Pocatello Municipal Airport

2011 Drinking Water Quality Report

Public Water system #ID6030071

Committed
to Safe Drinking Water

The City of Pocatello provides its customers with drinking water that surpasses all State of Idaho and EPA drinking water health standards. The Safe Drinking Water Act requires every community water system to provide customers with a Consumer Confidence Report annually. Some information in this report is mandated but we also provide information that we think you, our customer, will find helpful.

Drinking water is our most precious resource and we are committed to provide a safe and adequate supply of water for our residential, commercial and industrial customers at the lowest practical cost, which is a bargain at two cents for ten gallons considering all that water provides—public health protection, fire protection, support for the economy, and quality of life.

Our customers play a significant role in maintaining the highest quality drinking water for the entire community and we appreciate the time you take to read this report, recognize your role and promote responsible action by everyone in the watershed.

For more information about this report or if you have questions relating to your drinking water, please contact the City of Pocatello Water Superintendent's Office at (208) 234-6174 or visit our web site at www.pocatello.us/water.

Important 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 (800-426-4791) or http://www.epa.gov/safewater/hotline.

Source Water Assessment

The 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act amendments created a new program of source water assessments. The source water assessment report for the City of Pocatello was completed in November 2000. The report describes the City of Pocatello's drinking water system, the boundaries of the zones of water contribution, and the associated potential contaminant sources located within these boundaries. The ultimate goal of the assessment is to provide data to the City of Pocatello to develop a protection strategy for our drinking water supply system.

Where Does My Water Come From?

The Pocatello Municipal Airport borders the Lower Portneuf Valley and Snake River Plain Aquifers. The Airport water system has two wells that serve the airport terminal, residences, and several businesses through approximately 60 service connections. The Pocatello Water Department treats this water using chlorine gas injection to prevent bacterial contamination.

Community Participation

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 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month beginning at 6:00 p.m., at 911 North 7th 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 http://www.pocatello.us/.

Substances that Might be in Drinking Water

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

Sampling Results

Substance	Year Sampled	EPA's Standards		Pocatello's Results		Possible Sources	Violation
		MCL	MCLG	Minimum	Maximum		
Inorganic Contaminants							
Arsenic (ppb)	2007	10	0	1.0	3.0	Erosion of natural deposits.	No
Barium (ppm)	2007	2	2	0.059	0.141	Discharge from drilling wastes; erosion of natural deposits.	No
Chromium (ppb)	2007	100	100	1.0	2.0	Erosion of natural deposits.	No
Fluoride (ppm)	2007	4	4	ND	0.6	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.	No
Nitrate (ppm)	2010	10	10	ND	4.1	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.	No
Selenium (ppb)	2007	50	50	ND	3.0	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines.	No
Lead & Copper Sampling at Residential Water Taps							
Lead (ppb) 10/2007 AL = 15 0 90th percentile for lead = 3.0 ppb AND number of sites above the AL = 0						Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.	No
Copper (ppm) 10/2007 AL = 1.3 1.3 90th percentile for copper = 0.279 ppm AND number of sites above the AL = 0						Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.	No
Disinfection By Products							
TTHM's [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2010	n/a	80	0.56	3.97	By-product of drinking water chlorination.	No
	(Running Annual Average = 1.89 ppb)						
Maximum Residual Disinfection Level							
Chlorine (ppm)	2010	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	0.18	0.47	Water additive used to control microbes. (Annual average = 0.28)	No

Definitions

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements 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.

Maximum Residual Disinfection Level (MRDL): The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contamination.

Maximum Residual Disinfection Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no know or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

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

Organic Contaminants: 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.

Parts per billion (ppb) or micrograms per liter (µg/l): Indicates the amount of a contaminant found in a billion parts of water.

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

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

Note: The MCL for Beta/Photon emitters is 4mRem/year. EPA considers 50 pCi/l to be the level of concern for beta particles.

Water Testing

The Federal Safe Drinking Water Act requires water agencies to meet health-based water quality standards.

Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in the water quality data table is from testing performed in 2010. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentration of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Only those substances on the EPA's primary (regulated) contaminant list that are detected in the drinking water are listed on the table.

More Information:

The annual water quality reports and chemical analysis reports are available on our website at www.pocatello.us/water or through the Water Superintendent's Office at 234-6174.

Health Effects

Lead health effects and ways to reduce exposure:
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 Pocatello 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 from drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your drinking 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 http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

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,

Contaminants that may be present in source water before we treat it 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 stormwater runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming;

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.

Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses;

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

What is the hardness of Pocatello's water?
Pocatello's municipal water is very hard and averages 350 parts per million, which is the equivalent of 20.5 grains per gallon, whereas water from the wells at the Airport averages 241 ppm or 14.1 grains per gallon (water hardness above 10 grains per gallon is considered very hard). Water hardness is mainly caused by an excess of calcium and magnesium in the water. Scale formation and excessive soap consumption are the main concerns with hardness. Consumers may notice an increased difficulty in cleaning and laundering tasks, decreased efficiency of water heaters and other water-using appliances, and white/chalky deposits on dishes. While these problems can be frustrating, water hardness is not a safety issue. Hard water is safe for drinking, cooking, and other household uses. A water softener may address many concerns associated with hard water, but it is not recommended to drink soft water.

Does the City of Pocatello fluoridate the water?
Nationally, fluoridation continues to be a heated topic of discussion. According to the American Water Works Association, fluoridation of drinking water is endorsed by the American Dental Association and the U.S. Public Health Service. When used at the recommended levels, fluoride is considered safe and effective in preventing and controlling tooth decay.

Consuming high concentrations of fluoride can cause a condition called dental fluorosis which can cause teeth to become mottled and fragile.

Opponents argue that because fluoride is a carcinogen they should have a choice in the matter and do not want it added to their drinking water. Others believe that a topical application (fluoridated toothpaste and mouth rinses) is more beneficial than ingesting fluoridated water.

In any event, neither side can deny the fact that only a small percentage of the total amount of water produced is actually consumed. In residential use alone, the vast majority of water is used for irrigation, laundry, washing dishes, personal hygiene, flushing toilets, etc. The philosophy of the Pocatello Water Department is that the tremendous equipment expense and maintenance costs do not justify a system-wide fluoridation program to provide treatment that only benefits a small segment of its water consumers.

If tap water is really of good quality why do some people dislike the taste?
Our water's taste is caused by naturally occurring minerals and chlorine. Chlorine is added to keep the water safe from bacteria. Water quality is best measured by the amount and concentration of contaminants; we have very few contaminants in our drinking water, and those that are present are within the Safe Drinking Water Act limits.

Is bottled water safer than our drinking water?
Because our drinking water meets all federal regulations, you can be assured of its safety. Bottled water is regulated by the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) and is required to meet most of the same water quality standards as tap water but no one should assume that bottled water is safer or purer. Many consumers buy bottled water as a convenience while others prefer the taste. Pocatello's drinking water costs $.002 per gallon whereas bottled water costs between $1.00 and $4.00 per gallon.

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