



COMMONWEALTH UTILITY NEWS

2013 WATER QUALITY REPORT

July 2014

Call Your CNMI Water Regulators and Operators

- Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality • 664-8500
- BECQ Safe Drinking Water Branch Manager, Joe Kaipat • 664-8509
- CUC Water Division Manager, Ricardo Saavedra • 322-5030
- CUC Water Laboratory Manager, Heidi Yelin • 322-5140

**To Report a Leak, Call the 24-Hour
CUC Call Center at 670-664-4282**

2013 CUC WATER QUALITY REPORT

This report is designed to inform you about the water CUC delivers to you, our customer. Our goal is to provide you and your family a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. Today, 100% of Tinian and Rota water customers enjoy 24-hour water service. On Saipan, only 83% of customers have continuous 24-hour service. This percentage is down from last year due to seasonal supply issues, pipe leakage, equipment repairs, and in-progress construction projects. Despite these supply challenges, most areas with limited service now receive water for longer periods of time each day than in past years. Our CUC water employees continue to strive to deliver a quality product to all of our customers and to protect the CNMI's water resources.

To ensure the safety of your water, CUC routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water

according to CNMI Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) laws, rules and regulations.

Each year, trained laboratory and water treatment specialists conduct or supervise more than 15,000 tests of water samples. Water quality samples are collected throughout the CUC water systems and tested regularly. Samples include untreated and treated water taken from our facilities, sample sites throughout the service areas, and at customers' homes.

Except where indicated otherwise, this water quality report is based on the results of CUC's monitoring for the period of January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013. Data obtained before January 1, 2013, and presented here, are from the most recent monitoring.



CUC Junior Engineer, James Benavente, inspects the by-pass line for the 25,000 gallon temporary storage tanks that will serve the San Vicente area during the \$1.7 million Papagao tank replacement project, funded by the US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9. The temporary storage tanks are vital for the continuation of water service during the course of this project.

From the CUC Executive Director

We are proud to announce that the water CUC served to our customers in 2013 met all US EPA primary standards. However, we still have much to accomplish, most importantly, to provide continuous safe drinking water to all customers. To meet this goal, dedicated CUC staff, in partnership with the Water Task Force, US Department of the Interior – Office of Insular Affairs, US Environmental Protection Agency, and US Public Health Service continues to work on many projects such as the identification and repair of leaks and broken water valves, replacing aging infrastructure, and reconfiguring the water delivery systems. While these projects may cause temporary disruptions in water service, they will enable the water systems to become more efficient and reliable, thereby allowing CUC to provide improved water pressure to all customers, minimize risk of bacterial contamination, and improve overall water quality. More importantly, these efficiencies will allow CUC to reduce the amount of energy necessary to distribute the water throughout the systems, and save you money.

Alan W. Fletcher

The Sources of CUC Water

The primary source of water for the island of Saipan comes from 135 groundwater wells, one spring, and two Maui-type wells. One Maui-type well supplies all of the CUC Tinian water system. In Rota, the water primarily comes from two surface water sources that are occasionally supplemented with groundwater from three deep groundwater wells. To control bacterial contamination in our water, CUC water operators add trace amounts of chlorine to the water before it is distributed into the pipelines to you, our customers.



How Drinking Water Becomes Contaminated

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, which 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 storm-water 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 storm-water 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 storm-water runoff, and septic systems.

- ▶ Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that your tap water is safe to drink, the US EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

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** at **1-800-426-4791** or via the internet at www.epa.gov/safewater/.

For People with Sensitive Immune Systems

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 transplant, 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 health care providers. The US EPA and the Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available at the **EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline** at **1-800-426-4791** or via the internet at www.epa.gov/safewater/.

For more information about your water quality, please call our Water Laboratory at 322-5140.

Bacterial Contaminants

Total Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present. While not disease causing organisms themselves, total coliform is often found in association with other microbes that are capable of causing disease. Coliform bacteria are more persistent than many disease-causing organisms; therefore, their absence from water is a good indication that the water is free from microbial contaminants and safe for human consumption.

To control the presence of microbial contaminants in our water systems, the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation operates 19 chlorine treatment stations on Saipan, one station on Tinian, and one station on Rota. Bacteria may occur in the CUC water when the treatment equipment fails, or when leaks occur in the CUC pipelines allowing ground contaminants to enter the pipes. As problems were detected in 2013, the CUC water operators repaired leaks, flushed the water lines or when needed, added extra chlorine to the reservoirs and pumping stations, and therefore, the public did not have to use alternate water.

