

# Quality Water For Our Community

DRINK  
UP!



## Your Water Resources?

A clean and dependable water supply is a privilege not available everywhere in the world. We are very fortunate to be able to turn our taps and have quality water for our needs. At Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities (SLC Public Utilities), a primary goal is to continue to deliver the best drinking water practicable that meets and exceeds all state and federal regulations. Our dedication to providing high quality water starts with preserving SLC Public Utilities’ excellent source waters, including surface waters from the canyons and groundwater from wells and springs. Our commitment continues as water is treated and conveyed through our distribution system until the water is delivered to more than 91,000 residential and commercial consumers.

## Conservations, Weather, and the Future of Water Supply in Utah

The winter of 2014/2015 was another season of low snow accumulation. These drought-like conditions contribute to concerns for our current water supply and also bring up questions about the potential for significant changes to our future water supplies. SLC Public Utilities is

engaged with numerous stakeholders to understand and prepare for potential climate changes and to identify how best to adapt. Regardless of the snow totals, spring runoff amounts, or supply levels, remember: we never have enough to waste. Visit [www.slcgov.com/waterconservation](http://www.slcgov.com/waterconservation) to learn more.

## Source Waters

SLC Public Utilities is fortunate to have multiple source waters and redundancy throughout our system. Our source waters include mountain streams and reservoirs and a network of groundwater wells. SLC Public Utilities owns and operates three surface water treatment plants and purchases water from other water districts and conservancies. Our network of water wells is used in the summer months to meet high demand. Because of our varied sources and treatment facilities, water in our distribution system is typically blended from these sources and may vary throughout the year depending on supply and demand. We regularly address our source protection and prepare source protection plans. For more information on these assessments please contact SLC Public Utilities or the Utah Division of Drinking Water.

**SURFACE WATER.** Our primary source waters are from mountain streams, which are in the protected watersheds located north and east of Salt Lake City in the Wasatch Mountains. In addition, we have invested in and receive treated water from the Provo River watershed. SLC Public Utilities is very active with protection of the watersheds, but recognizes that regulation alone is not enough. “Keep It Pure”, our watershed motto, has helped to impress on our community the importance of protecting our watersheds and water resources. Help us maintain our water quality by taking part in activities related to source protection.

**GROUNDWATER.** The quality of our groundwater is impacted by what happens on the ground above. What you do on your private property can impact the groundwater. Salt Lake City zoning ordinance 21A.34.060 was adopted to help protect our groundwater resources. Never dispose of chemicals or hazardous materials on the ground as these materials can migrate through the soils and impact groundwater. Some SLC Public Utilities wells have been impacted by groundwater contamination. As a result these wells have been taken out of service pending remediation of the groundwater and/or groundwater treatment. SLC Public Utilities remains a concerned

and active stakeholder for sites where groundwater contamination has been identified. As such, we work with the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and other stakeholders to protect our citizens and their interests.

## Cross Connection

Through our cross-connection control program we provide oversight and monitor connections to our system to alleviate the possibility of water back-flowing from a consumer, either residential or commercial, into our distribution system. A cross connection is any actual or potential connection between the water you want to drink and other sources of water that may make it possible for undesirable substances (e.g., used water, industrial fluids) to enter your drinking water. You can do your part by monitoring your own water use and connections within your home or business. For more information regarding cross-connection please **visit [http://www.deq.utah.gov/ProgramsServices/programs/water/BackflowProgram/docs/2014/07Jul/Cross\\_Control\\_Basic\\_Info.pdf](http://www.deq.utah.gov/ProgramsServices/programs/water/BackflowProgram/docs/2014/07Jul/Cross_Control_Basic_Info.pdf)**

## Stormwater

At SLC Public Utilities, we monitor the quality of our stormwater discharges to ensure that stormwater, as well as the creeks and rivers that it drains to, is as clean as possible. Please help us in this endeavor by preventing pollution from flowing off of your property and going into the storm drain. “We All Live Downstream” is a motto you may have heard; in practice it means we all need to keep refuse, leaves, grass, debris, and other pollutants out of the stormwater.



