

Craig's Water Quality Report

for the Year 2009

Craig's Water Treatment Plant (PWSID# CO 0141188) produced over 617 million gallons of drinking water in 2009. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Colorado Department of Public Health and the EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food & Drug Administration establishes limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health. Operators at the water plant perform thousands of tests each year to ensure that our drinking water is free of physical, chemical, and biological contaminants. Please take a few minutes to read through this material and, if you have questions, contact Mark Sollenberger, the Water and Wastewater Director, at 970-824-6340. Also, you're welcome to voice opinions at the city council meetings held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:30 P.M. at City Hall. And of course, you're always welcome to stop at the plant for answers and a tour.

Esta informacion es importante.
Si no la pueden leer, necesitan
que alguien se la pueda
traducean.

Craig's drinking water comes from the Yampa River. There are 27 rivers and streams that comprise the Yampa River watershed above Craig. In the event of a severe drought, the Elkhead Reservoir can be used to supplement our water source supply. The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include river, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs and springs. 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. These substances 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.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has provided us with a Source Water Assessment Report for our water supply and has given our source water an overall susceptibility rating of "Moderate". You may obtain a copy of the report by visiting www.cdph.state.co.us/wq/sw/swaphom.html or by contacting Mark Sollenberger at 970-824-6340. Potential sources of contamination in our source water area come from: EPA Hazardous Waste Generators, EPA Chemical Inventory/Storage Sites, EPA Toxic Release Inventory Sites, Permitted Wastewater Discharge Sites, Aboveground, Underground and Leaking Storage Tank Sites, Solid Waste Sites, Existing/Abandoned Mine Sites, Commercial/Industrial/Transportation, High Intensity Residential, Low Intensity Residential, Urban Recreational Grasses, Row Crops, Pasture/Hay, Deciduous Forest, Evergreen Forest, Mixed Forest, Septic Systems, Oil/Gas Wells, and Road Miles.

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. Please contact Mark Sollenberger at 970-824-6340 to learn more about what you can do to help protect your drinking water source, any questions about the Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report, or to learn more about our system.

Definitions

It is important to understand some terms that we use frequently at the water plant. Following are several of these terms and their definitions. Take a moment to read these terms so you are better able to understand the information in the succeeding tables.

Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers an action by the plant to lower the level.

Below Detectable Limit (BDL): Indicates that a contaminant was undetectable during the testing procedure.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): 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 Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): 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 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.

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

Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTUs): Unit of measurement for turbidity, or cloudiness of the water. Lower the better.

Parts Per Billion (ppb): A unit of measure. 1.0ppb means there is one part of the substance in one billion parts of water. We also use µg/L (micrograms per liter). 1ppb is equal to 1µg/L.

Parts Per Million (ppm): This is a unit of measure that we commonly use at the plant. 1.0ppm means that there is one part of a substance in one million parts of water. We also use mg/L (milligrams per liter). 1ppm is equal to 1mg/L.

picoCuries/Liter (pCi/L): A measure of radioactivity.

PWSID: Public Water System Identification Number

Running Annual Average (RAA): Average of quarterly averages. Calculated from four of "most recent quarters".

Total Organic Carbon (TOC): A measure of the total amount of carbon in water, present as organic molecules.

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in the water.

Waiver: State permission not to test for a contaminant. Our plant has a waiver for: Dioxin, Glyphosphate, Nitrite, Cyanide, and Asbestos.

The following tables contain data concerning various chemicals found in the water. Please take a few minutes to look at these tables; they'll give you good information about the quality of your drinking water.

Lead and Copper in your drinking water

Every three years we test 20 sites throughout the city for Lead and Copper levels in the drinking water. Homes are selected that are likely to show high levels of these elements, if present in the drinking water. To be in compliance, 90% of these homes must have Lead and Copper Action Levels below 15 ppb and 1300 ppb respectively. 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 Craig Water Plant 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>. **We tested our 20 sites for Lead and Copper in 2008 and the 90th percentile level for Lead was 2.3 ppb, and for Copper it was 68 ppb, both well below the Action Level established by the EPA. None of the sites exceeded the Action Level for Copper. We will retest for Lead and Copper in 2011.**

The Craig Water Plant tests for SOCs every three years. We sampled for VOCs annually.

For the most part, the following chemicals enter the source water via storm and/or spring runoff, residential, industrial, and agricultural uses.

