



Water Department  
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***Pocatello Municipal Airport  
2007 Drinking Water Quality Report***



We don't often pause to consider the incredible value of a safe, reliable water supply—and the water system that delivers it—in our everyday lives. But consider what tap water does that no other water can do.

### **Only tap water delivers...**

#### **...public health protection.**

In a world where an estimated 3 million people die every year from preventable waterborne disease, our water systems allow us to drink from virtually any public tap with a high assurance of safety. Each community water supply meets rigorous federal and state health-protective standards.

#### **...fire protection.**

A well-maintained water system is critical in protecting our communities from the ever-present threat of fire. A system that provides reliable water at an adequate pressure can be the difference between a small fire and an urban inferno. The ability to suppress fires also influences new home construction, business location decisions and insurance rates.

#### **...support for the economy.**

Businesses or housing developments do not succeed without a safe and sustainable water supply. Tap water is critical to businesses' day-to-day operations and is often a primary ingredient in the products they create. The incredible value of water is magnified during times of drought and when populations expand into arid climates.

#### **...the overall quality of life we enjoy.**

Any measure of a successful society—low mortality rates, economic diversity, productivity, and public safety—is in some way related to access to safe water. In North America, we take for granted that safe water is always accessible to drink, to wash our clothes, to water our lawns and for a myriad of other purposes. When water service is interrupted, we're all reminded of the extraordinary value of water resources and service.

(The "Only Tap Water Delivers" campaign is presented in cooperation with the American Water Works Association.)

The City of Pocatello is pleased to provide you with the 2007 Water Quality Report, in accordance with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. Based on rigorous testing performed throughout 2006, 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/Water.htm](http://www.pocatello.us/Water/Water.htm).

### **Where Does My Water Come From?**

The Pocatello Municipal Airport borders the Lower Portneuf Valley and Snake River Plain Aquifers. The Airport water system (Public Water System #6030071) 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.

### **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.

## Water Quality Monitoring

In 2006, the Pocatello Water Department conducted tests for arsenic, nitrate, disinfection by-products 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.

## Do I Need To Take Special Precautions?

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>.

## What's In My Drinking Water?

In order 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. Contaminants that may be present 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; **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; and **radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. 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.



## 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 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 <http://www.pocatello.us/>.

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

## Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected in your drinking water. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing performed in 2006. 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.

Substance	Month/Year Sampled	EPA's Standards		Pocatello's Results		Major Sources in Drinking Water	Violation
		MCLG	MCL	Minimum	Maximum		
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Arsenic (ppb)	9/2006	0	10	2.0	3.0	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.	No
Barium (ppm)	3/2002	2	2	0.06	0.14	Discharge from drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.	No
Fluoride (ppm)	10/2002	4	4	0.6	0.8	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.	No
Nitrate (ppm)	6/2006	10	10	1.2	5.1	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.	No
Selenium (ppb)	10/2002	50	50	ND	12.0	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines.	No
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>							
Alpha emitters (pCi/l)	9/2002	0	15	2.4	8.9	Erosion of natural deposits.	No
Beta /Photon emitters (pCi/l)	9/2002	0	50*	5.0	7.7	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.	No
*The MCL for beta particles is 4 mrem/year. EPA considers 50 pCi/l to be the level of concern for beta particles.							
<b>Maximum Residual Disinfection Level</b>							
Chlorine (ppm)	2/2006	n/a	MRDL= 4	0.01	0.32	Water additive used to control microbes. (Annual average = 0.15)	No

**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.

### Table Definitions

**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.

**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.

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

**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.

**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.

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

**Millirems per year or mrem/year:** A measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

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