

CITY OF JOHN DAY

2015

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

City of John Day Water Department is very pleased to provide you with this year's Oregon State Health Division mandatory summary of the 2015 drinking water quality information. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water source is from three deep wells and a spring. The wells are located on the North side of the John Day River off NW & NE Seventh Street and Long Gulch Spring which is located between John Day and Canyon City on the East Side of Highway 395, South of the John Day River.

We are Pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets federal and state requirements. Chlorine is added to the water for disinfection. A polyphosphate product is also added to our water system to improve water clarity. This report shows our water quality and what it means.

Prior reporting was done on each well, however in July of 2003 wells 2, 3,4 and 5 were given what is termed "Well field Designation" which means that it has been determined that all four of these wells are drawing from the same aquifer, hence saving the City additional testing costs. Well 4 was designated as the sample point. The water hardness is 186 mg/L, Iron content is 0.07, and Manganese content is 0.13.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Monte Legg through City Hall at 541-575-0028. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled City Council meetings. They are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month.

HEALTH INFORMATION

City of John Day routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This list shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2015 in accordance with state and federal regulations.

All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. It's important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk.

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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

EXPLANATION OF EXPECTED CONTAMINANTS

The sources of drinking water (both tap 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 contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances.

Contaminates that may be present in the City of John Day source water include:

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

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, mining or farming activities.

Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as farming, home or business use, or urban stormwater runoff.

Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile chemicals, which are by-products of industrial process and petroleum production, and can also, come from gas stations, urban storm runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants, which can occur naturally.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, Environmental Protection Agency prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Maximum Containment Levels (MCLs) are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, 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.

DEFINITIONS

Listed below you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

Non-Detects (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 (micrograms/l) - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Parts per trillion (ppt) or Nanograms per liter (nanograms/l) - one part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000,000.

Parts per quadrillion (ppq) or Picograms per liter (picograms/l) - one part per quadrillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000,000 years or one penny in \$10,000,000,000,000.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) - nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

Action Level - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Treatment Technique (TT) - A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Maximum Contaminant Level - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is 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.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - The "Goal" (MCLG) is 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.

RESULTS OF MONITORING FOR REGULATED CONTAMINANTS

The items listed below were the contaminants tested for in John Day's water during the last monitoring period. Note that all parameters listed meet or surpass State and Federal drinking water standards. **Not listed are the 12 sets of bacteriological samples that were taken and tested all of these samples were negative for any bacteria.** Also in an attempt to determine the susceptibility of John Days wells to contaminants such as giardia and cryptosporidium the state health division required us to test raw source water for total coliform as an indicator of potential surface water contamination. We had no positive result on Long Gulch Spring and no positive result on well 3 for Total Coliform bacteria present in those samples. The State requires us to test all of our sites individually for Nitrates. All of our sources came back ND. The city had no violations in 2015.

Treated Water

Parameter	MCL	Results
Nitrate	10.0	ND
Haloactic Acids		test results posted on city website
Trihalomethanes		test results posted on city website

MCL = Maximum Contaminate Level Allowed
ND = Non Detect

Inorganic Contaminants:

- (1) **Arsenic.** Some people who drink water-containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
- (2) **Barium.** Some people who drink water-containing barium in excess of the MCL over many years could experience an increase in their blood pressure.
- (3) **Chromium.** Some people who use water-containing chromium well in excess of the MCL over many years could experience allergic dermatitis.
- (4) **Fluoride.** 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. Children may get mottled teeth.
- (5) **Nitrate.** Infants below the age of six months who drink water-containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue-baby syndrome.
- (6) **Selenium.** Selenium is an essential nutrient. However, some people who drink water-containing selenium in excess of the MCL over many years could experience hair or fingernail losses, numbness in fingers or toes, or problems with their circulation.

As you can see, our system had no violations. We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected. The EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. All 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.

It was the consensus of the budget committee and the city council to do a small rate increase each year in January until our rates reach an adequate level to sustain and improve our water system to meet the needs of our community now and in the future.

The City of John Day is also proud to announce that we received a certificate of outstanding water system this past year from the State.

Please call our office if you have questions. The number is 541-575-0028.