# 2023 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER REPORT PWS#93353P (System #3)

Your drinking water is brought to your home by:

## Spokane County Water District #3

SCWD#3 operates 7 independent water systems in Spokane County and is dedicated to making sure that every drop of water delivered to your tap is clean and safe for your family. Water District Board Meetings are held weekly on Wednesday mornings at 9:00 a.m. and public attendance is welcome.

Spokane County Water District #3
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**Purpose:** This report is provided to all of our customers. It describes your drinking water quality for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2023. Your water utility is committed to supplying safe water that meets or surpasses State and Federal Standards and achieves the highest standards of customer service.

**Water Source:** Your drinking water comes from the **Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer** (see map, page 2). This pristine and abundant aquifer lies in two states, holds ten trillion gallons of water, and is the sole source of drinking water for almost half a million people in the region. This groundwater source is recharged by the local precipitation and the snowpack in northern Idaho and western Montana. It is naturally filtered by surface vegetation and the layers of gravel above the water line. The aquifer travels through northern Idaho and into Washington where it discharges into the Spokane River and the Little Spokane River.

The SVRP aquifer is unique because of its vast size, swift flow of water, porous soils and the fact that the land over the aquifer is extensively developed. These factors make our aquifer uniquely susceptible to contamination. We must all treat the aquifer with care to keep our drinking water clean for everyone to enjoy. In the past one hundred years aquifer levels have remained constant, however scientific models have shown us that even though the aquifer is plentiful it is not limited. Careful planning will be required in the coming years to ensure that this aquifer remains clean and available for our community. Preserving our water sources for the future is a priority for SCWD#3.

To find out more about how you can be an active partner in our efforts visit: **www.spokaneaquifer.org/education-awareness**

SCWD#3 strives to be a good steward of the aquifer and your water system. Year-round water quality monitoring, replacing aging or leaking pipes and pumps, and planning for growth are just some of the responsibilities of the District.

**Water Quality:** To ensure that your water is **clean and safe**, we test for contaminants all year long. The Department of Health and EPA prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Washington Department of Agriculture regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water. **We are proud to report that your water meets or exceeds all state and federal regulations.** While some contaminants were found in the water, the Environmental Protection Agency has determined that your water is safe at these levels for you and your family. Keep in mind that the presence of contaminants doesn't mean the water is unsafe. MCLs are set at very stringent levels. 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. Health related standards are set by the Washington State Department of Health. See table on page 3 for your most recent water sampling results.

**Important Note:** Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-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 providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants or for more information about contaminants and potential health effects call the **Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.**

### ENGLISH
This report contains important information about your drinking water. Have someone translate it for you, or speak with someone who understands it.

### RUSSIAN
Этот отчет содержит важную информацию о вашей питьевой воде. Попросите кого-нибудь перевести это для вас или поговорите с кем-то, кто понимает это.

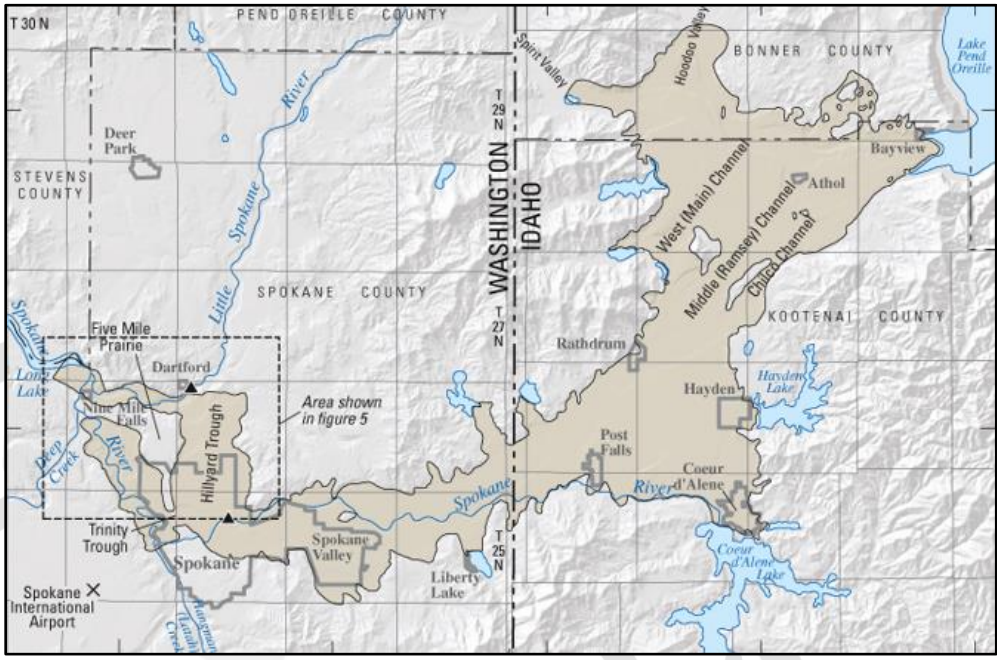
### SPANISH
Este informe contiene información importante sobre su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca por usted o hable con alguien que lo entienda.

