



CITY OF  
**Saint Paul**  
ALASKA

# 2023 Drinking Water Quality Consumer Report

## City of Saint Paul Water Utility

Water System Operator: City of Saint Paul, Alaska Water System

Name: Saint Paul Aquifer

Public Water System #: 2260286

Population Served: 300-400

Number of Connections: 194

### For More Information Contact

info@stpaulak.com

PO Box 901, Saint Paul, AK 99660

**Phone #: (907) 546-3100**

Fax #: 1-866-570-9745

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### IS MY WATER SAFE?

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). It is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information.

### OUR WATER COMES FROM

The water system is supplied by groundwater and is obtained from seven domestic water wells. These wells are in the water shed located between Telegraph Hill and the base of Kaminista Ridge.

### SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT AND ITS AVAILABILITY

In 2015, there was a source water assessment report done for each well. The wellhead susceptibility for all wells was rated medium. The aquifer susceptibility is rated as very high. The overall vulnerability to potential contaminants are as follows: bacteria and viruses – high, nitrates/nitrites – very high, volatile organic chemicals – very high, inorganics/heavy metals – medium, synthetic organic chemicals – medium, other organic chemicals – medium.

For further information regarding this source water assessment, please contact the local water system operator, or the Alaska Resources Library & Information Services (ARLIS) located at 3211 Providence Drive, Room 111, Anchorage, Alaska 99508; phone number 907-272-7547. If the water operator does not have copy of the source water assessment results, you may also access it online at the ADEC Drinking Water Watch website. Instructions on how to access it online may be obtained at: <https://dec.alaska.gov/DWW/JSP/swaDisclaimer.html>. For specific questions regarding the results of the source water assessments, you may contact Chris Miller from ADEC Drinking Water Protection Program at 907-269-7549.

### WHY THERE ARE CONTAMINANTS IN DRINKING WATER

Drinking water, including bottled, 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 Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) **Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791)**. The Sources of drinking water (both tap 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 from the presence of animals or from human activity:

- **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, which 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 by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities
- **Lead**, 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. Saint Paul Aquifer 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>.

*To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protections for public health.*

**FOR CUSTOMERS WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CONCERNS**

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised individuals such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders. Some elderly people 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 (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 (800-426-

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day, or 100 gallons per person per day?

- Take short showers - a 5-minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your washer only when it is full. You can save up to 1000 gallons a month.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair, and shaving, to save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace.

**WATER QUALITY DATA TABLE**

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than

<i>Terms and definitions to help you understand the table on Page 3.</i>	
<b>Glossary of Terminology</b>	
<b>AL</b>	Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
<b>MCL</b>	Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
<b>MCLG</b>	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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.
<b>MNR</b>	Monitored Not Regulated
<b>MPL</b>	Maximum Permissible Level: State assigned.
<b>MRDL</b>	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level: 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.
<b>MRDLG</b>	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal: The level of 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.
<b>NA</b>	Not Applicable
<b>ND</b>	Not Detected
<b>NR</b>	Monitoring Not Required but recommended.
<b>ppb</b>	Parts Per Billion: Or micrograms per liter. For example, if the measurement reads 10 ppb of a contaminant, there would be 10 parts of the substance in a billion parts of water. (µg/L)
<b>ppm</b>	Parts Per Million or milligrams per liter. (mg/L)
<b>TT</b>	Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
<b>V&amp;E</b>	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. Consult the Glossary of Terminology table on page 2.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
<b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfection By-Products</b>								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
Chlorine (as Cl <sub>2</sub> ) (ppm)	4	4	.32	.01	.32	2023	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	1.6	NA	NA	2023	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	72.96	NA	NA	2023	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Barium (ppm)	2	2	.00052	NA	NA	2023	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	.68	NA	NA	2023	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	.17	NA	NA	2023	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nickel (ug/L)	100	100	.590	NA	NA	2023	No	Leaching from metals in contact with drinking water, such as pipes and fittings. Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	.507	NA	NA	2023	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	.605	2023	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	.7	2023	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

**MONITORING AND REPORTING OF COMPLIANCE DATA VIOLATIONS**

This system is required to sample for Total Coliform every month and take a chlorine residual reading at the same time/same place. The system did not sample in the month of February 2023. This generated 2 monitoring violations. These violations were returned to compliance when the system sampled in March of 2023. As the sample results from January of 2023 and the sample results for March 2023 were satisfactory, there are no known health effects.

The system is required to submit an adequate CCR to the consumer by July 1st of each year. Violations were incurred in 2023 when the CCR sent out in June to consumers was inadequate. These violations were returned to compliance when corrections were disseminated on August 30, 2023.

**SIGNIFICANT DEFICIENCIES**

This system had one open significant deficiency in 2023. This deficiency was identified in the 2021 sanitary survey and was for the need to re-attach and seal the conduit to the well head. This repair was made before the due date and no violation was generated.



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