



# CHEROKEE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

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Public Water Supply ID # CO0121125

## 2011 Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report For Calendar Year 2010

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

We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of water and services we deliver to you every day. 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 public in general. 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 (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 water discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- **Pesticides and herbicides**, 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**, 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 U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

### Our Water Sources

Your water comes from 18 municipal wells spanning an area eight miles north to ten miles south of the town of Ellicott. The wells are drilled about 180 feet deep, into an underground source of water called the Upper Black Squirrel Creek Alluvial Aquifer. Ellicott is situated 20 miles east of Peterson Air Force Base on Highway 94.

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/swaphorn.html](http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/wq/sw/swaphorn.html) or by contacting our Superintendent Arthur Sintas at (719) 597-5080. 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 provide a starting point for developing a source water protection plan. Potential sources of contamination in our source water area come from row crops, fallow, small grains, pasture / hay, septic systems and roads.

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

### Terms and Abbreviations

- **Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)**: One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or one penny in \$10,000.
- **Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (µg/l)**: One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or one penny in \$10,000,000.
- **Action Level (AL)**: The concentration of a contaminant, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements a water system must follow.
- **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)**: The average of monitoring results for the previous 12 calendar months.

### Detected Contaminants

Cherokee Metropolitan District routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to federal and state laws. The following tables show all contaminants detected in the period of January 1 to December 31, 2010, unless otherwise noted. The State of Colorado requires us to monitor for certain contaminants once every three years, 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. Some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. The “Range” column in the tables will show the lowest and highest measured values for contaminants that were sampled more than once. Violations, if any, are reported in the last section of this report.

Note: Only detected contaminants appear in this report. If no table appears in this section, it means Cherokee Metropolitan District did not detect any contaminants in the last round of monitoring.

| Inorganics     | Sample Date | Highest Value | Range           | Unit | MCL | MCLG | Typical Source   |
|----------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------|------|-----|------|--|
| Antimony       | 4-15-10     | 0.04          | 0.03 – 0.04     | ppb  | 6   | 6    | Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder                    |
| Arsenic        | 4-15-10     | 0.43          | 0.09 – 0.43     | ppb  | 10  | 10   | Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes |
| Barium         | 11-10-10    | 0.0605        | 0.0295 – 0.0605 | ppm  | 2   | 2    | Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits             |
| Chromium       | 3-11-10     | 2.3           | 0.69 – 2.3      | ppb  | 100 | 100  | Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits                                       |
| Nitrate (As N) | 10-14-10    | 6.0           | 4.7 – 6.0       | ppm  | 10  | 10   | Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits            |
| Selenium       | 3-11-10     | 15.3          | 2.38 – 15.3     | ppb  | 50  | 50   | Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines       |
| Thallium       | 4-15-10     | 0.02          | <0.02 – 0.02    | ppb  | 2   | 2    | Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines       |

| Disinfection By-Products      | Date    | Highest Value | Range       | Unit | MCL   | MCLG | Typical Source                            |
|-------------------------------|---------|---------------|-------------|------|-------|------|---|
| Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) | 8-18-10 | 31.2          | 1.46 – 31.2 | ppb  | 60.00 | N/A  | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)  | 8-18-10 | 36.3          | 4.74 – 36.3 | ppb  | 80.00 | N/A  | By-product of drinking water chlorination |

| Lead and Copper | Collection Date | 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile | Unit | AL  | Typical Source  |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|------|-----|---|
| Copper          | 2008            | 0.564                       | ppm  | 1.3 | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits. |
| Lead            | 2008            | 3.45                        | ppb  | 15  | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits. |

| Organics                  | Collection Date | Highest Value | Unit | MCL | MCLG | Typical Source |
|---------------------------|-----------------|---------------|------|-----|------|----------------|
| Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate | 3-11-10         | 0.94          | ppb  | 6   | 0    | Plastics       |

| Secondary Contaminants / Other Monitoring | Collection Date | Highest Value | Range       | Unit | Secondary Standard |
|---|-----------------|---------------|-------------|------|--------------------|
| Sodium                                    | 3-11-10         | 46.9          | 18.7 – 46.9 | ppm  | 10,000             |
| Nickel                                    | 3-11-10         | 1.42          | 0.45 - 1.42 | ppb  |                    |

Secondary standards are non-enforceable guidelines for contaminants that may cause cosmetic effects (such as skin or tooth discoloration) or aesthetic effects (such as taste, odor, or color) in drinking water. EPA recommends these standards but does not require water systems to comply.

### 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 in 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 flush your tap for 30 seconds to two minutes before using tap water or you may have your water tested. Additional information is available from the *Safe Drinking Water Hotline* at (800) 426-4791.

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, and detected levels are above 5 ppm, you should ask advice from your health care provider.

If you have any questions about this report or your water utility, please contact our General Manager Sean Chambers at (719) 597-5080. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more about the utility, please call the above contact or attend our open Board of Directors meeting scheduled at 5:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at our offices located at 6250 Palmer Park Boulevard.

### Violations

No violations occurred in the calendar year of 2010.