

# Spring Creek - Housing Section

PWS ID: NV0000036



Great Basin  
Water Co.™

## Annual Water Quality Report 2020

### Message from Séan Twomey, President

Dear Valued Customer,

Great Basin Water Co. (GBWC) is pleased to present your Annual Water Quality Report for 2020. Transparency, health, and safety are key priorities in our company's efforts to provide a high-quality, reliable water supply. Included in this report are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to regulatory standards.

As the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak has evolved, transparency, health, and safety have guided our efforts to mitigate any potential public health or business impacts. Over the course of the past months, GBWC, has instituted a company-wide Incident Command Task Force. The task force is charged with planning and executing preparedness activities, focused on protecting employee and public health and ensuring we continue to provide our customers and the community with safe, reliable and uninterrupted water and wastewater services.

**We are proud to share this report which is based on water quality testing through December 2020. You will find that we supply water that meets or exceeds all federal and state water quality regulations at your tap.**

Our team is comprised of proud members of the community who are dedicated to providing safe, reliable and cost-effective service to you. This commitment includes acting with integrity, protecting the environment, and enhancing the local community.

Maintaining a safe and reliable water supply is hard work. Our devoted local team of water quality experts are working in the community every day, ensuring that our customers are our top priority, and providing the highest quality drinking water and service - now and well into the future.

Best regards,

Visit our website at

[www.greatbasinwaterco.com](http://www.greatbasinwaterco.com)

Séan Twomey

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua beber. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

**Su agua potable cumple o supera todos los estándares federales y estatales de agua potable.**

### Source of Drinking Water

Our wells draw groundwater from the State Hydrographic Basin #48 in Elko County.

### Source Water Assessment

A source water assessment of the Great Basin Water Co. - Spring Creek water system was completed in 2008. Results of the source water assessment can be obtained at the NDEP's Bureau of Safe Drinking Water 901 South Stewart Street, Suite 3001, Carson City, NV 89701 (775-687-9520).

**Your drinking water meets or exceeds all federal and state drinking water standards.**

### Simple Water-saving Tips

Did you know that adding as little as 2% organic material to garden soils can save up to 75% on water use? Desert soils have less than 1% organic material.

**For more information check with your local Extension | University of Nevada, Reno office or visit online at:**

<https://extension.unr.edu/>



### COVID-19 Response

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the virus that causes COVID-19 has not been detected in drinking water. Conventional water treatment methods that use disinfection, such as those provided by Great Basin Water Company, should remove or inactivate the virus that causes COVID-19 as they do for other pathogens.

**Based on current evidence, the risk to water supplies is low. Customers can continue using and drinking tap water as usual.**

The EPA also encourages the public to help keep household plumbing and our nation's water infrastructure operating properly by only flushing toilet paper. **Disinfecting or other sanitary wipes, including those labeled as "flushable" and other non-toilet paper items, should NOT be flushed in toilets.**

For more information, visit the CDC at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/water.html> and EPA at <https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/coronavirus-and-drinking-water-and-wastewater>.

## EPA Wants You To Know

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:**

- A. **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- B. **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.
- C. **Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- D. **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.
- E. **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

## What measures are in place to ensure water is safe to drink?

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) 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 the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

## Special notice from EPA for the elderly, infants, cancer patients and people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system problems

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/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).

## Information Concerning Lead in 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 from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Great Basin Water Company 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>.

Water that remains stationary within your home plumbing for extended periods of time can leach lead out of pipes joined with lead-containing solder as well as brass fixtures or galvanized pipes. Flushing fixtures has been found to be an effective means of reducing lead levels. The flushing process could take from 30 seconds to 2 minutes or longer until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature. Faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free," may contribute lead to drinking water. Consumers should be aware of this when choosing fixtures and take appropriate precautions. Visit the NSF Web site at [www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org) to learn more about lead-containing plumbing fixtures.

