

Drinking Water Quality Report

VALDEZ Water Department



This brochure is compiled from data collected up to the end of the 2019 calendar year and is designed to inform you about the quality of water delivered to you every day.

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Drinking Water Quality Report

CITY OF VALDEZ
WATER DEPARTMENT
P.O. BOX 307
VALDEZ, ALASKA 99686

The City of Valdez Water Department has prepared this report to explain where your tap water comes from, what it contains, and how it measures up to state and federal standards.

While there are over 80 constituents we are required to test for, only those that were found in our water from January 1st to December 31st 2019, are presented in the water quality table located inside this brochure. All of the contaminants are below the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) set by the USEPA. Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation (UCMR2) samples were collected in 2008 and were all found to be less than the Minimum Reporting Level (MRL). UCMR2 results are available at City Hall. During the past year there have been no violations of the Drinking Water Quality Standards.

Information Statement about Lead in Drinking Water: 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. The City of Valdez 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 www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised individuals such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, those with HIV/AIDS or other immune 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 the 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.

As water travels over the surface of land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals. Water can also pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity. Drinking water, including bottled water, may be reasonably 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. More information about contaminants and the potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791 or on the web at www.epa.gov/safewater.

Questions or Comments

If you have any questions or comments about this report or are interested in learning more about Valdez Water, our staff is pleased to assist you. Office hours are 8:00-4:30 Mon-Fri. 835-4888.

Please contact the Police Department at 835-4560 for after hour emergencies.

For questions regarding billing, please contact the finance department at 835-4313.

For questions regarding the Source Water Protection Planning Team contact Community Development at 834-3401.

WHERE DOES MY WATER COME FROM?

The City of Valdez maintains three water systems within the city limits. In 2019 all systems collectively produced over 628 million gallons of water for Valdez consumers. A sanitary survey was conducted in 2019 on all three water systems. A sanitary survey is required every three years.

The Main In-town system provides water to the residences and businesses in the immediate town area. Three wells on Hanagita Street draw water from a groundwater aquifer located approximately 60 feet below the surface, providing water to Reservoir #1 on 'water tower hill'. A second well located on Egan Drive also draws water from an aquifer 60 feet below the surface and stores the water in Reservoir #2, located on the hill behind this station. It is suspected that the water from these two reservoirs is not completely blended in the system, therefore water is monitored from each reservoir to ensure the water tested is representative of the entire system.

The South Central system is now connected with the Loop Road and Airport water systems forming a looped system. Located next to the Senior League field, this station has two wells that draw water from an aquifer located approximately 60 feet below the surface, storing it in the onsite reservoir. Water is supplied to the residences and businesses along Salcha Way, Airport Road, Atigun Street, Sawmill Drive and around Loop Road to the Richardson Highway.

The Robe River water system also draws water from an aquifer located roughly 60 feet below the surface and stored in the onsite reservoir. This system provides water to all the service connections in the Robe River subdivision.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENTS have been completed by the ADEC as a first step towards voluntary local source water protection efforts. Vulnerability ratings are assigned based on the susceptibility of the drinking water source, recent sampling results and the presence of potential contaminant sources – they do not necessarily indicate these contaminants will reach your source water.

The Main In-town water system has received a vulnerability rating of 'Very High' for nitrates and nitrites, volatile organic chemicals, heavy metals, cyanide and other inorganic chemicals, and other organic chemicals and a vulnerability rating of 'High' for bacteria and viruses and synthetic organic chemicals.

The South Central water system has received a vulnerability rating of 'High' for bacteria and viruses, nitrates and nitrites, volatile organic chemicals, heavy metals, cyanide and other inorganic chemicals, and other organic chemicals and a vulnerability rating of 'Medium' for synthetic organic chemicals.

The Robe River water system has received a vulnerability rating of 'High' for bacteria and viruses, nitrates and nitrites, and volatile organic chemicals and a vulnerability rating of 'Medium' for heavy metals, cyanide and other inorganic chemicals, synthetic organic chemicals and other organic chemicals.

The Planning and Zoning Commission has been designated as the Source Water Protection Planning Team. For more information on scheduled meetings contact Community Development at 834-3404.

Water Quality Testing

Because of the numerous potential source and varieties of contaminants, state and federal law mandates the routine testing of all contaminants known to pose a risk to public health. Some contaminants can affect water sources very quickly and others are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Therefore testing frequency varies from weekly to once every nine years, depending on risk and contaminant. Your water is tested for all applicable hazardous contaminants, however only those detected are listed in the adjacent table.

CONTAMINANT	MCL	MCLG	Units	Main In-Town Reservoir #1 PWSID 298103	Main In-Town Reservoir #2 PWSID 298103	South Central PWSID 291229	Robe River PWSID 291211	Year Tested	Possible Source of Contamination
NITRATE (as Nitrogen)	10	10	mg/l	0.952	0.681	0.255	0.491	2019	Leaching from septic tanks; erosion of natural deposits.
COPPER	1.3 (AL)	1.3	mg/l	0.235*	0.235*	0.054	0.128	2017	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
LEAD	15(AL)	0	ug/l	3.16*	3.16*	2.94	2.41	2017	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Radium (combined 226/228)	5	0	pCi/L	0.30	0.60	0.11	0.55	2016	Erosion of natural deposits
Alpha emitters	15	0	pCi/L	0.45	-0.17	-0.720	1.50	2016	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium	<2000	0	ug/l	3.87	ND	ND	27.5	2019	Erosion of natural deposits

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant, which if exceeded triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Milligrams per liter (mg/l): One part per million parts.

Micrograms per liter (ug/l): One part per billion parts.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L): A unit of Radioactivity.

ND: None detected.

* Collected in 2018

***** Tampering with a water facility is a FEDERAL OFFENSE. Please report all suspicious activity to 835-4560. *****