CITY OF UNALASKA

P.O. BOX 610
UNALASKA, AK 99685
PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM I.D. 260309

May 2025

Unalaska Consumer Confidence Report 2024

Unalaska Water Facts...

This brochure is a snapshot of the quality of the water that the City of Unalaska Water Utility provided last year. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Alaska state standards. For more information about your water, visit the City of Unalaska website at https://www.ci.unalaska.ak.us/ or call the Unalaska Department of Public Utilities at 907-581-1260 and ask for Erik Hernandez or McKenzi Berry.

Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. The City of Unalaska Water Utility wants you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. Our water supply comes from two sources, surface water from the Icy Creek Watershed in Pyramid Valley (PWTP) and two groundwater well sites consisting of four wells in Unalaska Valley.

Source Water Assessment

The State of Alaska has provided a "Source Water Assessment" report (dated July 2004) for our surface and ground water sources. Our water system has utilized this report to develop a protection plan for our water sources.

The report lists the vulnerabilities for our Icy creek surface water source as follows: "The water system is located in Unalaska and the intake is a surface water source. The overall protection area received a susceptibility rating of "very high". In addition, the water sources have received a vulnerability rating of "very high" for bacteria/viruses, "medium" for nitrates/nitrites, "medium" for volatile organic chemicals, "medium" for heavy metals, "medium" for synthetic organic chemicals and "medium" for other organic chemicals."

Vulnerabilities for our Well 1, 1A, 2 and 3 ground water sources were listed as follows: "The water system is located in Unalaska and the intake is groundwater wells. Well 2 and 3 received a susceptibility rating of "medium" and Well 1 and 1A received a susceptibility rating of "high". Combining these scores produces a natural susceptibility of "medium" for the source. In addition, this water system has received a vulnerability rating of "medium" for bacteria/viruses, "medium" for nitrates/nitrites, "high" for volatile organic chemicals, "low" for IOC & heavy metals for Well 2 and 3, "medium" for Well 1 and 1A "low" for heavy metals, for other organic chemicals Well 2 and 3 are "low", Well 1 and 1A are "medium", and "low" for synthetic organic chemicals."

For further information regarding this source water assessment, please contact the local water system operator, or the Alaska Resources Library & Information Services (ARLIS) located at 3211 Providence Drive, Suite 111, Anchorage, Alaska 99508; phone number 907-272-7547. If the water operator does not have a copy of the source water assessment results, you may also access it online at the ADEC Drinking Water Watch website. Instructions on how to access it online may be obtained at: https://dec.alaska.gov/DWW/JSP/swaDisclaimer.html For specific questions regarding the results of the source water assessment, you may contact Chris Miller from ADEC Drinking Water Protection Program at 907-269-7549.

In its effort to supply you with the safest possible product, the City of Unalaska treats our water supply for disinfection of viruses and bacteria. Chlorine residual and UVT levels are continuously monitored to ensure proper dosages are being added.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems.

The City of Unalaska treats our water according to EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

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 Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

To comply with Safe Drinking Water Act amendments, the City of Unalaska annually issues a report on the monitoring performed on its drinking water. The purpose of this report is to advance consumers' understanding of drinking water and heighten awareness of the need to protect precious water resources.

For the 2024 calendar year (and up to five preceding years), some components were detected in amounts well below Federal Safe Drinking Water Act Maximum Contaminant Levels set for public water systems throughout the country. The tables included in this report list the detected constituents and other sampling results. Their presence does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk.

Violations, Enforcement, and Compliance

For the 2024 calendar year we received one minor monitoring violation and five major monitoring violations.

In May, the water system had one minor violation due to two missing total coliform samples and two major violations due to missing residual chlorine reports that accompany each total coliform sample. To comply with regulations and to ensure our water is safe to drink, each month we are required to take ten total coliform samples throughout the water system and report the residual chlorine for each sample. There was an oversight of these requirements in May, resulting in eight total coliform samples taken instead of ten. The required ten total coliform samples and associated chlorine residual were taken for all other months.

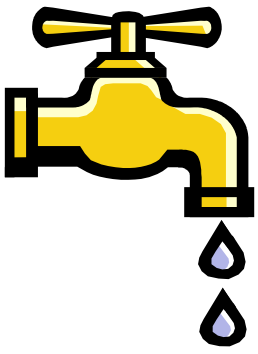
Two major violations were issued due to having sampled for Total Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids in quarter 4 instead of quarter 3 as required by regulations. To comply with regulations and to ensure the safety of our water, we were required to take these samples from one location in the third quarter and from a second location in the fourth quarter. We returned to compliance when the samples were collected in the required quarter.

One major violation was issued due to collecting a Nitrite sample from the PWTP incorrectly To comply with regulations and to ensure the safety of our water, we are required to collect one sample annually from each well house and one from PWTP. We returned to compliance when the required sample was collected in 2025.

