

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

City of Prairie City

July 1, 2017

This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality and is designed to inform you about the quality of water and services we provide to you everyday. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we are making to improve and protect our water resources.

OUR WATER SUPPLY

The City of Prairie City relies on two infiltration galleries and three basalt wells for its water. Shallow ground water from the Dixie Creek drainage enters buried perforated pipe at two locations approximately 2.5 miles north of the City along Dixie Creek. The water supply is supplemented by the three wells when needed. The water is treated by slow sand filtration and chlorination in accord with federal and state requirements. A Source Water Assessment Report has been completed and may be inspected by contacting Public Works Director Chris Camarena at 541-820-3636.

MONITORING

The City of Prairie City routinely monitors your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. Last year, we conducted tests for over 80 contaminants and we are pleased to report that none were detected. Please refer to the Test Results table on the next page for more information. The results reflect monitoring for the period of January 1 through December 31, 2016.

DEFINITIONS

In the table on the following page you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms, we've provided the definitions:

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.

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.

Action Level (AL) – 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 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. MRDLG’s do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

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. (ppb) = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter.

TEST RESULTS							
Lead & Copper							
Substance (Unit of Measure)	Year Sampled	Goal (MCLG)	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Highest Level Detected	Source of Substance	Violation	
*Copper (ppm)	2016	1.3	1.3 AL	0.552	Corrosion of household plumbing	No	
*Copper (ppm)	2015	1.3	1.3 AL	0.545	Corrosion of household plumbing	No	
*Copper (ppm)	2014	1.3	1.3 AL	0.644	Corrosion of household plumbing	No	
*Copper (ppm)	2013	1.3	1.3 AL	1.539	Corrosion of household plumbing	Yes	
*Copper (ppm)	2012	1.3	1.3 AL	.824	Corrosion of household plumbing	No	
*Copper (ppm)	2011	1.3	1.3 AL	.817	Corrosion of household plumbing	No	
*Copper (ppm)	2010	1.3	1.3 AL	1.57	Corrosion of household plumbing	Yes	
*Copper (ppm)	2009	1.3	1.3 AL	2.46	Corrosion of household plumbing	Yes	
*Copper (ppm)	2008	1.3	1.3 AL	2.15	Corrosion of household plumbing	Yes	
*Lead (ppm)	2016	0	.015 AL	.001	Corrosion of household plumbing	No	
*Lead (ppm)	2015	0	.015 AL	.003	Corrosion of household plumbing	No	
*Lead (ppm)	2014	0	.015 AL	.004	Corrosion of household plumbing	No	
*Lead (ppm)	2013	0	.015 AL	.015	Corrosion of household plumbing	No	
*Lead (ppm)	2012	0	.015 AL	.014	Corrosion of household plumbing	No	
*Lead (ppm)	2011	0	.015 AL	.003	Corrosion of household plumbing	No	
*Lead (ppm)	2010	0	.015 AL	.010	Corrosion of household plumbing	No	
*Lead (ppm)	2009	0	.015 AL	.003	Corrosion of household plumbing	No	
*Lead (ppm)	2008	0	.015 AL	.004	Corrosion of household plumbing	No	
* Action level at consumer taps (ppm)							

VIOLATIONS

The City of Prairie City had No violations in 2016.

EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

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**.

Maximum Contaminant 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 two liters of water at the MCL level every day for a lifetime to have a one in a million chance of having the described health effect.

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 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 as noted above.

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 City of Prairie City 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 www.epa.gov/safewater/lead

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 materials, 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 that 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 waste water 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 water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

WATER CONSERVATION

The City of Prairie City does not anticipate a shortage of water for business or personal usage. This does not, however, diminish the importance of water conservation. Simply put, saving water saves you money and helps to conserve an important natural resource. Repairing small leaks, installing low water use fixtures and altering behavior can save a large amount of water. Below are some additional tips on how to conserve water.

- Don't over water your lawn by letting sprinklers run for hours. **Twenty minutes at a time should be sufficient** when watering on a regular basis.
- Raise the lawnmower blade to at least 3 inches. A lawn cut higher encourages grass roots to grow deeper, shades the root system and holds soil moisture better.
- Water during the early morning hours when temperatures and wind are the lowest to reduce loss from evaporation.
- Do not leave hoses flowing unattended. **Hoses can pour out 600 gallons or more in only a few hours!**
- That trickling sound you hear in the bathroom could be **a leaky toilet wasting 50 gallons of water** or more a day. Sometimes it leaks silently. Dye tablets are available from our Public Works Department that can be used to detect toilet leaks in just a few minutes. Stop by and pick one up if you suspect a leak.
- Dripping and trickling faucets and shower heads can waste from **75 to several hundred gallons of water a week** depending on the size of the drip. Worn out washers are the main causes of these leaks and a new one generally costs about 25 cents.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have any questions about this report, or for more information about your drinking water, please contact **Prairie City Public Works Director Chris Camarena** by calling

541-820-3636 or by writing to P.O. Box 370, Prairie City, OR. 97869. You are welcome to attend City Council meetings held the second Wednesday of each month at 6:00 P.M. at City Hall, 133 S. Bridge Street in Prairie City. If you would like to be recognized and present an issue, please fill out an Agenda Request Form available at City Hall and submit it to the City Recorder one week prior to the meeting.