

# Understanding the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)

## What is a CCR?

The City of Garden City Water Utility is required to keep water customers and users of the city water supply informed about the quality of the drinking water. Every year before July 1 a report is released that out-



lines the properties of our water.

The CCR gives water customers a comprehensive snapshot of the drinking water supply. What our drinking water contains, and how you can learn more

about drinking water or give your input about the drinking water supply.

All drinking water supplied to city water customers is disinfected to kill microbial contaminants. If left untreated microbial contaminants could cause illnesses.

The CCR Report is broken down into several sections to help customers.

**Regulated Contaminants:** These contaminants pose an immediate health risk if they exist above the Maximum Contaminant Level.

**Disinfection Byproducts:** The Water Utility uses chlorination as a method to ensure microbes that may be present in the water are eliminated. The byproduct of chlorination is a com-

pound called Trihalomethanes (Tri-Halo-Methanes). It is important to monitor the level of this compound to ensure it does not exceed the Maximum Contaminant Level.

**Lead and Copper:** Like many other industries Lead and Copper were used in plumbing fixtures in the past. The Water Utility samples volunteer households throughout the city to measure the amount of Lead and Copper that may exist in the water from contact with these fixtures.

**Radiological Contaminants:** Our planet's geology contains radiological compounds that will make their way into the water supply from erosion of natural deposits.

## Your Water Utility.

Water is a vitally important resource. This guide will give you more information about the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) and how to better understand the information contained in it.

I would also like to take a moment to remind all our water customers that conservation of our water resource is a great way to ensure that we have water available when we need it.

If you have issues with your household plumbing, please repair them immediately. You will save money and our community will save water from needless waste.

I would also encourage you to consider water saving devices in your home. There are many faucets, shower heads, washing machines, and dishwashers available from many manufacturers to help you save water.

Our staff is also available to help you. We can check your meter to see if you have a slow (or fast) leak and give you accurate day by day information about your usage with the help of our Automated Meter Reading System. There is no charge for these services, and we are just a phone call away.

-Fred Jones,

Water Resource Manager

## Where can I get my CCR?

Access to the CCR is easy. This year the CCR was included with your city utility bill. But the CCR is also available online at [www.gcdocs.net/2013ccr.pdf](http://www.gcdocs.net/2013ccr.pdf). The City of Garden City also purchases treated water from Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. This water comes into the system directly from Wheatland Electric. You can find more information about their water quality at <http://www.krwa.net/krwa/ccr/wheatland/Wheatland.pdf>

We will always have hard copies of the CCR available for you to pickup at the City Administrative Center (Service and Finance Office) and drive up window. There is no charge for this report.



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## I see a lot of numbers. Now what?

Do you feel like you are reading a science report when you look at the CCR. Well, you are! When we measure what is in our water we want to know the maximum values of any substance found and the range. Because the city has many wells in different geographic locations, it is important to understand that the water quality varies from sampling location to sampling location. Most importantly, we want to know if any contaminants exceed the Maximum Contaminant Levels.

## UNDERSTANDING THE TABLES ON THE REPORT.

This column tells us the range of values found through our samples. It shows the lowest and highest value.

This column indicates that from all the samples taken in the City. This is the highest value we found.

This value is the maximum contaminant level. If a value exceeds this MCL we must address the issue.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal : There is no known or expected health risk if the test values are below this level.

Testing Results for: City of Garden City

Regulated Contaminants	Collection Date	Your Highest Value	Range (low/high)	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
ARSENIC	2/13/2013	1.9	1.4 - 1.9	ppb	10	0	Erosion of natural deposits
ATRAZINE	8/15/2011	0.1	0.1	ppb	3	3	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
BARIUM	2/13/2013	0.056	0.016 - 0.056	ppm	2	2	Discharge from metal refineries
CHROMIUM	2/13/2013	2.7	1.7 - 2.7	ppb	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills
FLUORIDE	2/13/2013	1.1	0.43 - 1.1	ppm	4	4	Natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth.
NITRATE	4/3/2013	4.3	2.3 - 4.3	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use
SELENIUM	2/13/2013	6.4	1.3 - 6.4	ppb	50	50	Erosion of natural deposits
TETRACHLOROETHYLENE	8/12/2013	0.74	0.74	ppb	5	0	Discharge from factories and dry cleaners

### Units: How we measure what we find.

What are those letters? They are the unit of measurement used to describe the test result. Here are some definitions:

**ppb:** Parts per Billion (1 : 1,000,000,000)

**ppm:** Parts per Million (1 : 1,000,000)

**pCi/L:** Picocuries per Liter. Measure of radioactivity. A curie is 1 gram of the radium isotope. A picocurie is one trillionth (1 : 1,000,000,000,000) of a curie!

**µg/L:** Micrograms per Liter. A microgram is 1/1,000,000 of a gram or one part per million.

**mg/L:** Milligrams per Liter. This is 1/1,000,000. Commonly referred to as parts per million.

**UMHO/CM:** This means micromhos per centimeter. It is a measure of electrical conductivity. Conductivity is a general

measure of water quality and can indicate the presence of pollution if the measures change abruptly.

**LANG:** Stands for Langelier Saturation Index. It measures how corrosive or scale forming water is by predicting the calcium carbonate stability of water.

**pH:** A unit of measure that describes a chemical as "acidic" or "basic". The pH scale range is from 0 to 14. Pure water has a pH of 7 which is neutral. Anything less than 7 is more acidic and higher than 7 is more basic.

**Q:** How are mg/L and Parts Per Million equal? A milligram is a measure of weight, and a liter is a measure of liquid.

**A:** They are equal, a liter of pure water (at 4° C) weighs 1 kilogram or 1,000 grams. A milligram weighs 1/1,000th of a gram or 1/1,000,000th of a kilogram.