Fecal coliforms and *E. coli* are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, and people with severely compromised immune systems symptoms, however, are not just associated with disease causing organisms in drinking water, but may also be caused by a number of factors other than your drinking water.

EPA has set an enforceable drinking water standard for fecal coliform and *E. coli* to reduce the risk of these adverse health effects. Under this standard, all drinking water must be free of fecal coliform or *E. coli*. Drinking water that meets this standard is associated with little or none of this risk and is considered safe.

Facts about Cryptosporidium

Cryptosporidium is a microscopic organism that has been found in some surface waters in the United States. Cryptosporidium can also be transmitted through contaminated food or direct contact with human or animal waste. The organism can cause a gastrointestinal illness if ingested.

Water treatment plants are capable of removing Cryptosporidium when present, but 100% elimination cannot be guaranteed. Therefore, the CUC Saipan water system was required to monitor for Cryptosporidium in the rainwater collected at the Saipan International Airport catchment.

No Cryptosporidium were detected in any of the twelve (12) samples collected between December 2010 and April 2012 nor in any of the raw water sources or wastewater samples that CUC tested during 2013.

Information About Nitrates

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.



Information About 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. The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation 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 the 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 at 1-800-426-479** or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

EPA requires testing for lead and copper at customers' taps that are most likely to contain lead and copper.

We thank our customers for their help in collecting these samples!

None of the homes tested exceeded the action level for lead or copper.

SUMMARY OF PRIMARY DRINKING WATER QUALITY RESULTS FOR 2013

WE ARE PLEASED TO REPORT THAT THE CUC WATER MET ALL PRIMARY EPA STANDARDS

Contaminant	SAIPAN						TINIAN			ROTA			Major Source of Contaminant
	MCL	MCLG	Year Tested	% or Number of Positive Samples in Month	Total # Samples Tested in Month	Area of Maximum Result	Year Tested	Number of Positive Samples in Month	Year Tested	Number of Positive Samples in Month	Year Tested	Number of Positive Samples in Month	
Microbiological			Saipan MCL no more than 5% positive samples per month				Tinian & Rota MCL not more than one (1) positive sample per month						
Coliform	See Each Island	0	2013 - March, September, December	4.92% or 3 samples	61	All Saipan	2013	0	October 2013	1			Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform/ <i>E. Coli</i>	0 (a)	0	March 2013	1 sample (b)	61	Koblerville	2013	0	2013	0			Human or animal fecal waste
Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Year Tested	Highest Running Annual Average	Range	Area of Maximum Result	Year Tested	Highest Running Annual Average	Range	Year Tested	Highest Running Annual Average	Range	Major Source of Contaminant
Disinfection By-Products and Residual													
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)													
Locational Running Annual Average (ppb)	60	NA	2013	1.1	ND - 4.1	Tanapag	2013	2.1	2.1	2013	ND	ND	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)													
Locational Running Annual Average (ppb)	80	NA	2013	11.5	2.1 - 14.0	Tanapag	2013	9.2	9.2	2013	1.4	1.1 - 1.9	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	2013	2.16	0 - 9.5	As Gonso	2013	0.95	0.2 - 2.0	2013	1.12	0.4 - 1.6	Disinfection additive used to control microbes
Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Year Tested	Average Result	Range	Area of Maximum Result	Year Tested	Average Result	Range	Year Tested	Average Result	Range	Major Source of Contaminant
Inorganics													
Arsenic (ppb)	10	0	2013	0.6	ND - 4.6	Kannat Tabla, Chalan Kiya, South Garapan	2013	ND	ND	2013	ND	ND	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass & electronics production wastes
Barium (ppb)	2000	2000	2013	6.8	2.5 - 14	Upper Kagman, San Vicente, Papagao	2013	2.9	2.9	2013	ND	ND	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	2013	3.1	ND - 6.7	Saipan Airport	2013	ND	ND	2013	ND	ND	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppb)	4000	4000	2013	52	ND - 110	Chalan Kiya	2013	100	100	2013	ND	ND	Erosion of natural deposits
Nickel (ppb)	NE	NE	2013	0.8	ND - 6.8	Chalan Kiya	2013	ND	ND	2013	ND	ND	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrates + Nitrites as Nitrogen (ppm)	10	10	2013	4.1	1.2 - 6.6	Part of Koblerville, As Lito, Fina Sisu, Dandan	2013	4.4	3.9 - 4.6	2013	0.8	0.8	Runoff from fertilizer; leaking septic tanks; sewage; erosion from natural deposits
Selenium (ppb)	50	50	2013	2	ND - 9.2	Koblerville	2013	ND	ND	2013	ND	ND	Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	NE	None	2013	415	17 - 1200	Chalan Kiya	2013	99	99	2013	6.1	6.1	Erosion from natural deposits; sea water
Organic Chemicals													
Hexachlorocyclopentadiene (ppb)	50	50	2013	0.008	ND - 0.3	Koblerville	2013	ND	ND	2011	ND	ND	Discharge from chemical factories
Trichloroethylene (or TCE) (ppb)	5	0	2013	0.08	ND - 0.7	Koblerville	2013	ND	ND	2011	ND	ND	Discharge from metal degreasing sites & other factories
Radiological													
Gross alpha particle (pCi/L)	15	0	2013	0.4	ND - 3.8	Koblerville	2013	1.8	1.8	2008	ND	ND	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228 (pCi/L)	5	0	2013	0.03	ND - 0.9	Koblerville	2013	0.7	0.7	2008	ND	ND	Erosion of natural deposits
LEAD & COPPER	Action Level	Action Level Goal	Year Tested	Sites Exceeding AL/Number of Sites	90th Percentile	Area of Maximum Result	Year Tested	Sites Exceeding AL/Number of Sites	90th Percentile	Year Tested	Sites Exceeding AL/Number of Sites	90th Percentile	Major Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	15	0	2011-2012	0 / 30	2.2	As Matuis	2013	0 / 20	2.5	2013	0 / 10	0.9	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppb)	1300	1300	2011-2012	0 / 30	64	Kagman	2013	0 / 20	56	2013	0 / 10	41	
UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS	MCL	MCLG	Year Tested	Average Result	Range	Area of Maximum Result	Year Tested	Average Result	Range	Year Tested	Average Result	Range	Major Source of Contaminant
Dieldrin (ppb)	NA	NA	2013	0.002	ND - 0.04	Saipan Airport	2013	ND	ND	2011	ND	ND	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits

