are hardness and sodium. Our water is considered moderately hard*, averaging 113 to 127 ppm, which equals 6.6 to 7.4 grains per gallon. Water above 10 grains per gallon is considered hard and water less than 3 grains per gallon is considered soft. The level of sodium in our water ranges from 13.1 to 22.5 ppm.



What is the Source of Our Drinking Water

The City of Prescott produces its water from 7 production wells within the Prescott Active Management Area (AMA) drilled into the confined deep Lower Volcanic Unit of the aquifer underlying the Little Chino Sub-Basin. The water is of excellent quality with a safe production capability up to 12 million gallons per day (mgd). The wells are pumped in different combinations to meet daily demand. In 2013 the City of Prescott produced (pumped) 6,556 acre-feet of water from the wells and delivered this water to approximately 22,590 customers through 400 miles of pipeline and 26 water storage tanks throughout its service area.

Is My Water Treated?

Arsenic treatment systems have been installed at the wells to treat and maintain arsenic levels below the new federal standard. The City of Prescott also treats its water with chlorine to prevent the development of bacterial contamination that could occur in the water storage and distribution systems.

If a chlorine taste or odor is detected, a container of water can be placed in the sunlight for two hours or stored overnight in the refrigerator to help dissipate the chlorine taste or odor. If a very strong chlorine taste or odor is detected, please contact Water Operations at (928) 777-1118 and a technician will be sent out to take a chlorine residual sample from the reported location.

* Moderately hard – ranking of two (2) on a scale of 1 to 4 per the American Water Works Association.

How Safe is the Water?

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 a health risk. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised individuals, such as those undergoing chemotherapy or other treatments, 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.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- ◆ Microbial contaminants such as viruses and bacteria which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations or wildlife.
- ◆ Inorganic contaminants such as salts and metals that 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 or 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 storm water runoff and septic systems.
- ◆ Radioactive contaminants that can be naturally-occurring or the result of oil and gas production or mining activities.
- ◆ In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. United States Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water.

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 transport substances associated with the

presence of animals or human activity. Wells are the only source of water for the City of Prescott. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Water Quality Data

The Water Quality Table on Page 3 contains the most recent analysis for regulated testing. The frequency of sample collection is determined by state and federal regulations and based on many different parameters such as type of water source, number of people served, as well as past and current analyses of the contaminant to be tested. This explains why some data may be more than one year old.

The City of Prescott is required to test for unregulated contaminants. The data generated by these tests will be used by the EPA to evaluate and prioritize contaminants on the Drinking Water Contaminant Candidate List. None of the unregulated contaminants tested have been detected in the City's drinking water. If you would like to learn more about the monitoring results, please contact the Water Operations Division.

Minimizing Exposure to 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. The City of Prescott 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 www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.



Water Quality Data Report

Abbreviations:

- MCL Maximum Contaminant Level— 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 technology.
- MCLG Maximum Contaminant Level Goal—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.
- pCi/L Picocuries per Liter 1.0 mg/l = 1.0 ppm ppb Parts Per Billion
 NA Not Applicable 0.001 mg/l = 1.0 ppb ppm Parts Per Million
 mg/l = Milligrams Per Liter ug/l = micrograms