Synthetic Organic Chemicals (SOCs) - Regulated

SOCs are man-made compounds used in industrial applications. They include: solvents, paints, plastics, dyes, and food additives.

Volatile Organic Chemicals (VOCs) - Regulated

The sources of these chemicals include: pesticides, herbicides, and industrial solvents. A number of these are suspected carcinogens. State certified labs **tested twice for SOCs** at our water plant in 2009. **None** of these regulated contaminants were **detected** in our drinking water. We tested for VOCs in 2009 and none were found. We will sample for SOCs again in 2012. A complete list of these chemicals and the results are available at the plant.

We check for these chemicals annually. We submitted samples for these contaminants on 3/18/2009

Inorganic Chemicals - Regulated

These are metals and salts, which can be naturally occurring or can result from urban storm water runoff, industrial discharges, oil and gas production, mining, and farming. The **following chemicals were below the detectable limit** in your drinking water in the 2009 analysis: Arsenic, Beryllium, Mercury, Cadmium, Thallium, Antimony, Nickel, and Nitrite. The following chemicals were found at the stated level:

Barium was detected at a level of 46 ppb (MCL is 2000 ppb) (MCLG is 2000 ppb)

Drinking water containing barium in excess of the MCL over many years may increase blood pressure.

Selenium was detected at a level of 7.5ppb (MCL is 50.0ppb) (MCLG is 50.0ppb)

Selenium is an essential nutrient. However, some people who drink water containing selenium in excess of the MCL over many years could experience hair or fingernail losses, numbness in fingers or toes, or problems with their circulation.

Nitrate was detected at a level of 0.79 ppm (MCL is 10.0 ppm) (MCLG is 10.0 ppm)

Infants below the age of 6 months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue baby syndrome.

Fluoride was detected at a level of 1.5 ppm (MCL is 4.0 ppm) (MCLG is 4.0 ppm)

Drinking water containing fluoride in excess of MCL over many years may cause bone disease, including pain or tenderness in bone. At half the MCL (2.0 ppm) or more, mottling of the teeth may occur in children.

We test for Turbidity on a continuous basis using an in-line turbidimeter.

Turbidity - This is one of the most important tests that we perform, so important that we monitor for turbidity on a continuous basis. Turbidity is an indicator of the clarity of the water, and comes predominantly from soil run-off. The turbidity leaving the plant must be below or equal to 0.3 NTUs in at least 95% of the samples per month. **At no time in 2009 did the water plant violate the state regulations for turbidity.**

| <u>Test</u> | <u>Unit</u> | <u>TT Requirement</u> | <u>Results</u> |
|-------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Turbidity | NTU | TT ≤0.3 in 95% of samples | % below MCL = 100% |

The highest turbidity level recorded during 2009 was in September and equaled 0.313 NTU. The average daily turbidity for our plant in the year 2009 was 0.060 NTU. Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.

In July of 2000, the Craig Water Plant became certified to perform Total Coliform tests. We renewed this certification in 2009. This allows us to obtain a faster turnaround time on our samples, and to perform additional tests when needed.

We test 10 different sites, every month, throughout the city for bacteria (Total Coliform bacteria). We tested for parasites (Giardia and Cryptosporidium) once in 2009. Sample was submitted on 12/2/2009.

Micro-organisms - Bacteria and parasites in the water can cause severe illness and even death. For this reason we closely monitor for these organisms. The combination of treatment process, filtration in particular, and disinfection with chlorine, ensures that your drinking water is free of these biological entities. Sources of these contaminants include: sewage treatment plants, septic systems, livestock operations, and wildlife.

| <u>Test</u> | <u>MCL</u> | <u>Result</u> |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| Total Coliforms | ≤1 positive sample/ month | Absent |
| Giardia & Cryptosporidium | Treatment Technology | None Detected |

We had no positive samples for Total Coliforms in the year 2009.

We collect samples for the follow tests quarterly.

Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) Haloacetic Acids (HAAs) - Regulated VOCs

These may be formed during chlorination by reactions with natural organic material in the water. Some THMs are thought to be cancer causing agents at certain levels. TTHMs are the sum of: bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane, bromoform, and chloroform. HAAs we test for include: Mono, di, and trichloroacetic acid, mono and dibromoacetic acid. Regulatory compliance is based off of the RAA of four consecutive quarters.

| <u>Test</u> | <u>Unit</u> | <u>MCL</u> | <u>Average</u> | <u>Range</u> | <u>Highest RAA</u> |
|-------------|-------------|------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| TTHMs | ppb | 80 ppb | RAA = 57.8 ppb | 27.5 - 89.8 ppb | 62 ppb |
| HAAs | ppb | 60 ppb | RAA = 38.2 ppb | 30.1 - 62.1 ppb | 38 ppb |

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

We test for Total Organic Carbon (TOC) once every month. TOC is naturally present in the environment. Compliance is based on percent removal ratio between the source water TOC, and the treated water TOC.

| <u>Test</u> | <u>Unit</u> | <u>MCL</u> | <u>Lowest Result</u> | <u>RAA Range</u> |
|-------------|---------------|------------|----------------------|------------------|
| TOC | Removal Ratio | < 1.0 (TT) | RAA 1.1 | 1.1-1.6 |

TOC has no health effects. We use enhanced treatment to remove the required amount of natural organic material and/or we demonstrated compliance with alternative criteria. However, these chemicals provide a medium for the formation of disinfection byproducts, which include Trihalomethanes (THMs) and Haloacetic acids (HAAs). Drinking water containing these byproducts in excess of the MCL may lead to adverse health effects, liver or kidney problems, nervous system effects, or increased risk of getting cancer.

We test continuously for free chlorine using an in-line analyzer. We also test 10 sites every month throughout the city for free chlorine and total chlorine (free chlorine and chloramine compounds). Chlorine disinfects the filtered water, killing bacteria and viruses. The water leaving the plant usually has an average chlorine concentration of 1.30 – 1.50 mg/L. Levels in the city usually range from 0.02 - 1.75 mg/L.

| <u>Test</u> | <u>Unit</u> | <u>MCL</u> | <u>Result</u> | <u>Range</u> | <u>MCLG</u> |
|-------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| Chlorine | mg/L | MRDL = 4.0 mg/L | RAA 0.55 | 0.27-0.94 mg/l | MRDLG = 4.0 mg/L |

Some people who use water containing chlorine well in excess of the MDRL could experience irritating effects to their eyes and nose. Some people who drink water that contains chlorine well in excess of the MDRL could experience stomach discomfort.

We tested for Alpha and Beta Emitters in 2001. We tested for Radium 228 in 2004. We will test again in 2013.

Radioactive Contaminants

Sources of Radioactive contaminants include nature, nuclear power plants, processing plants, and uranium mines. These contaminants have been proven to cause cancer. The following levels were detected in the most recent sample:

Gross Alpha Emitters (Natural Radioactivity): 0.0 pCi/L (MCL is 15 pCi/L) (MCLG is 0 pCi/L)

Beta Emitters (Natural and Man-made Radioactivity): 1.3 pCi/L (MCL is 50 pCi/L) (MCLG is 0 pCi/L)

Drinking water containing Alpha and Beta emitters in excess of MCL over many years may result in an increased risk of cancer.

Radium 228 (Natural Radioactivity): Average 0.05 pCi/L Range 0.0-0.2 pCi/L (MCL is 5 pCi/L) (MCLG is 0 pCi/L)

Drinking water containing Radium 228 in excess of MCL over many years may result in an increased risk of cancer.

The Water Plant tests for other chemicals in your drinking water, such as: pH, alkalinity, hardness, conductivity, TDS, iron, and salinity. Results for these tests are available at the water plant.

| <u>Secondary Contaminants/ Other Monitoring</u> | <u>Collection Date</u> | <u>Highest Value</u> | <u>Range</u> | <u>Unit</u> | <u>Secondary Standard</u> |
|---|------------------------|----------------------|--------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| Sodium | 03/18/09 | 68 | 68 | mg/l | 10,000 |

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.

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. 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 EPA and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and microbiological contaminants, call the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791)

A copy of this report is available to all interested parties and can be picked up at the water plant and at City Hall or visit our web site at www.ci.craig.co.us. Always feel free to call us at 824-6340 with questions and/or comments. State and federal drinking water regulations are ever-changing, and the operators at the Craig Water Plant are alert to these changes. We are watchful for new technologies that will improve the quality of your drinking water and enable us to exceed the drinking water standards.