## Drinking Contaminants

Drinking water sources 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 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 (viruses and bacteria), inorganic contaminants (salts and metals), pesticides and herbicides, organic chemicals (synthetic and volatile organic chemicals) and radioactive contaminants. In order to ensure that tap water is acceptable to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems.

Last year our drinking water was tested for more than 170 individual contaminants and more than 16,000 analytical tests were performed. All results met federal and state standards. The state allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old. Please refer to the table for a listing of some of the compounds for which we routinely look.

In addition to our routine monitoring, we also take part in federal programs aimed to assist with development and refinement of regulatory levels for possible contaminants. For example, we recently participated in the EPA’s Un-Regulated Contaminants Monitoring Rule; results are available at <http://www.slcgov.com/node/214>. In addition, we are participating in a two-year sampling program under the EPA’s Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2) to monitor for cryptosporidium and other disease-causing microorganisms in our source waters.

## Health Alert

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. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the 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. EPA/Center for Disease Control 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** or online at <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.

## Attention!

El informe contiene información importante sobre la calidad del agua en su comunidad. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

## Affiliations

SLC Public Utilities is a member of the American Water Works Association, the American Water Works Research Foundation, Partnership for Safe Water, Utah Water Quality Alliance, and the Salt Lake County Groundwater Coalition. SLC Public Utilities participates in the QualServe Program.



**SALT LAKE CITY**  
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**What about fluoride?** Voters in Salt Lake County passed Rule #33 mandating Regulated Public Water Suppliers to fluoridate the water supplied to their customers, and the Salt Lake Valley Health Department is responsible for implementation of this rule. Fluoride is added to our water supply with a finished water goal of 0.7 milligrams per liter (mg/l). This level of fluoride has been found to help prevent tooth decay. Please check with your doctor for specifics on fluoride intake for you, your infant, and your family. For more information please visit <http://slco.org/slcohealth/envRegs/pdf/reg33.pdf> .

**Waste Disposal: Unwanted medications and hazardous materials.** Prescription and over-the-counter medicines should not be flushed down the toilet. These substances pass through the treatment plants and can impact waters downstream. Dispose of these products through the collection boxes in the Pioneer Police District Office, 1040 West 700 South, or at the Public Safety Complex, 475 S. 300 E. For additional disposal sites and collection events, visit [www.useonlyasdirected.org](http://www.useonlyasdirected.org). Unwanted materials not suitable for the trash collection, such as herbicides, fertilizers, and household chemicals like drain or oven cleaners, can be taken to the household hazardous waste (HHW) facility at the landfill, 6030 W. California Ave, or to neighborhood HHW collection events. For neighborhood HHW collection locations and dates please visit: <http://www.slcohealth.org/programs/waterqualhazwaste/solidHazWaste/householdHazWaste/index.html>.

**What is our water hardness?** Water hardness is a measure of mineral content of the water, mostly composed of calcium carbonate. Hardness is an aesthetic issue; it may make cleaning harder and leave spots behind. Our water hardness varies throughout the year depending on source. We recommend 13 grains per gallon hardness as the setting on water softeners.

**Is home treatment necessary?** The water delivered to your residence or business meets state and federal requirements. Additional treatment for aesthetic qualities is an option, not a necessity. If you install treatment devices, you are responsible for their operation and maintenance. Improper maintenance can impact your water quality.

**Is the 8th South-5th East Artesian Well water safe to drink?** This well meets federal and state requirements for drinking water. However, low levels of perchlorate, a compound that may be naturally occurring or related to explosives manufacturing, have been detected. The levels detected are well below what EPA considers a concern and this compound is not currently regulated. For more information visit <http://www.slcgov.com/node/1302>.

