

# Valli Vue

## Home Owners Association



## 2010 Annual Water Quality Report

Prepared By:

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# 2010 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

This report is provided to inform you about the quality of your drinking water, and how it compares to national drinking water standards.

Please take a moment to review this important information.

## Water Quality Testing

Because of the numerous potential sources and varieties of impurities, state and federal law mandates the routine testing for all impurities (over 80) known to pose a risk to public health. Some impurities can affect water sources quickly and others are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Thus, testing schedules also vary from monthly to once every nine years, depending on risk and the impurity tested. Your water system is routinely monitored for all applicable hazardous impurities. However, of those impurities, only those detected in routine testing are listed in the Table of Detected Impurities of this report.

## Lead: A Contaminant You Can Control

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. Northern Utility Services is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When a tap has been unused for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 sec. to 2 min. 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 at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

## Common Drinking Water Impurities

Sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the land or underground, it can pick up substances or impurities such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, dissolved minerals and radioactive substances. Impurities can result from natural causes or human and animal activity, and can be located some distance from the affected water supply. Impurities that may be present in drinking water include:

**Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from wildlife, livestock, or septic systems.

**Organic Chemicals**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals which can originate in petroleum products, industrial byproducts, urban run off and septic systems.

**Radioactive contaminants** which can be naturally occurring or can result from mining, or oil and gas production.

**Pesticides and herbicides**, which can come from agricultural activity, residential usage, and urban runoff.

**Inorganic impurities**, such as salts and metals, which can come from natural sources, mining, farming, wastewater discharges, oil and gas production and urban runoff.

All drinking water, including the best bottled water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some impurities. However, the presence of these impurities does not necessarily indicate the water is a health risk. More information about impurities and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

## Source Water

Valli Vue water system is supplied by a deep well and 212,000 gal storage tank located in the Valli Vue green-belt tract.

## Source Water Assessment

Source waters for Valli Vue Subdivision have been assessed by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation for vulnerability to contamination. This assessment determined that the Valli Vue Subdivision source waters have a low vulnerability to pesticide contamination, volatile organic chemicals, heavy



metals, and other organic chemicals, a medium vulnerability to bacteria and viruses and a high vulnerability to nitrate and nitrite contamination. However, ADEC recognizes that these risk assessments have been derived with data and methodologies that have not been entirely verified and may not accurately estimate your drinking water source vulnerability. This source water assessment is available for review at ADEC and the Anchorage Municipal Library.

## Vulnerable Populations

Some people may be more vulnerable to impurities 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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

## Waivers

To eliminate unnecessary testing expense, Valli Vue Homeowner's Association has applied for and received testing waivers for asbestos (no asbestos piping in system), pesticides and other organic chemicals (no applicable potential source is found in the collection area), and reduced coliform monitoring. These waivers must be reviewed and renewed periodically at which time any change in impurity sources or new science is applied in the approval process.



## Water Treatment

Source waters for Valli Vue Subdivision are high quality ground waters and are delivered untreated.

## Coliform Bacteria



Of all potential impurities, drinking water is most vulnerable to bacteria. The presence of coliform bacteria has been proven to be a reliable indicator of bacterial and viral contamination, and as a result, your water is tested for coliform bacteria on a quarterly basis.

## Lead and Copper



The Lead and Copper rule requires water to be tested for its ability to cause lead and copper to leach from your home's plumbing. To be in compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule, 90% of the results must be less than or equal to the action level. The testing sites were chosen as the most likely to show impurities based on the age of their plumbing.

### Filters

Although your water is rigorously tested to assure its safety, it may have aesthetic qualities you find objectionable such as iron, manganese, calcium, chlorine or sulfur smell. If you choose to filter, here are some tips to consider.

#### Filter Maintenance

Many homes have cartridge style water filters installed either under the kitchen sink or large whole house filters installed where the water enters the house. These filters can be a source of harmful bacteria if they are not regularly maintained. As a general rule, filter cartridges should be replaced every 6 months although individual manufacturers specifications may vary. Symptoms of a plugged filter may be dirty water, unpleasant odor, or low pressure.

#### Filter Selection

Improper media selection can cause poor results.

- For mineral removal such as iron, calcium and manganese, water softening, RO, or green sand filtration is recommended.
- For taste and odor associated with chlorine and sulfur (rotten eggs), use carbon cartridge media.
- For fine particle removal, 5-10 micron cartridge media is best.
- Because of high maintenance costs, 1 micron cartridges are only recommended when contamination from surface runoff is suspected. Valli Vue aquifer is adequately protected from surface contamination and 1 micron filters are not advised.

**CAUTION:** If a filter, including softeners, is not in use, it should be bypassed to prevent bacterial growth from contaminating your drinking water.

## Excellent Water Quality!

Monitoring results show Valli Vue Subdivision water quality far exceeds State and Federal requirements including FDA requirements for bottled water!

### Run Before You Drink!

Drinking water impurities may become concentrated in your home's plumbing during prolonged periods of inactivity. It is always a good idea to allow a faucet to run until cold before taking a drink.

### System Maintenance

Valli Vue Subdivision water source and distribution system is routinely maintained and tested by Northern Utility Services, certified water system operators.



### Definitions and Terms

**MCLG** (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal) The level of contamination below which there is no known or expected health risk.

**MCL** (Maximum Contaminant Level)

The highest level of contamination allowable in drinking water.

**AL** (Action Level) The concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

**ppb** (Parts Per Billion) This measure corresponds to one penny in \$10,000,000 or one minute in 2000 years.

### Questions or Emergencies?

If you have any questions, need to report an emergency, or are simply interested in learning more about Valli Vue Subdivision drinking water system, Northern Utility Services staff is pleased to assist you. Office hours are 8:00-5:00 Mon-Fri. Tel: 346-1901  
**Emergency response is available via answering service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.**



**TABLE OF DETECTED IMPURITIES**

Impurity	Sample Date	Level Detected	MCL	MCLG	Likely Source	Violation Y/N
Lead	2008	7.1 ppb	AL=15 ppb	0	Corrosion of household plumbing, natural deposits	N
Copper	2008	148 ppb	AL=1300 ppb	1300 ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing, natural deposits	N
Nitrate	2010	3550 ppb	10,000 ppb	10,000 ppb	Fertilizer runoff, septic tank leaching, sewage, natural deposits.	N