## Drain Disposal Information

Sewer overflows and backups can cause health hazards, damage home interiors, and threaten the environment. A common cause is sewer pipes blocked by grease, which gets into the sewer from household drains. Grease sticks to the insides of pipes. Over time, the grease can build up and block the entire pipe. Help solve the grease problem by keeping this material out of the sewer system in the first place:

- Never pour grease down sink drains or into toilets. Scrape grease into a can or trash.
- Put strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps / solids for disposal.

## Prescription Medication and Hazardous Waste

Household products such as paints, cleaners, oils, and pesticides, are considered to be household hazardous waste. Prescription and over-the-counter drugs poured down the sink or flushed down the toilet can pass through the wastewater treatment system and enter rivers and lakes (or leach into the ground and seep into groundwater in a septic system). Follow the directions for proper disposal procedures. **Do not flush hazardous waste or prescription and over-the-counter drugs down the toilet or drain.** They may flow downstream to serve as sources for community drinking water supplies. Many communities offer a variety of options for conveniently and safely managing these items. For more information, visit the EPA website at: [www.epa.gov/hw/household-hazardous-waste-hhw](http://www.epa.gov/hw/household-hazardous-waste-hhw).

## FREE

**Water Conservation Kit to all of our single and multi-family residential customers featuring water-saving plumbing retrofit fixtures. These one kit per household are available at no charge to help make conserving water that much easier**

## Water Conservation Rebates

**Apply within 60 days of purchasing**

For more information and eligibility call 844-694-4404 Or Email: [BeWaterSmart@greatbasinwaterco.com](mailto:BeWaterSmart@greatbasinwaterco.com)

Download forms at: [www.GreatBasinWaterCo.com](http://www.GreatBasinWaterCo.com)

**The Safe Drinking Water Act** was passed in 1974 due to congressional concerns about organic chemical contaminants in drinking water and the inefficient manner by which states supervised and monitored drinking water supplies. Congress' aim was to assure that all citizens served by public water systems would be provided high quality water. As a result, the EPA set enforceable standards for health-related drinking water contaminants. The Act also established programs to protect underground sources of drinking water from contamination.

**Understanding This Report** In order to help you understand this report, we want you to understand a few terms and abbreviations that are contained in it.

Action level (AL)	The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
Average (Avg)	Regulatory compliance with some MCLs is based on running annual average of monthly samples .
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency.
Maximum contaminant level (MCL)	The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
Maximum contaminant level goal (MCLG)	The "goal" is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.
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.
Not Applicable (N/A)	Information not applicable/ not required for that particular water system or for that particular Rule.
Not Detected (ND)	Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.
Parts per million (ppm) or milligrams per liter (mg/l)	One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.
Parts per billion (ppb) or micrograms per liter (ug/l)	One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years or a single penny in \$10,000,000.
Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)	A measure of radioactivity in the water.
Running Annual Average (RAA)	Calculated running annual average of all contaminant levels detected.

**WaterSense & Water Savings**

- ⇒ WaterSense labels products that are 20 percent more water-efficient and perform as well as or better than standard models.
- ⇒ The average family can save 13,000 gallons of water and \$130 in water costs per year by replacing all old, inefficient toilets in their home with WaterSense labeled models.
- ⇒ Replacing old, inefficient bathroom faucets and aerators with WaterSense labeled models can save the average family \$250 in water and electricity costs over the faucets' lifetime.
- ⇒ Replacing showerheads with WaterSense labeled models can reduce the average family's water and electricity costs by \$70 and can save the average family more than 2,700 gallons of water per year, equal to the amount of water needed to wash 88 loads of laundry.
- ⇒ Giving a home's main bathroom a high-efficiency makeover by installing a WaterSense labeled toilet, showerhead, and faucet aerator can pay for itself in as little as 1 year.
- ⇒ Replacing a standard clock timer with a WaterSense labeled irrigation controller can reduce an average home's irrigation water use by 15 percent and can save an average home nearly 7,600 gallons of water annually.



