

## Frequently Asked Questions

**What causes discolored water?**

Rusting galvanized pipe in some plumbing is the usual cause of discolored water. If this is the case, the water clears after running a bit. Iron causes discoloration; but is not a health risk.

**How often is our water tested?**

EWU tap water is tested every month for bacteria, and as directed by the Dept. of Health for copper and lead. Every building on campus is tested for bacteria at least twice a year. No tests in 2013 came back positive. Because we chlorinate, we test for disinfection by products. We tested 4 times in 2013 and all came back as non-detectible. At this time all tests are up to date with DOH Regulations.

**If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water:**

- ◆ Contact Jim Butler  
Water System Manager  
359-6561
- ◆ See this report on the web at:  
<http://www.ewu.edu/x10034.xml>
- ◆ Call EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline(800) 426-4791

**We encourage you to become informed, and be involved in water protection. Water system tours can be arranged by calling 359-2245**



## 2013 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER REPORT

**Eastern Washington University is pleased to report that your water meets or exceeds all standards set for quality and safety.**

This brochure is a summary of the quality of water provided during 2013 and is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day.

Inside, you will find analytical testing results for samples of Eastern's water and information on how these results compare to federal and state safety standards.

We are committed to providing you with safe, high quality water and we want you to understand the efforts we make to continually protect our water resources.

## ORIGIN OF OUR WATER

Eastern provides drinking water from two drilled wells under a permit from the Washington State Dept. of Health.

Our well water is from a groundwater aquifer about 500 feet below the surface of the grounds. *The water is chlorinated.* It is safe to drink . On January 31, 2011 a new well was brought on line to replace



SO#1. In fall of 2014 a new well will come on line at Rozell.

The water is pumped through new plastic supply pipes to a 1.1. million gallon storage tank, which is cleaned and repaired on a regular basis. Water is distributed from the storage tank to university buildings. To ensure your tap water remains safe to drink, there are 375 backflow assemblies installed to protect our water system. A Cross Connection Control Specialist and three Backflow Assembly Testers test all assemblies & repair or replace as required annually. A report is submitted to the Dept. of Health yearly



**What** is the Safe Drinking Water Act and what does it have to do with this report?

The Safe drinking Water Act, among other things, requires all public water systems to issue an annual report explaining what substances are in the water and in what amounts.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] and the Washington State Department of Health set standards for the amounts of various contaminants that are acceptable for drinking water safety. Eastern Washington University tests frequently for the presence of these substances.

**Why** are there substances in the water? As water travels through the ground it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animal or human activity. All drinking water, *including bottled drinking water*, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some substances.



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- ◆ **Non-Detected [ND]** - Laboratory analysis indicates that the substance is not present.
- ◆ **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 or one half dissolved aspirin tablet [162.5] in a full bathtub of water [about 50 gallons].
- ◆ **Parts per billion [ppb]** - One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years or a single penny in \$10,000,000.
- ◆ **Action Level [AL]** - The concentration of a contaminant which if exceeded, trigger treatment or other requirements for a water system.
- ◆ **Maximum Contaminant Level [MCL]** - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLG as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- ◆ **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal [MCLG]** - The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

A public forum was held in June 4, 2014 and will be continued in subsequent years for the purpose of keeping the public informed about our water use efficiency and good water conservation practices as well as to solicit public input on other ways to achieve the goals of water conservation.

## Information on Detected Substances

Substances listed below were detected above laboratory detection limits on the dates indicated.

All are below levels allowed by federal and state agencies

Substance	Lowest Amount Detected	Highest Amount Detected	Laboratory Detection Limit	MCL	MCLG	Likely Source of Substance
<b>Nutrients</b>						
<b>Nitrate-[ppm]</b>	<b>ND</b>	<b>.987</b> [9/6/13]	<b>0.05</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Erosion of natural deposit</b> <b>Runoff from fertilizer</b>
<b>Metals</b>						
<b>Lead [ppb]</b>	<b>ND</b>	<b>.0374</b> [6/12/12]	<b>2.0</b>	<b>15.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Corrosion of plumbing systems</b> <b>Erosion of natural deposits</b>
<b>Other Minerals</b>						
<b>*Arsenic [ppb]</b>	<b>ND</b> [10/03/13]	<b>ND</b> [10/03/13]	<b>0.05</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>Naturally occurring element in the earth's crust</b>

*\*Your drinking water currently meets EPA's revised water standard for arsenic. However, it does contain low levels of arsenic. There is a small chance that some people who drink water containing low levels of arsenic for many years could develop circulatory disease, cancer, or other health problems. Most types of cancer and circulatory diseases are due to factors other than exposure to arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of ar-*

In 2013 there were 123 coliform (bacteriological) tests done through out the campus and 0 came back positive. Now that we chlorinate, daily chlorine readings are taken at random sites around campus to insure we have at least a trace of chlorine at all buildings. After doing more lead and copper tests we've gotten below the action level set by DOH. We will not have to do corrosion control at this time. We will be doing 30 more tests of different buildings this summer. Well 1R was tested for inorganic chemicals (IOC's) on 10/03/2013. All were ND or below DOH action levels.

It is important to remember that the presence of these substances does not necessarily pose a health risk. Some people may be more vulnerable to substances 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/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline

[800-426-4791].

In August of 2012 both wells were tested for volatile organic chemicals (VOC) all were non-detectable (ND). In March of 2014 Well 2 was deactivated. A new Well will be drilled the summer of 2014.

Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hable con alguien que lo entienda.

このレポートには飲料水に関する重要な情報が記載されています。この英文を訳してもらるか、またはどなたか英語が分かる方にたずねてください。

A source water protection plan that provides more information is available for review.