All violations were returned to compliance with no known health effects. We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected. The EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels.

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/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 (800-426-4791) or on EPA's website *epa.gov/safewater*

For opportunities for public participation in decisions that may affect the quality of water, please attend the regularly scheduled City Council meetings on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.



Water Quality Data...

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 before we treat it include:

- *Microbial contaminants,* such as viruses and bacteria, which 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.
- *Radioactive contaminants,* which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

The City of Unalaska Water Utility tested our surface water supply for Cryptosporidium. The testing consisted of two samples per month for one year. Two Cryptosporidium oocysts were found in one of the twenty four samples. Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen found in drinking water throughout the U.S. Our monitoring indicates the presence of these organisms in our source water and/or finished water. Current test methods do not allow us to determine if the organisms are dead or if they are capable of causing disease. Ingestion of Cryptosporidium may cause cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immunocompromised people, infants and small children, and the elderly are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illness. We encourage immune compromised individuals to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. Cryptosporidium must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water.

The tables below list all the drinking water contaminants that we detected or sampled for during the 2024 calendar year. There are many regulations pertaining to sampling and monitoring of our water system. The City of Unalaska Water Utility constantly monitors the water supply for various constituents.

The presence of these 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 performed from January 1 - December 31, 2024. The state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old. By virtue of previous testing with satisfactory results the City of Unalaska has obtained a waiver for Synthetic Organic Compounds (SOC), Other Organic Compounds (OOC) and for Asbestos, and did not test for these contaminants during this time period.

Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	**Level Detected**	Typical Source of Substance	Violation
Turbidity (NTU) (Highest level in 2024 – March.)	5 NTU	N/A	**2.542 NTU**	Soil Runoff	No
Chlorine (ppm) (Highest level in 2024 – April)	4	4	**0.31 - 1.03**	Water additive used to control microbes	No

Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	**Detect in Your Water**	**Range Detected**	Typical Source of Substance	Violation
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb) (Tested 2024)	80	NA	**37.000**	**0 - 37**	By-product of drinking water chlorination	No
Haloacetic Acids (ppb) (Tested 2024)	60	NA	**46.300**	**0 – 46.3**	By-product of drinking water disinfection	No
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm) (Tested 2024)	10	10	**0. 25**	**0- 0.25**	Occurs naturally in soils and water	No

Contaminant	Action level	**90th percentile**	# of homes exceeding Action level	MCLG	Typical Source of Substance	Violation
Lead (ppb) (Tested 2024)	15.00	**3.05**	0 out of 22 tested	0.00	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	No
Copper (ppm) (Tested 2024)	1.30	**0.51400**	0 out of 22 tested	1.30	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives	No

Additional Information for Lead

The system inventory does not include lead service lines. A Lead Service Line Inventory has been completed using a combination of office records and field surveys. The following link can be used to access inventory information - https://ak-lsli-adec.hub.arcgis.com/.

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 Unalaska is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact the City of Unalaska at (907) 581-1260. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at *http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead*.

NOTE: The EPA requires monitoring of over 70 drinking water contaminants. Those listed above are the only contaminants detected in your drinking water. For a complete list contact the City of Unalaska Water Utility.

CCR Legend:

- ***Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)*** - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is 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.
- ***Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)*** - The "Goal" (MCLG) is 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.
- ***Action Level (AL)*** - The concentrations of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements, which a water system must follow.
- ***Micrograms per liter (ug/L)*** - parts of contaminant per billion parts of water.
- ***Parts per million (ppm)*** – milligrams per liter of water.
- ***Pico curies per liter (pCi/l)*** - a measure of radioactivity.
- ***Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)*** - Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator for our treatment dosing
- ***Positive samples/month*** - Number of samples taken monthly that were found to be positive.
- ***N/A*** - Not applicable.
- ***Maximum residual disinfectant level (MRDL***), 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.
- ***Treatment Technique (TT)***: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water
- ***Maximum residual disinfection level goal (MRDLG)***. 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.
- ***90th Percentile-*** Compliance with the lead and copper action levels is based on the 90th percentile lead and copper levels. This means that the concentration of lead and copper must be less than or equal to the action level in at least 90% of the samples collected.
- ***MPL-*** State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level
- ***Variances and Exemptions-*** Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
- ***MNR:*** Monitored Not Regulated

The City of Unalaska Water Utility is proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected. The EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels.

In our continuing efforts to maintain a safe and dependable water supply it may be necessary to make improvements in your water system. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments may be necessary in order to address these improvements. Thank you for your understanding.

For any questions please visit the City of Unalaska website at https://www.ci.unalaska.ak.us/ or call our offices:
Department of Public Utilities
Erik Hernandez or McKenzi Berry
907-581-1260

The City of Unalaska Water Utility works diligently to provide top quality water to every home. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

Quality On Tap!
Our Commitment Our Profession