**We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.**

**Visit us online at [www.GreatBasinWaterCo.com](http://www.GreatBasinWaterCo.com) to view the Water Quality Reports. Also visit our website for water conservation tips and other educational material.**

**Monitoring Your Water**

We routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The following table(s) lists all the drinking water contaminants that were detected in the last round of sampling for the particular contaminant group. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk.

**Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in the table is from testing done January 1 through December 31, 2020.** The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, maybe more than one year old.

*MCLs are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated contaminants, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.*

**If You Have Questions or Want to Get Involved**

GBWC—Spring Creek Division does not currently hold regular public meetings. Should the Utility hold a public meeting, you will be notified through the mail or public notice. If you have any questions about this report or your water utility, please call GBWC at 844.694.4404. We want our customers to be informed about their water utility.

**Violations**

In 2020, Great Basin Water Co. performed all required monitoring for contaminants and did not exceed any allowable levels of these contaminants. In addition, received **no violations** from the Nevada Division of Water and was in compliance with their applicable testing and reporting requirements.

**Ninguna violación de agua potable fue reportada en el año 2020.**

**Water Quality Test Results**

Detected Substance (units)	Sample Date	Highest Level	Range	MCL	MCLG	Violation	Sources of Contaminants
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
ARSENIC (ppb)	2020	11*	ND - 11	10	0	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
BARIUM (ppm)	2020	0.075	0.075-0.081	2	2	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
FLUORIDE (ppm)	2020	0.59 <sup>1</sup>	0.59	4	4	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
NITRATE (ppm)	2020	3.1 <sup>2</sup>	0.20 - 3.1	10	10	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

**\*Compliance is based on a Running Annual Average of samples taken. The Running Annual Average for Arsenic was below the MCL of 10 ug/L, therefore there was not a violation.** While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for Arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

<sup>1</sup>The State of Nevada has set forth a more stringent MCL of 2.0 mg/L for Fluoride than the federal limit of 4.0 mg/L assigned nationally. Some people who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the MCL over many years could get bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones. Fluoride in drinking water at half the MCL or more may cause mottling of the teeth of children, usually in children less than nine years old. Mottling, also known as dental fluorosis, may include brown staining and/or pitting of the teeth, and occurs only in developing teeth before they erupt from the gums.

<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>Only about 1-2 percent of Radon in the air comes from drinking water. However, breathing radon increases the risk of lung cancer over the course of your lifetime. Some radon stays in the water; drinking water containing radon also presents a risk of developing internal organ cancers, primarily stomach cancer. However, this risk is smaller than the risk of developing lung cancer from radon released to air from tap water. Although the EPA has previously proposed a standard of 4000 pCi/L for radon in drinking water, there are currently no federal or state Maximum Contaminant Levels for radon.

**Radionuclides**

GROSS ALPHA, INCL. RADON <sup>3</sup> & U (pCi/L)	2019	0.7	0.7	15	0	No	Erosion of natural deposits
COMBINED RADIUM (pCi/L)	2019	0.9	0.9	5	0	No	Erosion of natural deposits
RADON (pCi/L)	1/22/2018	593.3	593.3	pCi/L			
URANIUM (ug/l)	2020	28	8.4 - 28	30	0	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Note: EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.

Disinfection By-Products (units)	Sample Date	RAA	Range	MRDL	MRDLG	Violation	Sources of Contaminants
CHLORINE (ppm)	2020	0.54	0.21 - 1.27	4.0	4.0	No	Water additive to control microbes

Lead and Copper (Units)	Sample Date	Report Level 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile	Range of Detects	# of sites found above AL	ALG	AL	Sources of Contaminants
Copper (ppm)	2018	0.19	0.023 - 0.73	0	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2018	1.1	ND - 5.2	0	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives

Your water meets EPA's standard for Lead, but if at elevated levels, this contaminant can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant woman and young children.

Microbiological	Violation	Result	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
No Detected Microbiological Contaminants Were Found In the Calendar Year of 2019.					