**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 caused by leaching from plumbing materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. SLC Public Utilities is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but does not control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. If 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 want 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 at 1-800-426-4791 or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead). Under the EPA Lead and Copper Rule, every three years SLC Public Utilities monitors for lead and copper from taps in homes and buildings. Sampling and analysis will take place in 2015.

**Is bottled water better?** Bottled water is more expensive and less environmentally friendly than tap water. The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) requirements on bottled water are less stringent than the EPA regulations governing public water supplies. More information can be obtained by calling the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline: 1-800-426-4791.

**How can I get a private well tested?** Private wells are not tested by SLC Public Utilities; they are your responsibility. If needed, testing services are available at local analytical laboratories. A minimal test includes bacteriology and nitrates. Keep safe and test your well every three years.

**Get Involved!** We encourage your participation in decisions that affect our community’s drinking water. Regular Public Utilities Advisory Committee meetings are held the fourth Thursday of each month at 7 a.m. at 1530 South West Temple. Your presence is welcome.



**Jesse A. Stewart**  
Water Quality and Treatment Administrator  
Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities  
**801-483-6900** (customer service)  
**801-483-6700** (24 hour emergency)

The drinking water provided by SLC Public Utilities complies with regulations established by the EPA and the State of Utah. Federal law requires that these regulations are constantly updated. This involves years of research and investigation to identify new contaminants, to revise limits on existing contaminants, and to update regulations. We will continue to support and contribute to ongoing research efforts with the EPA, AWWA, and local and national agencies and universities. As treatment techniques, instrumentation, and water treatment science expand we will continue to make improvements to our facilities and techniques. We are dedicated to providing you with the best water quality based on the most current regulations and scientific information. Our community’s water health and safety are our primary concern, and our main interest is to provide you clean and reliable drinking water at a reasonable price. Hopefully we have gained your confidence. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact our office.