Primary Drinking Water Standards - Mandatory Health-Related Levels Established by EPA and ADEQ							
Parameter	Date	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Highest Level	Range	
Lead & Copper					Highest Detected Level		
Lead Results - Homes	2013	ppb	15	0	0.0226	<0.002 - .0226	
Copper Results - Homes	2013	ppm	1.3	1.3	0.114	.0152 - .114	
RadioChemical Monitoring					Highest Average		
Gross Alpha	2013	pCi/L	15	0	11.1 +/- 2.0	10.0 - 11.1 +/-1.5 - 2.0	
Combined Radium	2013	pCi/L	5	0	< 0.4	< 0.3 -< 0.4	
Combined Uranium	2013	ug/l	30	0	16.22044 +/- 1.70216	16.22044 +/- 1.70216	
Regulated Inorganic Compounds					Highest Detected Level		
Antimony	2012	ppb	6	2	2.5	2 - 2.5	
Arsenic	2012 - 2013	ppb	10	0	9.9	< 0.002 - 9.9	
Barium	2012	ppm	2	2	0.005	< 0.002 - 0.005	
Chromium	2012	ppm	0.1	0.1	0.009	< 0.003 - 0.009	
Fluoride	2012	ppm	4	4	0.7	< 0.5 - 0.7	
Nitrate (as N)	2013	ppm	10	10	2.03	1.07 - 2.03	
Nitrite	2012	ppm	1	1	< 0.02	< 0.02	
Selenium	2012	ppm	5	2	0.00498	<0.002 - 0.00498	
Thallium	2012	ppb	2	0.0005	0.00173	<.0005 - .00173	
Disinfection Byproduct Monitoring					Highest Detected level		
Total Trihalomethane (TTHM)	2013	ppb	80	0	6.7	1.2 - 6.7	
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2013	ppb	60	NA	< 2	< 2	
Biological Monitoring		MCL		MCLG	Entire Distribution System		Likely Source in Drinking Water
Total Coliform - tested monthly	Presence in no more than 5% of monthly samples		0	Highest monthly percentage of positive Total Coliform samples: 0 in 53		Naturally present in the environment	

Missed Monitoring Violations

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During 2013 we did not complete all monitoring or testing for VOCs¹ and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during that time. We have since taken the required samples. The samples showed we are meeting drinking water standards.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

¹ VOCs, also known as volatile organic compounds, are tested by collecting one sample and testing that sample for all the regulated VOCs. VOCs are commonly used in industrial and manufacturing processes. Regulated VOCs include benzene, carbon tetrachloride, chlorobenzene, 1,2-dichlorobenzene, 1,4-dichlorobenzene, 1,2-dichloroethane, cis-dichloroethane, trans-dichloroethane, dichloromethane, 1,2-dichloropropane, ethylbenzene, styrene, tetrachloroethylene, 1,1,1-trichloroethane, trichloroethylene, toluene, 1,2,4-trichlorobenzene, 1,1-dichloroethylene, 1,1,2-trichloroethane, vinyl chloride, and xylene.

Source Water Assessment

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) completed a source water assessment for drinking water wells for Prescott's water system in 2001. Based on the information currently available on the hydrogeologic settings of the adjacent land uses that are in the specified proximity of the drinking water source(s) of this public water system, the department has given a low risk designation for the degree to which this public water system drinking water source(s) are protected. A low risk designation indicates that most source water protection measures are either already implemented, or the hydrogeology is such that the source water protection measures will have little impact on protection. The complete report is available for inspection at ADEQ, 1110 W. Washington, Phoenix, Arizona 85007.



Water Quality Report

As your water provider, we serve more than water. We provide value, public health, reliability, and peace of mind. Our job is to ensure that your safe supply of water keeps flowing not only today, but well into the future. It's all part of our service commitment to you and everyone in our community.

Where to Learn More about Your Drinking Water

- ◆ Specific information about this report can be obtained by contacting City of Prescott Water Operations staff. Office: 1481 Sundog Ranch Road Phone: (928) 777-1118 Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday—Friday or accessing the City of Prescott website: www.prescott-az.gov
- ◆ Environmental Protection Agency Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791 Website: www.epa.gov/safewater
- ◆ Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (800) 234-5677 Website: www.azdeq.gov/environ/water/index.html
- ◆ Water related topics are discussed at City Council meetings and in other forums in which the public can participate. Meeting notices are published in the local newspaper and posted at City Hall, 201 S. Cortez Street, Prescott, Arizona.

City of Prescott
Public Works
433 N. Virginia Street
Prescott, AZ 86301

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