

# Upper Surface Creek Domestic Water Users Association

## 2010 Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report For Calendar Year 2009

Public Water System ID # CO0115784 Website: [www.uscdwua.com](http://www.uscdwua.com)

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

We are pleased to present to you this year's water quality report. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water.

### General Information About Drinking 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 that the water poses a health risk. 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 of infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, or to receive a copy of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and microbiological contaminants call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

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 include:

- **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** that 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 byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also may come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, that 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, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

### Our Water Source(s)

| Source        | Water Type    |
|---------------|---------------|
| Surface Creek | Surface Water |

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has provided us with a Source Water Assessment Report for our water supply. You may obtain a copy of the report by visiting [www.cdphe.state.co.us/wq/sw/swaphom.html](http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/wq/sw/swaphom.html) or by contacting Dan Hawkins at 970-856-7199.

Potential sources of contamination in our source water area come from:

Wildlife, domestic animals, recreational activities such as hunting, fishing, and hiking, vehicular travel, energy exploration/extraction, and timber harvesting.

The Source Water Assessment Report provides a screening-level evaluation of potential contamination that **could** occur. It does not mean that the contamination **has or will** occur. We can use this information to evaluate the need to improve our current water treatment capabilities and prepare for future contamination threats. This can help us ensure that quality finished water is delivered to your homes. In addition, the source water assessment results were valuable in formulating the recently completed South Grand Mesa Source Water Protection Plan, which may be viewed at [www.uscdwua.com](http://www.uscdwua.com).

Please contact Dan Hawkins at 970-856-7199 to learn more about what you can do to help protect your drinking water sources, any questions about the Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report, to learn more about our system, or to attend scheduled public meetings. We want you, our valued customers, to be informed about the services we provide and the quality water we deliver to you every day.

### Terms and Abbreviations

The following definitions will help you understand the terms and abbreviations used in this report:

- **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.
- **Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (ug/L)** - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.
- **Parts per trillion (ppt) or Nanograms per liter (nanograms/L)** - one part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000,000.
- **Parts per quadrillion (ppq) or Picograms per liter (picograms/L)** - one part per quadrillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000,000 years or one penny in \$10,000,000,000,000.
- **Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)** - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.
- **Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)** - nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.
- **Action Level (AL)** - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **Treatment Technique (TT)** - A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)** - The “Goal” 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.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** - The “Maximum Allowed” 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 Residual Disinfectant 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.
- **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.
- **Running Annual Average (RAA)** - An average of monitoring results for the previous 12 calendar months.
- **Gross Alpha, Including RA, Excluding RN & U** - This is the gross alpha particle activity compliance value. It includes radium-226, but excludes radon 222 and uranium.
- **Microscopic Particulate Analysis (MPA)** - An analysis of surface water organisms and indicators in water. This analysis can be used to determine performance of a surface water treatment plant or to determine the existence of surface water influence on a ground water well.



### Detected Contaminants

Upper Surface Creek Domestic Water Users Association routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The following table(s) show all detections found in the period of January 1 to December 31, 2009 unless otherwise noted. The State of Colorado 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, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. Therefore, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. The “Range” column in the table(s) below will show a single value for those contaminants that were sampled only once. Violations, if any, are reported in the next section of this report.

Note: Only detected contaminants appear in this report. If no tables appear in this section, that means that Upper Surface Creek Domestic Water Users Association did not detect any contaminants in the last round of monitoring.

