



Pocatello Municipal Airport
2009 Drinking Water Quality Report

Public Water System #ID6030071

Continuing Our Commitment

The City of Pocatello is proud to provide you with the 2009 Water Quality Report, in accordance with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. Based on testing performed throughout 2008, your drinking water meets or exceeds all state and federal drinking water standards. 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 less than two cents for ten gallons. For more information about this report, or if you have questions relating to your drinking water, please call 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>.



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/>.

Source Water Assessment

A Source Water Assessment has not been conducted for the Pocatello Municipal Airport water system. The ultimate goal of a source water assessment is to provide data to the City of Pocatello in order to develop a protection strategy for our drinking water supply system.

What's In My 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.

Water Quality Data Table

Substance	Month/Year Sampled	EPA's Standards		Pocatello's Results		Possible Sources	Violation
		MCLG	MCL	Minimum	Maximum		
Inorganic Contaminants							
Arsenic (ppb)	9/2007	0	10	1.0	3.0	Erosion of natural deposits.	No
Barium (ppm)	11/2007	2	2	0.059	0.141	Discharge from drilling wastes; erosion of natural deposits.	No
Chromium (ppb)	11/2007	100	100	1.0	2.0	Erosion of natural deposits.	No
Fluoride (ppm)	11/2007	4	4	ND	0.6	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.	No
Nitrate (ppm)	6/2008	10	10	ND	6.3	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.	No
Selenium (ppb)	11/2007	50	50	ND	3.0	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines.	No
Lead & Copper Sampling at Residential Water Taps							
Lead (ppb)	10/2007	0	AL = 15	90 th 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	1.3	AL = 1.3	90 th 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)	11/2008	n/a	80	ND	2.8	By-product of drinking water chlorination.	No
(Running Annual Average = 1.3 ppb)							
Maximum Residual Disinfection Level							
Chlorine (ppm)	10/2008	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	0.07	0.49	Water additive used to control microbes. (Annual average = 0.27)	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 known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

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.

Emergency Preparedness

The City of Pocatello Water Department encourages consumers to be prepared for emergencies by making an emergency supply kit, which should include enough drinking water to last a minimum of three days. One gallon of water, per person, per day is adequate for general drinking purposes and limited personal hygiene. Individual needs vary, depending on age, physical conditions, activity, diet and climate. Also, if you have pets, consider their needs.

If you choose not to use commercially bottled water, see below for some tips on how to properly store water as recommended by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

- It is recommended that you purchase food-grade water storage containers from surplus or camping supplies stores to use for water storage. Before filling with water, thoroughly clean the containers with dishwashing soap and water, and rinse completely so there is no residual soap. Follow directions below on filling the container with water.
- If you choose to use your own storage containers, choose two-liter plastic soft drink bottles – not plastic jugs or cardboard containers that have had milk or fruit juice in them. Milk protein and fruit sugars cannot be adequately removed from these containers and provide an environment for bacterial growth when water is stored in them. Cardboard containers also leak easily and are not designed for long-term storage of liquids. Also, do not use glass containers, because they can break and are heavy.
- If storing water in plastic soda bottles, follow these steps: Thoroughly clean the bottles with dishwashing soap and water, and rinse completely so there is no residual soap. Sanitize the bottles by adding a solution of 1 teaspoon of non-scented liquid household chlorine bleach to a quart of water. Swish the sanitizing solution in the bottle so that it touches all surfaces. After sanitizing the bottle, thoroughly rinse out the sanitizing solution with clean water.
- Fill the bottle to the top with regular tap water. If the tap water has been commercially treated from a water utility with chlorine, you do not need to add anything else to the water to keep it clean. If the water you are using comes from a well or water source that is not treated with chlorine, add two drops of non-scented liquid household chlorine bleach to the water. Tightly close the container using the original cap. Be careful not to contaminate the cap by touching the inside of it with your finger. Place a date on the outside of the container so that you know when you filled it. Store in a cool, dark place.

For more information on emergency preparedness, visit the Department of Homeland Security's website at www.ready.gov/america.

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 2008. The State requires 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 Environmental Protection Agency'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, you should ask advice from your health care provider.

Concerning total coliform bacteria in drinking water: Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present. During 2008, two drinking water samples tested positive for coliform bacteria but were negative for E-coli. Immediate repeat samples resulted in the absence of any coliform bacteria. There is a high probability that the initial sample results were false-positive (inadvertently contaminated through laboratory or sampling errors).

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