### VIETNAMESE
Báo cáo này chứa thông tin quan trọng về nước uống của bạn. Có ai đó dịch nó cho bạn, hoặc nói chuyện với ai đó hiểu nó.

# SPOKANE VALLEY RATHDRUM PRAIRIE AQUIFER

**Conservation Tips for Outdoor Watering:** Avoid watering lawns in the heat of the day to reduce water lost to evaporation. The best time to water is before 9:00 am or after 6:00 pm. Avoid watering on windy days as wind can distort sprinkler patterns and cause uneven coverage. Also be sure to shut off your sprinklers while it's raining.

For information regarding ways to save water, visit our website at **scwd3.org**, follow us on Twitter, visit **spokanewateringnerds.org/tips-to-save-water** or search "water conservation tips" in your web browser.




**Water Use Efficiency:** In addition to monitoring the quality of the water, SCWD#3 also works to make sure we are **using water efficiently**. The District set new water use efficiency goals in 2021 (found below) and report our progress annually.

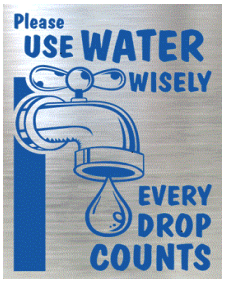
### DEMAND SIDE GOAL: Reduce Residential Usage by 1/2 GPD/ERU Each Year

The District's goal in 2023 was to reduce residential water use to 455 gallons per day per equivalent residential unit (GPD/ERU). Currently it's at 463 GPD/ERU, so we were unable to meet our goal this year. This is an increase of 13,100,000 gallons for the year. The District has been actively replacing water meters in this area with radio read meters, with over 950 replaced (74%) to date, our goal is to complete within 2 years. These new meters give leak alarms for District staff to follow up with customers each month. Also, these meters are now being read 12 months out of the year and historical consumption history is shown on bills which allows customers to identify and correct high usage issues faster. We will continue run a rate structure that promotes water conservation, notify high users, and provide customer education for water saving practices in hope to reach this goal next year.

### SUPPLY SIDE GOAL: Reduce the District's Average Distribution System Leakage Below 9.5% for the Next 6 Years

The District's 3-year average is currently 11% so we were unable to reach our goal this year. However in 2023, we were able to locate and repair 3 leaking water mains, 2 leaking services, and replace 510 feet of aging water main that had a history of failures which contributed to a savings of over 11,400,000 gallons for the year. The District will continue to pursue aggressive leak detection and prompt repairs and has budgeted to hire a leak detection company to assess the entire water system in 2024.

**Free Online Bill Pay:** SCWD#3 switched online bill pay providers to **xpress BILL PAY**. This change is designed to make online bill pay easier and best of all **it's free! xpress BILL PAY** is a secure online bill payment system that offers 24-7 access to your utility account to make payments with credit cards, debit cards, or electronic funds transfers. If you have multiple accounts, **xpress BILL PAY** gives customers the ability to manage all their service provider billing accounts from a single login. **Auto Pay** allows customers to set up automatic payments and not worry about them again. A complete history of payment confirmations, online transactions, and **Water Consumption History** are also provided. Email reminder alerts are sent to customers when bills arrive, when they're due, and when they're paid. Visit the website at **www.xpressbillpay.com** and sign up today! Or download the mobile app!




**From Your Local Water Utility**
**Spokane County Water District #3**
**https://SCWD3.org**

## SOURCE WATER TESTING (sample taken at the well)

| CONTAMINANT | SAMPLE YEAR | UNITS | MCLG | MCL | HIGHEST DETECTION | POSSIBLE SOURCE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nitrate | 2023 | ppm | 10 | 10 | 1.15 | Runoff from Fertilizer Use; Leaching from Septic Tanks, Sewage; Erosion of Natural Deposits |
| Arsenic | 2019 | ppb | 0 | 10 | 4.2 | Erosion of Natural Deposits; Runoff from Orchards; Runoff from Glass and Electronics Production Wastes |
| Gross Alpha | 2022 | pCi/L | n/a | 15 | ND | Erosion of Natural Deposits |
| Radium 228 | 2022 | pCi/L | n/a | 5 | ND | Erosion of Natural Deposits |
| Synthetic Organic Chemicals | 2023 | ppb + ppt | Varies by chemical | Varies by chemical | ND | Varies by Chemical |
| Volatile Organic Chemicals | 2022 | ppb | Varies by chemical | Varies by chemical | ND | Varies by Chemical |

## DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM TESTING (sample taken at the tap)

| CONTAMINANT | SAMPLE YEAR | UNITS | MCLG | AL | 90TH PERCENTILE | POSSIBLE SOURCE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lead | 2021 | ppb | 0 | 15 | 1.2 | Corrosion of the Household Plumbing Systems; Erosion of Natural Deposits; Leaching from Wood Preservatives. |
| Copper | 2021 | ppb | 1300 | 1300 | 52 | |

| CONTAMINANT | SAMPLE YEAR | UNITS | MCLG | MCL | HIGHEST DETECTION | POSSIBLE SOURCE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Trihalomethanes | 2023 | ppb | 0 | 80 | ND | By-product of Chlorination |
| Haloacetic Acids | 2023 | ppb | 0 | 60 | ND | By-product of Chlorination |
| E.coli Bacteria | 2023 | | 0 | A routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one is also E.coli positive | ND | Human and Animal Fecal Waste |

RADON is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that is common in the Spokane area. Exposure to excessive amounts of radon may increase cancer risk. Your drinking water, in most cases is a very small source of radon in indoor air. For local assistance concerning radon in your home, contact the Spokane County Health District at (509) 324-1560 ext. 5

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. Spokane County Water District #3 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at **1-800-426-4791** or online at **http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead**

ARSENIC: 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.

## ABBREVIATIONS:

**AL –** Action Level – The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**MCL –** Maximum Contaminant Level – The highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water.