SUMMARY OF SECONDARY DRINKING WATER QUALITY RESULTS FOR 2013

Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Year Tested	Average Result	Range	Area of Maximum Result	Year Tested	Average Result	Range	Year Tested	Average Result	Range	Major Source of Contaminant
Chloride (ppm)	250	NA	2013	830	28 - 2,900	Chalan Kiya	2013	190	172 - 217	2013	10.7	10 - 11	Erosion or leaching of natural deposits
Hardness, Total as Calcium and Magnesium (ppm)	NA	NA	2013	568	210 - 1,235	Chalan Kiya	2013	301	296 - 306	2013	148	139 - 153	Hardness is the sum of the many forms of naturally occurring magnesium and calcium
pH	6.5 to 8.5	NA	2013	7.4	6.9 - 7.9	Donni Spring	2013	7.0	6.9 - 7.4	2013	7.7	7.5 - 7.9	Measure of acidity or alkalinity of water
Specific Conductance (µs/cm)	NA	NA	2013	3,245	530 - 8,370	Kannat Tabla, Chalan Kiya, South Garapan	2013	1,137	1,022 - 1,270	2013	355	282 - 462	Substances that form ions when dissolved in water

(a) The MCL for fecal coliform is one *E.coli* positive sample confirmed by a total coliform or *E.coli* positive sample.

(b) One *E.coli* positive sample detected but not confirmed by additional samples.

ND: Not Detected - Substance was tested but not detected.

NA: Not Applicable

NE: None Established

MEASUREMENTS

Contaminants are measured in:

ppm:	Parts Per Million or milligrams per Liter (mg/L)
ppb:	Parts Per Billion or micrograms per Liter (µg/L)
pCi/L:	Pico curie per Liter - a measurement of radioactivity in water
µS/cm:	micro Siemens per centimeter - a measurement of a solution's ability to conduct electricity

Think about these comparisons:



Parts per Million:
1 second in 12 days
1 penny in \$10,000
1 drop in 14 gallons



Parts per Billion:
1 second in 32 years
1 penny in \$10 Million
1 drop in 14,000 gallons

DEFINITIONS

MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level

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.

MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal

The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risks to your health. The MCLG amount allows for a margin of safety.

MRDL: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

MRDLG: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal

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 contamination.

Treatment Technique (TT):

A required process or method intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

AL: Action Level

The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that the utility must follow.

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www.cucgov.org

For payment by phone, please call **855-729-2282**.

SECONDARY WATER CONSTITUENTS — NOT ASSOCIATED WITH ADVERSE HEALTH EFFECTS

Many constituents, such as calcium or chlorides, which are often found in drinking water, can cause taste, color, and odor problems. The taste and odor constituents are called secondary constituents and are not regulated by the US EPA or the CNMI Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ). These constituents are not causes for health concern. While secondary constituents are not required to be reported in this document, they may greatly affect the appearance and taste of your water.

