



# *Pocatello Municipal Airport 2006 Drinking Water Quality Report*

## Dear Water Consumer:

The City of Pocatello is pleased to provide you with the 2006 Water Quality Report, in accordance with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. Based on rigorous testing performed throughout 2005, 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. We encourage you to use water wisely, and we appreciate your conservation efforts. Although southeastern Idaho experienced a wet spring, the past several years of drought has adversely affected our aquifer and it will take several years of above normal precipitation for the aquifer to recover. 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).

The most frequent water quality question asked concerns water hardness. The water at the Pocatello Airport is very hard and averages 240 parts per million, which is the equivalent of 14 grains per gallon (water above 10 grains per gallon is considered hard). Water hardness is mainly caused by an excess of calcium and magnesium in the water. Hardness is reported as the equivalent amount of calcium carbonate (CaCO<sub>3</sub>). 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. On a positive note, calcium carbonate is widely used medicinally as an inexpensive calcium supplement, antacid, and/or phosphate binder.

## 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.

## 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.

## Water Quality Monitoring

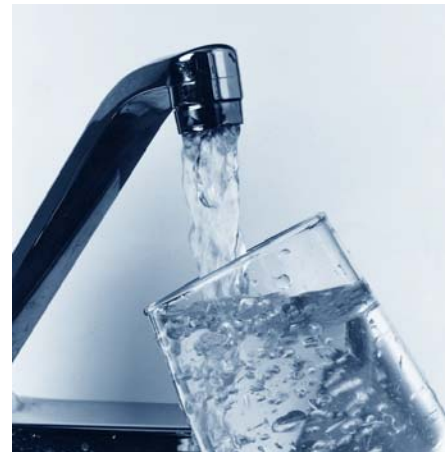
In 2005, the Pocatello Water Department conducted tests for volatile and synthetic organic compounds, nitrates, and bacteria. Constituents not listed on the Water Quality Table were not found in the treated water supply. We are proactive in protecting our community, and we will notify you immediately of any waterborne health threat in the unlikely event that it occurs.

## 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).

## What's In My Drinking Water?

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.



## 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 2005. 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		Typical Sources	Violation
		MCLG	MCL	Minimum	Maximum		
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
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)	06/2005	10	10	1.1	4.4	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)	09/2002	0	15	2.4	8.9	Erosion of natural deposits.	No
Beta/Photon emitters (pCi/l)	09/2002	0	50	5.0	7.7	Decay of natural and man-made deposits. EPA considers 50 pCi/l to be the level of concern for beta particles.	No
<b>Disinfection By Products</b>							
TTHM's [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	12/2005	n/a	80	ND	2.0	By product of drinking water chlorination.	No
<b>Maximum Residual Disinfection Level</b>							
Chlorine (ppm)	12/2005	n/a	MRDL= 4	0.01	0.19	Water additive used to control microbes. (Annual average = 0.14)	No

### Table Definitions

**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.

**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.

**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.

## 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.

## Aquifer Protection & Water Conservation

The Water Department hosts an open house each spring in celebration of Water Week. Various educational tools are used to promote water conservation and aquifer protection in order to preserve our water supply for future generations.

**Aquifer protection:** The aquifer, which lies directly beneath Pocatello, Chubbuck and the surrounding areas of Bannock County, is very vulnerable and everyone must do their part to protect it from contamination. Hazardous materials like used pesticide cans, drain cleaners, paint thinner and solvents can be disposed of during the Bannock County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days. For more information, contact the Bannock County Landfill at 236-0607 or visit their website at [www.co.bannock.id.us/hazmat1.htm](http://www.co.bannock.id.us/hazmat1.htm).



### In the home conservation:

- ◆ Wash only full loads of laundry
- ◆ Fix leaking faucets, pipes and toilets
- ◆ Take shorter showers
- ◆ Run the dishwasher only when full
- ◆ Do not let the water run while shaving or brushing teeth
- ◆ Install water-saving devices on faucets, toilets, and appliances.

### Outdoor conservation:

- ◆ Use drought-resistant, native trees and plants
- ◆ Mulch around plants and shrubs to retain soil moisture
- ◆ Repair leaks on faucets and hoses
- ◆ Use water-saving nozzles and sprinkler heads
- ◆ Water lawn and garden in the early morning or evening
- ◆ Sweep driveway and walkways rather than spraying with water

Questions?  
Call the U.S. EPA's  
Safe Drinking Water Hotline  
at 1-800-426-4791 or visit their  
website at [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater)