



## *Pocatello Municipal Airport 2004 Drinking Water Quality Report*

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

We are pleased to present a summary of the quality of the water provided to you during the past year. The 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires that water utilities issue an annual “Consumer Confidence” report to customers in addition to other notices that may be required by law. This report details where your drinking water comes from, what it contains, and the risks our water testing and treatment are designed to prevent. The Pocatello Water Department is committed to providing you with the safest and most reliable water supply (all for less than two cents for ten gallons). Informed consumers are our best allies in maintaining safe drinking water.

The Pocatello Municipal Airport borders the Portneuf Valley and Snake River Plain Aquifers. The aquifers providing water for the Pocatello Municipal Airport are the only sources of drinking water in the foreseeable future and are an irreplaceable resource. The water system has two wells (Public Water System #6030071) to serve the airport terminal, residences, and several businesses through approximately 60 service connections. The Pocatello Water Department currently treats this water using chlorine gas injection to prevent bacterial contamination. Preventing pollution is the first priority in protecting our ground water supply. In 1999, the Water Department purchased 87 acres located near the Highway Pond south of Pocatello. This acreage was being mined for gravel and posed a threat to our aquifer but will now be used for recreation or environmental management. At this time a Source Water Assessment has not been conducted for the Pocatello Municipal Airport water system.

To continue to provide reliable water service to its customers, the Water Department incurs significant expense for every-day operating costs and for long-term capital improvements. These capital and operating expenditures are constantly increasing to keep pace with the deterioration of existing facilities, increasing regulatory requirements and inflation. The City recognizes the importance of replacing aging infrastructure and the water rates are designed to provide funding for these essential capital improvement projects.



### **Water Quality**

Last year the Pocatello Water Department conducted tests for lead, copper, nitrates and bacteria. Constituents not listed on the Water Quality Table were not found in the treated water supply.

We are proactive in protecting our community, and we will notify you immediately of any waterborne health threat in the unlikely event that it occurs.

### **Health Information**

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 (Centers for Disease Control) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

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 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 (800-426-4791).

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 radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

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

### **Explanation of the Water Quality Data Table:**

This report is based upon tests conducted by the City of Pocatello Water Department. Terms used in the Water Quality Table and in other parts of this report are defined here.

## DEFINITION OF TERMS USED

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

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 level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

Inorganic Chemicals: Chemical substances of mineral origin, such as lead and copper.

Organic Chemicals: Naturally occurring or synthetic substances containing mainly carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, and oxygen. This includes most pesticides and industrial chemicals.

ND: Not detected in the water at the testing limits.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/l): A measure of radioactivity.

Parts per million (ppm), or milligrams per liter (mg/l): Indicates the amount of a contaminant found in a million parts of water. This corresponds to one penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb), or micrograms per liter (µg/l): Indicates the amount of a contaminant found in a billion parts of water. This corresponds to one penny in \$10,000,000.

## Water Quality Data

Substance	Date Tested	EPA's Standards		Pocatello's Results		Sources of Contaminant
		MCLG	MCL	Min.	Max.	
<b>Detected Inorganic Chemicals - Primary Standards</b> (Directly related to the safety of drinking water)						
Barium (ppm)	10/10/02	2	2	0.06	0.14	Discharge from drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride (ppm)	10/10/02	4	4	0.6	0.8	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate (ppm)	06/02/04	10	10	1.8	4.7	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Selenium (ppb)	10/10/02	50	50	ND	12.0	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines.
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b> (Emitted from certain naturally occurring minerals as they decay.)						
Alpha emitters (pCi/l)	09/04/02	0	15	2.4	8.9	Erosion of natural deposits.
Beta/Photon emitters (pCi/l)	09/04/02	0	50	5.0	7.7	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.
<b>Volatile Organic Contaminants</b> (Includes petroleum-based chemicals, industrial by-products, and dry cleaning solvents.)						
TTHM's [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	10/10/02	0	80	ND	3.4	By-product of drinking water chlorination.

Note: The MCL for beta particles is 4 mrem/year. EPA considers 50 pCi/l to be the level of concern for beta particles. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in the water quality data table is from testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2004. 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. Thus, some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old.

**Concerning Nitrate in Drinking Water:** 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 advice from your health care provider.

**Contaminants that may be present** in source water before we treat it include:

**Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which 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 stormwater runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

**Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater 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 stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

**Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

The City of Pocatello Water Department encourages public interest and participation in our community's decisions affecting drinking water. Regular Pocatello City Council Meetings occur on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month beginning at 6:00 p.m., at 911 North 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue in the City Council Chambers. The agendas for these meetings are posted on the bulletin boards at City Hall and on the Internet at [www.pocatello.us](http://www.pocatello.us).

For more information regarding water quality, contact the City of Pocatello Water Superintendent's Office at (208) 234-6174, e-mail to [jorr@pocatello.us](mailto:jorr@pocatello.us) or visit our web site at [www.pocatello.us/water/water.htm](http://www.pocatello.us/water/water.htm).