| Organics and Inorganics | Collection Date | Highest Value | Range | Unit | MCL | MCLG | Typical Source   |
|-------------------------|-----------------|---------------|-------|------|-----|------|--|
| BARIUM                  | 2/24/2009       | 0.037         | 0.037 | ppm  | 2   | 2    | Discharge of drilling wastes;<br>Discharge from metal refineries;<br>Erosion of natural deposits |
| NITRATE                 | 2/24/2009       | 0.25          | 0.25  | ppm  | 10  | 10   | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits      |

| Disinfection By-Products      | Date | Average | Range         | Highest RAA | Unit | MCL | MCLG | Typical Source                            |
|-------------------------------|------|---------|---------------|-------------|------|-----|------|---|
| TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5) | 2009 | 46.5525 | 21.41 - 89.77 | 50          | ppb  | 60  | N/A  | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| TTHM                          | 2009 | 39.25   | 16.14 - 65.56 | 50          | ppb  | 80  | N/A  | By-product of drinking water chlorination |

| Turbidity | Sample Date     | Level Found   | TT Requirement  | Typical Source |
|-----------|-----------------|---|---|----------------|
| TURBIDITY | Date:           | Highest single measurement:<br><br>0.12 NTU   | Maximum 1 NTU for any single measurement                        | Soil Runoff    |
|           | Month:<br><br>1 | Lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting TT requirement for our technology:<br><br>100% | In any month, at least 95% of samples must be less than 0.3 NTU |                |

| Lead and Copper | Collection Date | 90 <sup>TH</sup> Percentile | Unit | AL  | Typical Source  |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|------|-----|---|
| COPPER, FREE    | 2009            | 0.55                        | ppm  | 1.3 | Corrosion of household plumbing systems;<br>Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives |
| LEAD            | 2009            | 7                           | ppb  | 15  | Corrosion of household plumbing systems;<br>Erosion of natural deposits                                   |

| Radionuclides                | Collection Date | Highest Value | Range | Unit  | MCL | MCLG | Typical Source                         |
|------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|-------|-------|-----|------|--|
| GROSS BETA PARTICLE ACTIVITY | 6/13/2007       | 2.2           | 2.2   | pCi/L | 4   | 0    | Decay of natural and man-made deposits |

### Health Information About Water Quality

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800)426-4791.

Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

## Violations

| Type                                   | Category                                  | Analyte           | Compliance Period       |
|--|---|-------------------|-------------------------|
| FAILURE TO HAVE MONITORING PLAN (DBP2) | Failure to Complete Report/Record Keeping | DBP STAGE 2       | 04/01/2008 - 12/16/2009 |
| WATER QUALITY PARAMETER M/R (LCR)      | Failure to Monitor                        | PH                | 10/01/2008 - 09/30/2009 |
| WATER QUALITY PARAMETER M/R (LCR)      | Failure to Monitor                        | ALKALINITY, TOTAL | 10/01/2008 - 09/30/2009 |

### Information About the Above Violation(s)

**Upper Surface Creek Domestic Water Users Association is required to include an explanation of the violation(s) in the above table and the steps taken to resolve the violation(s) with this report.**

In the year 2009, this system was on an Enforcement Order from the state of Colorado for failing to comply with the MCL for HAA5 and failure to comply with removal requirements for disinfection by-product precursors. The Enforcement Order was based on problems with HAA in 2008. USCDWUA did not exceed the MCL for HAA5 in 2009. This was accomplished by limiting the residence time of water in the distribution system through the regular operation of manual and automatic flushing stations. To further inhibit the formation of by-products, we have reduced the dosage of chlorine. We are hopeful that expensive changes to our water treatment process can be avoided by these strategies.

USCDWUA has completed and submitted a monitoring plan to resolve the Failure to Have Monitoring Plan violation listed above.

On the issue of failure to monitor for pH and total alkalinity, a search of our records indicates that the required testing was in fact performed during the compliance period. However, the results of those tests apparently failed to reach the State of Colorado. It is anticipated that re-submitting the test results will resolve this violation.

Difficulty with mail service has been a recurring problem in submitting required documents to the State. The current policy of USCDWUA is to use email whenever possible, which results in an immediate confirmation that the transmission was received. This has resulted in much better flow of information. However, it is still possible that required reports to the State can be overlooked. USCDWUA strives to improve our system of reminders to ensure that legal compliance is maintained.