Secondary Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Secondary Standard
Chloride (ppm)	2020	26	1.5 - 26	N/A
Magnesium (ppm)	2020	5.4	1.8 - 5.4	N/A
PH (ppm)	2020	7.64	7.64	N/A
Sodium (ppm)	2020	24	9.0 - 24	Erosion of natural deposits
Sulfate (ppm)	2020	28	3.2 - 28	N/A
TDS (ppm)	2020	260	80 - 260	N/A

GREAT BASIN WATER CO. SPRING CREEK DIVISION PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM IS CURRENTLY IN COMPLIANCE WITH ALL STATE AND FEDERAL SAFE DRINKING WATER REQUIREMENTS. THE WATER SYSTEM OPERATES NINE WELLS TO SUPPLY SAFE DRINKING WATER TO THE WATER USERS. ROUTINE SAFE DRINKING WATER MONITORING INDICATES ALL WELLS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF TWO HAVE ELEVATED LEVELS OF NATURALLY OCCURRING ARSENIC AT OR ABOVE 50% OF THE MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL (MCL). THE AQUIFER IS CONSIDERED TO HAVE A HIGH VULNERABILITY FOR ARSENIC CONTAMINATION. ALL WELLS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THREE HAVE COMBINED URANIUM AND GROSS ALPHA PARTICLE CONTAMINATION AT OR ABOVE 50% THE MCL. THE AQUIFER IS CONSIDERED TO HAVE A MODERATE VULNERABILITY FOR RADIONUCLIDE CONTAMINATION. THE AQUIFER IS CONSIDERED TO HAVE A LOW VULNERABILITY TO VOC, SOC AND MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINATION.

## PFAS Testing

Great Basin Water Co. continues efforts to conduct statewide drinking water testing for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). These man-made compounds are used in the manufacturing of products resistant to water, grease or stains including firefighting foams, cleaners, cosmetics, paints, adhesives and insecticides. PFAS can migrate into the soil, water, and air and is likely present in the blood of humans and animals all over the world. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established a health advisory level at 70 parts per trillion.

For more information visit <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-and-pfos>.

GBWC is committed to providing safe, reliable, and cost-effective drinking water services to all of our customers.

### PFAS Results (All results reported as Nanograms per liter (ng/L))

Contaminant	Sample Date	Range of Detect	Average	EPA Advisory	Below HAL
PFOS	2020	ND - ND	<2	70	Yes
PFOA	2020	ND - ND	<2	70	Yes
Combined PFOS + PFOA	2020	ND - ND	<2	70	Yes

### Terms and Abbreviations:

- **PFOS** – Perfluorooctane Sulfonate
- **PFOA** – Perfluorooctanoic Acid
- **Health Advisory Level (HAL)** – To provide Americans, including the most sensitive populations, with a margin of protection from a lifetime of exposure to PFOA and PFOS from drinking water, EPA established the health advisory levels at 70 parts per trillion.
- **Ng/L** – Nanograms per liter (ng/L) which equals Parts per trillion (ppt) – One part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000,000.
- **ND (No Detect)** - Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present. 2.0 ng/L is the minimum level the lab is reporting a detection for these parameters. The ND (No Detect) represented in the table is indicating there was no detection.

### Unresolved Significant Deficiency

The water system continues to have an excessive amount of line breaks and pressure losses. Multiple boil water orders (in different portions of the distribution system) are often in place at the same time. BSDW understands that the most problematic portions of the distribution system consist of PVC pipe that is not appropriately-sized to ensure proper pressures and flows. Frequent pipe breaks and pressure losses increase the probability of distribution system contamination. In addition to potential health hazards, the undersized PVC pipe may hinder proper fire flow during firefighting efforts. Although Great Basin Water Co. is currently working on pipe replacement projects, the water system must provide notice of an unresolved significant deficiency in their annual Consumer Confidence Reports until the deficiency is resolved.

To access your utility account anytime, anywhere, please register for our customer portal & download MyUtilityConnect at <https://connect.myutility.us/connect/>

