Consumer Confidence Report 2013 for NKN Water District

and March 2014 Newsletter

Is my water safe? We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with dependable, safe drinking water.

Do I need to take special precautions? 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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791). Although not exceeding maximum limits, you should know that NKN water has slightly elevated levels of naturally occurring sodium.

Where does my water come from? NKN water comes exclusively from four springs on NKN Mt. Three of these springs are in constant use and the one named Pirates Spring is on standby (not normally in use). The aquifer that feeds these springs lies in an area virtually free of industrial contaminants. NKN water is very good water and requires no filtration.

Source water assessment and its availability. A complete report on our source water assessment completed in 2005 is available upon request.

Why are there contaminants in my drinking water? 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 Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (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: 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, 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; and radioactive contaminants, which 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, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

How can I get involved? The District staff are always interested in speaking with anyone who has an interest in helping with our ongoing protection of this invaluable resource.

Description of Water Treatment Process. Your water is treated by disinfection. Disinfection involves the addition of chlorine to kill dangerous bacteria and microorganisms that may be in the water. Disinfection is considered to be one of the major public health advances of the 20th century.

Water Conservation Tips. Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference – try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers - a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
- Visit www.epa.gov/watersense for more information.

Cross Connection Control Survey. The purpose of this survey is to determine whether a cross-connection may exist at your home or business. A cross connection is an unprotected or improper connection to a public water distribution system that may cause contamination or pollution to enter the system. We are responsible for enforcing cross-connection control regulations and insuring that no contaminants can, under any flow conditions, enter the distribution system. If

you have any of the devices listed below please contact us so that we can discuss the issue, and if needed, survey your connection and assist you in isolating it if that is necessary.

- Boiler/ Radiant heater (water heaters not included)
- Underground lawn sprinkler system
- Pool or hot tub (whirlpool tubs not included)
- Additional source(s) of water on the property
- Decorative pond
- Watering trough

For protection of your home system as well as that of the entire system you should have a "vacuum break" in place on all garden hose faucets. We can provide these at no cost to you.

Source Water Protection Tips. Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides – they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public wastewater system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community, or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with your local government or water supplier. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste - Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

Other Information. Your District is governed by a Board of 5 elected, volunteer individuals and managed by a staff of 2 part-time employees. Staff include the General Manager and the System Operator.

Additional Information for 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. NeahKahNie Water District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in household 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. The District tests for lead every 3 years by asking 10 households to voluntarily take samples. Results of these tests have been generally good and we haven't had a single high reading ever since adding pH control (soda ash) to our treatment system. 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 http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

End of mandatory, annual Consumer Confidence Report

And now, in other news…

February saw some significant numbers in households that suffered broken pipes due to freezing.

We had our own little prefect storm beginning February 5th when it became apparent we had a leak in a water main somewhere in the upper zone (UZ=Meadowview Estates, Sunset & Circle Drives, Blackberry Lane and Twana Trace).

With the assistance of a neighboring landowner who called in a report of unusual water flow running down the street gutter, System Operator Doug Chance identified the leak at the intersection of Meadow Loop and Sunset Drive,.

This all occurred February 6th when our historic snowfall event was just getting under way. Once we had a contractor on site and had located all the valves necessary to isolate and repair the water line, it was getting dark and there was already 4 inches of snow on the ground. It was decided that trying to move equipment in and work under these slippery conditions on these steep grades was not worth the risks involved. We chose to throttle back the leak to a bearable amount to avert a catastrophic failure while keeping water pressure intact to all homes involved. Eight homes were affected by the work and had to undergo a boil water notice until all work was completed and a final water sample tested free of bacteria.

On Monday we got started around 8:00AM in the rain, with the snow mostly gone and the line was back in service by 3:00PM Monday February 10th, with the boil water notice canceled by 8:30AM Wednesday morning.

Throughout this period, I and your System Operator spent considerable time searching for broken pipes at homes. In the end, and after searching in the snow and then in the rain for 3 days, and with help from short-term rental companies, North Coast Watchman Services and one individual who checked on an absentee owner's home and found a broken pipe, we finally located and shut off the last of 8 leaking homes. And we probably didn't hear back from some of the companies about all the instances they had found. During the process I was more than a little shocked and amazed at how many hoses I saw still connected to outdoor hose faucets. **A freeze-proof, outdoor hose faucet cannot work as designed to protect against freezing if the hose is left connected**.

We could have located most of these leaks much sooner if they hadn't been masked by the 6 – 8 inches of snow that we received. I think I will keep a pair of cross country skis here in the shop from now on.

Website – We now have a website which we will depend upon for getting notices out to the public (nknwd.org).

Non-urgent listings will consist of things like the monthly Board meeting notice, the annual budget meeting notices and these bimonthly newsletters.

Urgent notices will be preceded by radio broadcasts, such as in the instance of major water main breaks or other occurrences affecting a large portion of the community. We will use the website to provide additional details related to these radio announcements.