## 2018 Consumer Confidence Report

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| Water System Name: | **Independence Town Supply** | Report Date: | June 29, 2019 |

We test the drinking water quality for many constituents as required by state and federal regulations. This report shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2018 and may include earlier monitoring data.

**Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua para beber. Favor de comunicarse Inyo County Department of Public Works a (760) 878-0201 para asistirlo en español.**

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| Type of water source(s) in use:  | Wells- Groundwater |
| Name & general location of source(s):  | Wells are located within the water service area of Independence. |
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| Drinking Water Source Assessment information: | Assessment completed 2002, available from Inyo County Public Works |
| (760) 878-0201. Sources subject to recreational surface water with no contamination likely. |
| Time and place of regularly scheduled board meetings for public participation: | Tuesday mornings at 08:30 am at Inyo |
| County Board of supervisor’s meetings. |
| For more information, contact:  | Keith Pearce | Phone: | (760) 878-0210 (Office) |

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| **TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT** |
| **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)**: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.**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 are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA).**Public Health Goal (PHG)**: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.**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.**Primary Drinking Water Standards (PDWS)**: MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements. | **Secondary Drinking Water Standards (SDWS)**:MCLs for contaminants that affect taste, odor, or appearance of the drinking water. Contaminants with SDWSs do not affect the health at the MCL levels.**Treatment Technique (TT)**: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.**Regulatory Action Level (AL)**: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.**Variances and Exemptions**: Permissions from the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) to exceed an MCL or not comply with a treatment technique under certain conditions.**Level 1 Assessment**: A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.**Level 2 Assessment**: A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an *E. coli* MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.**ND**: not detectable at testing limit**ppm**: parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)**ppb**: parts per billion or micrograms per liter (µg/L)**ppt**: parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/L) **ppq**: parts per quadrillion or picogram per liter (pg/L)**pCi/L**: picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation) |
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**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, that 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, that are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.
* *Radioactive contaminants*, that 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 U.S. EPA and the State Board prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations and California law also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health.

**Tables 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 list all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the most recent sampling for the constituent**. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The State Board allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, are more than one year old. Any violation of an AL, MCL, MRDL, or TT is asterisked. Additional information regarding the violation is provided later in this report.

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| Table 1 – SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING the detection of coliform bacteria |
| **Microbiological Contaminants**(complete if bacteria detected) | **Highest No. of Detections** | **No. of Months in Violation** | MCL | **MCLG** | **Typical Source of Bacteria** |
| Total Coliform Bacteria(state Total Coliform Rule) | (In a month)0 | 0 | 1 positive monthly sample | 0 | Naturally present in the environment |
| Fecal Coliform or *E. coli*(state Total Coliform Rule) | (In the year)0 | 0 | A routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one of these is also fecal coliform or *E. coli* positive | 0 | Human and animal fecal waste |
| *E. coli*(federal Revised Total Coliform Rule) | (In the year)0 | 0 | (a) | 0 | Human and animal fecal waste |
| (a) Routine and repeat samples are total coliform-positive and either is *E. coli*-positive or system fails to take repeat samples following *E. coli*-positive routine sample or system fails to analyze total coliform-positive repeat sample for *E. coli*. |
| Table 2 – SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE detection of Lead and copper |
| Lead and Copper(complete if lead or copper detected in the last sample set) | **Sample Date** | **No. of Samples Collected** | **90th Percentile Level Detected** | **No. Sites Exceeding AL** | **AL** | **PHG** | **No. of Schools Requesting Lead Sampling** | **Typical Source of Contaminant** |
| Lead (ppb) | 8/23/16 | 10 | 3 | 0 | 15 | 0.2 | 2 | Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits |
| Copper (ppm) | 8/23/16 | 10 | 0.17 | 0 | 1.3 | 0.3 | Not applicable | Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives |

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| TAble 3 – SAMPLING RESULTS FOR sodium and hardness |
| **Chemical or Constituent** (and reporting units) | **Sample Date** | **LevelDetected** | **Range of Detections** | **MCL** | **PHG(MCLG)** | **Typical Source of Contaminant** |
| Sodium (ppm) | 2017 | 19.2 | 17.5 - 21.0 | None | None | Salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring |
| Hardness (ppm) | 2017 | 55 | 53 - 58 | None | None | Sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium, and are usually naturally occurring |
| **TAble 4 – detection of contaminants with a Primary Drinking Water Standard** |
| **Chemical or Constituent**(and reporting units) | **Sample Date** | **LevelDetected** | **Range of Detections** | **MCL[MRDL]** | **PHG(MCLG)[MRDLG]** | **Typical Source of Contaminant** |
| Uranium (pCi/L) | 2017 | 1.68 |  | 20 | 0.43 | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Fluoride (mg/L) | 2017 | 0.111 |  | 2.0 | 1 | Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories |
| Chlorine (mg/L) | 2018 | 0.58 | 0.52 – 1.18 | 4 | 4 | Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment |
| TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes) (ug/L) | 2018 | 3.4 |  | 80 | N/A | Byproduct of drinking water disinfection |
| HAA5(Sum of 5 Haloacetic Acids) (ug/L) | 2018 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 60 | N/A | Byproduct of drinking water disinfection |
| **TAble 5 – detection of contaminants with a Secondary Drinking Water Standard** |
| **Chemical or Constituent**(and reporting units) | **Sample Date** | **Level Detected** | **Range of Detections** | **SMCL** | **PHG(MCLG)** | Typical Source of Contaminant |
| Chloride (mg/L) | 2017 | 9.94 | 9.18 – 10.7 | 250 | N/A | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence |
| Color (Units) | 2017 | 4 |  | 15 | N/A | Naturally-occurring organic materials |
| Specific Conductance (uS/cm) | 2017 | 196 | 184 - 208 | 900 | N/A | Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence |
| Sulfate (mg/L) | 2017 | 19.2 | 18.0 – 20.3 | 250 | N/A | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes |
| Total Dissolved Solids (mg/L) | 2017 | 130 | 126 - 134 | 500 | N/A | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits |
| Turbidity (NTU) | 2018 | 1.2 | 0.57 – 1.84 | 5 | N/A | Soil runoff |
| **TAble 6 – detection of UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS** |
| **Chemical or Constituent**(and reporting units) | **Sample Date** | **Level Detected** | **Range of Detections** | **Notification Level** | **Health Effects Language** |
| Chromium-6 (ug/L) | 2017 | 0.67 | 0.67 | N/A | N/A |
| Radon (pC/L) | 2017 | 1400 |  | N/A | N/A |

**Additional General Information on 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 the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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. U.S. 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 Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Lead-Specific Language: 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. Inyo County Department of Public Works 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 do so, you may wish to collect the flushed water and reuse it for another beneficial purpose, such as watering plants. 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 (1-800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/lead>.

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| Radon: We constantly monitor the water supply for various contaminants. We have consistently detected radon in the groundwater supply. There is no federal regulation for radon levels in drinking water. Exposure over a long period of time to air transmitting radon may cause adverse health effects.Radon is a radioactive gas that you cannot see, taste, or smell. It is found throughout the U.S. Radon can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in the foundation. Radon can build up to high levels in all types of homes. Radon can also get into indoor air when released from tap water from showering, washing dishes, and other household activities. Compared to radon entering the home through soil, radon entering the home through tap water will in most cases be a small source of radon in indoor air. Radon is a known human carcinogen. Breathing air containing radon can lead to lung cancer. Drinking water containing radon may also cause increased risk of stomach cancer. If you are concerned about radon in your home, test the air in your home. Testing is inexpensive and easy. You should pursue radon removal for your home if the level of radon in your air is 4 picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L) or higher. There are simple ways to fix a radon problem that are not too costly. For additional information, call your State radon program (1-800-745-7236, the U.S. EPA Safe Drinking Water Act Hotline (1‑800-426-4791), or the National Safe Council Radon Hotline (1-800-767-7236). |
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**Summary Information for Uncorrected Significant Deficiencies**

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| **SPECIAL NOTICE FOR UNCORRECTED SIGNIFICANT DEFICIENCIES** |
| On March 12, 2018 we were cited by the State Water Board (Citation No. 05-13-18C-008 & -009) for failure to test all backflow preventers annually for 2012-2016 and to implement a cross connection control program within Independnece (-008) and Lone Pine (-009). In 2018 we have acknowledged receipt of the citation, implemented a cross connection control program with the associated subtasks, inventoried all backflow devise installed, tested all county-owned backflow devices and required owners of all other devices to have their devices tested, sent test reports to the State Board, submitted a plan to the State Board that ensures all devices are tested at least annually, and included within this consumer Confidence Report notice of such Citation. We lack having a complete system survey of both residential and non-residential services as this was estimated to be very costly beyond our means. This impediment coincided with a water rate study under way at the time. Upon successful implementation of a water rate increase, which is expected, the complete system survey can then be achieved. Toward that end, in late May we conducted one-on-one meetings with the commercial service owners in Lone Pine, held public meetings on June 5 & 6 in both Independence and Lone Pine which were favorably received, submitted results of such meetings to the Board of Supervisors on June 25, and are now taking steps to comply with proposition 218 and additionally hold 2 workshops in each affected town to discuss water rates. After the close of the 45 day period during which the workshops will be scheduled, a hearing and vote will be conducted. With passage, new water rates will be implemented and revenue should be seen by the end of 2019. Further, regarding the system survey of both residential and non-residential services, a survey questioner was mailed to all customers. Many of you have not returned the survey form. Please return the survey form or call us at (760) 878-0201 and we will gladly send you a new form to fill out and return. Thank you. |