TOWAOC, COLORADO
CONSUMER CONFIDENCE
DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT
2013

(For Safe Drinking Water Act compliance sample results collected during 2012)

PWS ID # 890010

What is a Consumer Confidence Report?

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires that owners of community drinking water systems, such as the Ute Mountain Tribe, prepare a report each year that summarizes the quality of their drinking water. The report must be available for customers of the water system to review.

Is My Water Safe?

In 2012, as in years past, your tap water met all U.S. EPA, Tribal, and State drinking water standards, as enforced through the Safe Drinking Water Act. The Ute Mountain Ute Public Works Department vigilantly safeguards the water supply, and once again we are proud to report that our system has not violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard.

Where does the drinking water in Towaoc come from?

The City of Cortez treats water from Mc Phee Reservoir at their drinking water treatment plant on County Road N. The treated water from Cortez is transported via pipeline to three storage tanks at the top of Mountain Sage Road where it is re-chlorinated before entering the distribution system in Towaoc. All surface water that is to be consumed by the public, such as the water from McPhee Reservoir, must have a residual chlorine concentration of at least 0.2 parts per million to prevent contamination by disease causing microorganisms.

What is the current condition of the drinking water system?

All three water storage tanks in Towaoc are relatively new (2004, 1995 and 1985 respectively) and in good condition. The Mancos Creek Community tank is also new (2006).

Some of the water distribution lines are very old and made of cast iron, especially those serving the old BIA Campus and possibly along North Star Lane. Water that passes through these lines may pick up rust that affects its taste and stains fixtures. Rust is not necessarily a health hazard however. Certain zones of the water system also experience periodic low pressure that may affect water flavor or odor when lines have not been flushed recently.

What is the quality of the Towaoc drinking water?

With the exception of bacteria, lead and copper, the City of Cortez monitors the drinking water supplied to Towaoc for constituents regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency under the Safe Drinking Water Act. The Ute Mountain Ute Public Works Department monitors the Towaoc drinking water for bacteria monthly. The City of Cortez summarizes monitoring results in its annual Consumer Confidence Report for all other parameters.

Who do I contact if I have questions about my drinking water?
If you have questions about your drinking water you may call Aldo Hammond in the Public Works Department 564-5491 or Scott Clow in the Environmental Programs Department, 564-5432 (email:sclow@utemountain.org).

Other Required Information about Health Effects
Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791.

The sources of drinking water include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it can dissolve naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive materials. The water can also pick up substances such as:

(1) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come form sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural operations and wildlife.
(2) 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.
(3) Pesticides and herbicides, that may come from agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
(4) Organic chemical contaminants, which can come from industrial processes, gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.
(5) Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency establishes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration establishes limits for contaminants in bottled water.

Vulnerable Populations
Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons undergoing chemotherapy, people who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune 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. The Environmental Protection Agency/Center for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791.

KEY TO THE WATER QUALITY TABLE

MCLG – Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there are no adverse health effects. MCLGs allow a margin of safety.

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.

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

µg/l – micrograms per liter: Micrograms per liter is equivalent to parts per billion.

mg/L milligrams per liter: milligrams per liter is equivalent to parts per million.

< - A symbol meaning less than a given value which is usually the detection limit of an analytical method.

See following page Labeled "Towaoc 2012-01"

Narrative Explanation of Results

Bacteria Monitoring Results:
Monthly bacteria monitoring in Towaoc is sampled at two points in the system. **All results for calendar year 2012 indicated that there were no bacteria in the Towaoc water system.**

** See also the 2012 City of Cortez Consumer Confidence Report for source water monitoring and assessment, available at the Public Works Dept. or the Environmental Programs Dept.

Administrative Violation

A **Notice of Non-compliance** was received by the Tribe in March of 2012. It stated that the Tribe had failed to report bacteria sample results for compliance with the ***total coliform rule*** in a timely manner to the EPA by February 10th, 2012 for the January 2012 monitoring period. The samples had been collected on January 25th as noted in the attached water quality data, and did not contain any bacteria- it was only an administrative violation. As a result of that violation, the Tribe had to provide public notice (posted at the Towaoc Post Office, Tribal Office Complex, Ute Mountain Travel Center and distributed by Towaoc Public Works staff to Tribal Members and residents). Some inquiries were made to the Environmental Programs Director in this regard for clarification of the situation.

A **Notice of Non-compliance** was received by the Tribe in April of 2012 for failure to submit the **IDSE formatted disinfectant by-product rule monitoring plan**. EPA did not leverage a penalty against the Tribe. The plan was delivered to the appropriate EPA Region 8 staff following the notice. Following review of the IDSE plan, EPA will notify the Tribe of its acceptability and then provide direction on the required monitoring resulting from it. As a result

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Contaminant Measured	DATE SAMPLED	LEVEL DETECTED	Units of Measure	MCL	MCLG	VIOLATION (TYPE)	MAJOR SOURCES AND NOTES ON RESULTS
Total Coliform Bacteria							
Site 1 W. Mike Wash RD, PW office	**1/25/12**	0	CFU	1	0	NO	Naturally occurring in soil, human and animal feces.
	2/29/12	0	CFU	1	0	NO	
	3/28/12	0	CFU	1	0	NO	
	4/24/12	0	CFU	1	0	NO	
	5/29/12	0	CFU	1	0	NO	
	6/28/11	0	CFU	1	0	NO	
	7/30/12	0	CFU	1	0	NO	
	8/29/12	0	CFU	1	0	NO	
	9/26/12	0	CFU	1	0	NO	
	10/29/12	0	CFU	1	0	NO	
	11/26/12	0	CFU	1	0	NO	
note: alternative sample location	**12/10/12**	0	CFU	1	0	NO	**520 Sunset Blvd. EPD office**
Site 2 E. Mike Wash Rd. Tavel center	**1/25/12**	0	CFU	1	0	NO	Naturally occurring in soil, human and animal feces.
	2/29/12	0	CFU	1	0	NO	
	3/28/12	0	CFU	1	0	NO	
	4/24/12	0	CFU	1	0	NO	
	5/29/12	0	CFU	1	0	NO	
	6/28/12	0	CFU	1	0	NO	
	7/30/12	0	CFU	1	0	NO	
	8/29/12	0	CFU	1	0	NO	
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Towaoc 2012-01

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