Hardness is a measure of the amount of calcium and magnesium in the water while chlorides measure the amount of salts in the water. In the CUC Saipan water system, the level of the hardness and chlorides in the water varies greatly depending on the source of the water. This is why the water may taste salty in some areas of Saipan but not in other areas.

If You Have Questions — Contact Us

For information about your water quality or to find out about opportunities to participate in public meetings, please contact our 24-hour Call Center at 670-664-4282.

Visit CUC online at www.cucgov.org

or email us at cucadmin@cucgv.org



Seasonal Water Hours for Saipan

The map of Saipan above shows the water service areas with the approximate number of hours that the area receives water throughout most of the year. However, during the rainy season, or from August to December, the areas with limited water service should receive more water than the hours listed on the map.

What is a Consumer Confidence Report?

Here is your annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). It's about your drinking water. In 1996, the U.S. Congress amended the Safe Drinking Water Act and now requires that the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, your "Community Water System," publish this report each July. **This report contains important information about your drinking water. Speak with someone who understands it or who can translate it.**

We hope you read about the source of your water, the levels of detected contaminants, why our water is so different from village to village, and what is being done to correct or improve water services in the CNMI.

As consumers become better informed, they become involved and make better decisions about our environment, how money is spent, and our options in water utility management.

If you need the report translated, wish to speak with someone about the report, or would like a paper copy delivered or emailed to you, please call CUC at (670) 664-4282.

Hafa I "Consumer Confidence Report"

Estague I risuttan I Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) (Ripot Konfiánsan Kometsiánte), pot I un gigimen na hanom. Gi mit nuebe sientos nubentai-sais (1996), I Kongresun I Estádu Unidos ma'amenda I lai pot Sáfun Hanom. Ha obliga I ofisanan hanom na kada sákkán gi Julio na mes debi di u malaknos notisian pupbliku pot asuntón setbisiun hanom. Sen impotante esti na infotmasion pot I hanom ni un gigimen. **Transulada gi fino-mu, osino faisen otro ni ha komprendi.**

En diseseha na un taitai pot guinahan I hanom-mu; kuánto na tutát masodda na gai applacha, háfa na gai difiriensiao I hánom kada sengsong pot sengsong, ya háfa machochogue para u makurihe pat adulanta I setbisiun hanom gi hálom I CNMI.

Kumu consumers manma'imfotma máolik, ma ñaónáo yan manma'tinas más máolik na disision siha gi put iyo-ta environment, taimanu magásta i saláppi', yan inayek-ta siha gi minanehan water utility.

Yanggin un nisisita i ripot matransláda, ya malagu' hão kumuentusi háyi put i ripot pat malagu' hão kopian páppit u ma'entrega pat mana'hánáo guatu para hágu, put fabot ágang i CUC gi (670) 664-4282.

Meeta Ye "Consumer Confidence Report"

Alongal ráágh nge eghal yoor kkapsal Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). Aweewe reel yáámi schaal Llól sangaras tiwabughuw tuweugh me oloow (1996). Sów Allégh (kkongreeso) mellól U.S. e ssiweli Alléghul Schaal (Safe Drinking Water Act.) Ighila nge Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ebwe mweiti ngáli yáámi "Ammwelil schaal mellól sóóbw," iye ebwe ghal akkaté ótol Wuun (July). Eghi welepakk (pirisisu) ammataf yeel reel aweweel schaal kka si ghal ilimi. **Sáleti ngáli mwáliyomw, me ngáre ayeghi eschay ye emmwelil scheyilugh.**

Ebwe ghi ghatch ngáre ów arághi uruwowul schaal; ammwelil schaal ye ekke bwáári ngári eyoor malúl schaal. Meeta bwulu ebwe ghi kkofsang (different) mereel eew sóóbw mwete ngáli bwal eew sóóbw; me meeta ye emmwel sibwe fééru bwe sibwe aghatchú ammwelil schaal mellól CNMI.

Ngáre e ffat arongorongol reer schóól abwóós me yááyál (Consumers), Re bwe toolong rel fféerúl ghatchúl mángemáng rel kkapasal faluwasch, efaisúl mwóghutúghútúl salaapi, me meeta kka e kke ayoora rel Water Utility Management.

Faingi CUC reel (670) 664-4282 ngare u tipeli rebwe seleti ngalúgh amataff kkal, kkapas ngali eschay, me ngare u mwuschel eew kkopiyal rebwe bwughi lló reemw me ngare afanga ngálugh.