# 2015 WATER QUALITY REPORT\*

TREATED SURFACE WATER SOURCES								
	Drinking Water Standards	Parleys	Big Cottonwood	City Creek Canyon	Metro	Jordan Valley	Range on SLC Wells	Source of Contaminant
Arsenic	10 ppb	ND	ND	ND	0.9	1.2	ND-1.3	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium	2000 ppb	95	42	29	13.4	100	17-121	Erosion of natural deposits
Cadmium	5 ppb	ND	ND	ND	0.10	ND	ND	Corrosion of galvanized pipes
Chromium	100 ppb	ND	ND	ND	1.9	ND	ND	Discharge from steel and pulp mills
Fluoride <sup>a</sup>	4000 ppb	750	700	740	669	600	ND-500	Erosion of natural deposits
Mercury	2 ppb	ND	ND	ND	ND	0.02	ND	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate	10 ppm	ND	0.2	0.2	0.2	1.5	1.0-4.9	Fertilizer runoff, septic tanks
Selenium	50 ppb	0.7	ND	ND	ND	1.1	0.7-4.1	Mine Discharge
TURBIDITY (Clarity) NTU's								
Finished Water Yearly Average		0.04	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.04		Soil runoff
RADIONUCLIDES (Picocuries/L)								
Gross Alpha	15	ND	ND	ND	ND	3.4	1.7	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228	5	2.0	4.1	4.4	ND	1.1	0.33	Erosion of natural deposits
Calcium	ur-ppm	90.4	40.7	57.8	—	47	33.1-126	Erosion of natural deposits
Hardness as CaCO3	ur-ppm	302	160	220	158	135	132-478	Erosion of natural deposits
grains/gallon	calc.	17.7	9.4	12.9	9.2	7.9	7.8-27.9	Erosion of natural deposits
Non-Carbonate	calc.	89	30	0	47	4	8-292	Erosion of natural deposits
Alkalinity as CaCo3	ur-ppm	213	130	220	111	131	124-303	Erosion of natural deposits
Magnesium	ur-ppm	18.6	14.3	18.3	—	15	12-41.6	Erosion of natural deposits
Potassium	ur-ppm	1.3	0.9	0.7	—	3.8	1.3-4	Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	ur-ppm	59	19.2	9.6	17.9	21.6	12-68	Erosion of natural deposits
Specific Conductance	-umhos/cm	709	235	362	392	462	251-960	Erosion of natural deposits
pH (in Units) <sup>a</sup>	6.5-8.5	7.82	7.8	8.27	8.08	7.8	7.5-8.3	Erosion of natural deposits
SECONDARY STANDARDS								
Aluminum	200 ppb	ND	ND	ND	—	ND	ND-70	Treatment chemicals
Iron	300 ppb	0.02	ND	ND	—	25	ND-30	Erosion of natural deposits
Manganese	50 ppb	ND	ND	0.0005	—	1	ND-1.3	Erosion of natural deposits
Zinc	500 ppb	ND	0.01	ND	—	0.2	ND-30	Erosion of natural deposits
Chloride	250 ppm	140	32	9	36.8	43	12-180	Erosion of natural deposits
Phosphate	ur-ppb	ND	ND	ND	ND	4	ND-40	Erosion of natural deposits
Sulfate	ur-ppm	43	41	11	40	40	29-282	Erosion of natural deposits
Total Dissolved Solids	ur-ppm	480	236	280	241	294	192-756	Erosion of natural deposits
ADDITIONAL DATA								
Molybdenum	ur-ppb	ND	ND	ND	—	0.8	ND	Erosion of natural deposits
Bromide	ur-ppm	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND-70	Erosion of natural deposits
UV-254	ur-1/cm	0.02	ND	ND	0.02	0.03	ND-0.02	Decomposition of organic material
TOC	ur-ppm	1.1	ND	ND	1.77	1.9	ND-1.6	Decomposition of organic material
DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM COMPLIANCE								
Microbials		# Samples		% Positive		Highest Mo. %		
e-coli		2,500		0%		0%		
Total Coliform	<5%	2,500		0.32%		0.50%		Feces of humans and animals
DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS								
		SLC Avg <sup>b</sup>	SLC Max	SLC Min	Metro Avg	Jordan Avg		
Total Trihalomethanes	80 ppb	37	75	12	22	28	—	By-product of chlorination
Total Haloacetic Acids	60 ppb	28	60	10	19	20	—	By-product of chlorination
DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM LEAD/COPPER <sup>c</sup>								
		# Samples		90% before flushing		90% after line flushing		
Lead	15 ppb	50		5.3		1		Corrosion of household plumbing
Copper	1300 ppb	50		283		67.4		Corrosion of household plumbing

## HOW TO READ THE CHART

Our water is routinely tested. The chart lists the most recent test results for the facilities listed and indicates the most likely source of the contaminant. The well data is a range of lowest and highest levels for wells.

- Volatile organics, herbicides, and pesticides, are analyzed for but not detected in the finished supply.
- Not all parameters are analyzed annually
- Since 2003, as a result of public vote, fluoride has been added to the drinking water.

- MCL:** Federal Maximum Contaminant Level, highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water
- MCLG:** Federal Maximum Contaminant Level Goal, level of a contaminant below which there is no known or expected risk to health.
- ND:** Non detected (less than the method can see)

- NTU:** Nephelometric Turbidity Units (turbidity is cloudiness)
- pci/l:** Picocuries per liter (radioactivity unit)
- ppm:** Parts per million (mg/l, 1 penny in \$10,000)
- ppb:** Parts per billion (ug/l, 1 penny in \$10 million)
- TT:** Treatment technique, method
- UR:** Unregulated, no EPA standard set

<sup>a</sup> Highest monthly average or annual average

<sup>b</sup> Most recent results for lead and copper are from 2013, additional sampling will be performed in 2015.

EPA requires monitoring of more than 80 drinking water contaminants.