

NEAH KAH NIE WATER DISTRICT
2014 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT AND MARCH 2015 NEWSLETTER

Is my water safe? Neah Kah Nie Water District is 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 information because informed customers are our best allies.

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).

Where does my water come from? NKNWD water sources comprise 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

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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 or other disinfectant to kill dangerous bacteria and microorganisms that may be in the water. It is common for spring water to contain TC, or total coliform, not necessarily a health hazard but indicative of biological activity, however, Pirates Spring has tested positive for *E. coli* bacteria, therefore any water used from Pirates Spring must meet the 4-log viral inactivation (disinfection) standard for drinking water which means it is rendered at least 99.99% free of live bacteria and viruses. 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

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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

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 water 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.

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. Neah Kah Nie Water District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in 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. 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>.

Other Information - Your water district is governed by a Board of five elected volunteers and managed by a staff of two part-time employees. Staff includes the General Manager and the System Operator, the latter an employee certified by the Oregon Health Authority in water treatment and distribution.

Water District Contact Information: Richard Felley
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...IN OTHER NEWS!

Weather this February was a complete flip-flop compared to last year. This year temperatures reached nearly 70 degrees for several days in the coastal towns with little wind and much sun. Last year we saw record snowfall in the area the first week in February.

So far for 2015 we have had two significant rainfall events, one netting nearly 4 inches in 24 hours, and another netting well over 4 inches in one weekend.

I recently attended an annual conference for special districts and took in a session on cyber crime. I'd like to pass along the website for the presenter who I found had some very substantive and current advice. Please look at computercrimeinfo.com for a plethora of good information. My take away key points included: 1) The criminals go for the easiest targets so don't be one; 2) Passwords, passwords, passwords! Do not store any login information on your computer. Don't allow your computer to memorize your password. Choose strong passwords, write them down on paper and store them in a secure location; 3) Facebook's private setting isn't. He used live examples from the audience and demonstrated how easy it is to get into a supposedly private Facebook site; 4) Freeze your credit with all three credit bureaus and get your free credit reports every year but space the request to each bureau apart by 3 or 4 months; 5) Learn to backup your computer on an external hard drive and store that drive in a secure location, preferably a fireproof safe.

The following piece was submitted by Mike Maginnis, NKN resident and CARTM Board member. I welcome items for the newsletter if they are in the interest of the general community and space allows:

Have you ever felt overwhelmed by all of the junk mail that comes your way? Here are three valuable resources to help unburden that overflowing mailbox!

The first tool is provided by (surprisingly) the Direct Marketing Association. They have developed an online tool that allows you to opt out of individual company mailers or of entire categories of mailings! (Categories include credit offers, magazine offers, catalogs, and "other" direct mail.) Their service is free at dmachoice.org.

Tool number two: TrustedID mail preference service provides a similar opt-out service that is also free of charge: catalogchoice.org.

And finally, to opt out of credit-card and insurance offerings, try optoutprescreen.com. This service prevents Consumer Credit Reporting Companies from providing your credit file information for "Firm Offers" ... unsolicited offers of credit or insurance products. Again, this is a free service!

Less junk mail means *less wasted resources and more landfill diversion*. We appreciate that!