**MCLG –** Maximum Contaminant Level Goal – The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

**ND –** Not Detected

**NA –** Not Applicable

**pCi/L –** Pico Curies per Liter – a unit of radioactivity

**90th Percentile –** 90% of at-risk homes had this concentration or less of lead/copper.

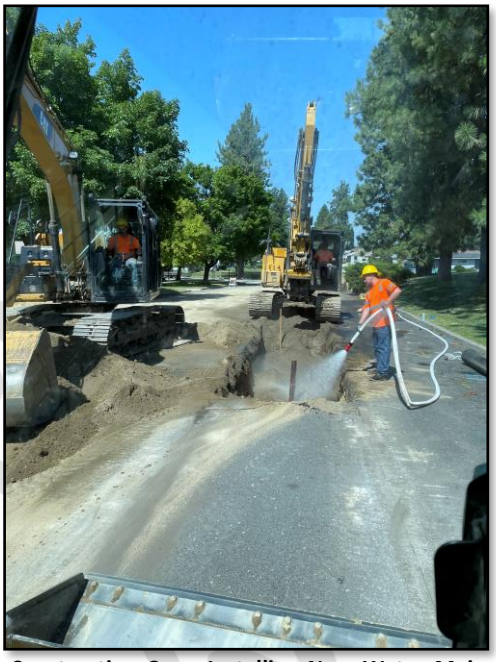
**Ppm –** Parts per million or milligrams per liter. About 4 drops in a 55-gallon barrel or 1 second out of 12 days would represent 1 ppm.

**Ppb –** Parts per billion or micrograms per liter. About 1 drop of water in a swimming pool or 1 second out of 32 years would represent 1 ppb.

**Ppt –** Parts per trillion or nanograms per liter. About 1 drop in 20 Olympic-sized swimming pools or 1 second out of 31,710 years would represent 1 ppb.

# CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS (COMPLETED IN 2023)

**Calispel Waterline Replacement:** A depreciated section of 6" steel main was replaced in-house by the District's construction crew in 2023. The project consisted of installing 510 feet of new 8" ductile iron pipe, replacing 12 service lines, and 6 meter pits with a project cost of $143,157. This is the first phase of a 3-year steel main replacement program to alleviate some troublesome waterlines prone to developing leaks. The overall project includes replacing pipe between Houston and Francis on Calispel, Whitehouse, Washington, Stevens, and Howard with a total lineal footage of 4,000 feet and total project cost of $1,080,000.



**Construction Crew Installing New Water Main on Calispel Road Between Houston and Francis**

**5-Mile Tank Repair:** The District hired a contractor to repair the base and shell of one of our water reservoirs in the 5-Mile area. This consisted of removing the old tank chime waterproofing seal along the bottom of the tank, rebuilding the existing concrete base, and reinstalling a new seal. These repairs will help protect the structural integrity of the water tank's base to extend the longevity of the reservoir and had a total project cost of $47,780.


**Hydrant Lock Program:** The District started to implement additional security measures to protect the public water system by adding locks on our fire hydrants. We have been working with surrounding fire departments to offer a solution that ensures the hydrants are still readily available in an emergency while also restricting unapproved access. In 2023, we installed locks on over 140 fire hydrants which is part of a 5-year project to secure every fire hydrant in our water system. If you see someone operating a fire hydrant without a permit or have concerns about someone connected to one, please call our office at **509-536-0121** and report the problem.

## Future Improvements:

| PROJECT | PURPOSE | TOTAL COST | YEAR |
|---|---|---|---|
| Replace Steel Mains with 10" Between Houston and Francis on Calispel, Whitehouse, Washington, Stevens, and Howard (4,000 LF) | Depreciation/ Fire Flow | $1,080,000 | 2024-2026 |
| 5-Mile Booster Pump Station Replacement (Pre-1980) | Operational Efficiency/ Reliability/ Capacity | $640,000 | 2028 |
| Steer Inn Well Pump Replacement | Depreciation | $50,000 | 2030 |
| Replace 600,000 Gallon Reservoir | Depreciation | $1,990,000 | 2033 |
| Replace Steel Main in Wedgewood with 12" from Monroe to Country Homes Blvd (1,800 LF) | Depreciation/ Fire Flow | $510,000 | TBD |
| Install 10" Ductile Iron Loop in Holyoke from Monroe to Lynwood (650 LF) | Operational Efficiency/ Reliability/ Capacity | $370,000 | TBD |
| Replace Steel Main in Beacon with 10" from Monroe to Argonaut (600 LF) | Depreciation | $180,000 | TBD |
| Replace Steel Main with 8" Parallel to Division Between Wedgewood and Houston (1,400 LF) | Depreciation | $400,000 | TBD |
| Install 12" Ductile Iron Loop from Rainer North Parallel to Division (1,000 LF) | Fire Flow/ Reliability/ Capacity | $290,000 | TBD |