

City Of Sisters

The 2011 annual water report is a reflection of our continuing effort of providing you with the safest and best tasting water possible from our ground water wells to your tap. We are proud to say once again that we have succeeded in meeting all the requirements set by the EPA and the State of Oregon. If after reading this report you still have questions, please feel free to contact The City Of Sisters Public Works Director Paul Bertagna at 541-549-6022 or visit us at City Hall, 520 E. Cascade Avenue.

2011 Annual Water Quality Report

Important Information About Water and Your Health

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 guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants. For more information call the Safe Drinking Water Hot Line 1-800-426-4791 or visit the EPA's website: www.epa.gov/ow. Additional information can be found on the CDC website: www.cdc.gov/healthywater/drinking/public/faq.html.

Lead in Drinking Water....Are You at Risk?

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 Sisters is responsible for providing high quality drinking water to your tap, we cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. 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 to drink or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your 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>, or www.leadline.org, or by contacting Umpqua Research Company, drinking water testing laboratory 541-312-9454.

An Important Message from the Environmental Protection Agency

The sources of (both tap 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, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals and human activity.

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, comes from agricultural, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

Organic Chemical Contaminants, synthetic and volatile organic chemicals are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive Contaminants, Naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Drinking water and bottled water may 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).

Key and Definitions

- **AL - Action Level**, the concentration of a contaminant which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements.
- **EPA - Environmental Protection Agency**, sets water quality standards and establishes methods and monitoring requirements for water utilities.
- **MCL - Maximum Contaminant Level**, 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.
- **MCLG - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal**, the level of a contaminant in drinking water which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow a margin of safety.
- **PPB - Parts Per Billion**, the equivalent of one second in 32 years.
- **PPM - Parts Per Million**, the equivalent of one second in 12 days.
- **Result** - the column that shows you what level of contaminant was found in the water you drink.
- **> Greater than**



Federal standards regulate contaminants in order to protect drinking water quality. The City Of Sisters tested hundreds of regulated and unregulated contaminants. The most recent test results from 2011 and within the past 5 years are reported in the table below with only contaminants that were detected being listed.

Primary Standards (directly related to the safety of drinking water)

Inorganic Contaminants	(Units)	MCL	MCLG	Range/Result	Violation	Likely source
2011 - Fluoride	(ppm)	4	4	0.132	No	Erosion of natural deposits
201 - Nitrate	(ppm)	10	10	0 - 0.21	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Unregulated Contaminants	(Units)	MCL	MCLG	Result	Violation	Likely source
*2011 - Sodium	(ppm)	N/A	N/A	9.68	No	Erosion of natural deposits
*Advisory only						
Radiological Contaminants	(Units)	MCL	MCLG	Range	Violation	Likely source
2009 - Gross Alpha	(pC/l)	15	0	0.5 - 0.6	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium	(pC/l)	5	0	0.7 - 1.0	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Lead & Copper	(Units)	MCLG	AL	90th%	Violation	Likely source
2009 - Copper	(ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.205	No	Household plumbing
Disinfection By-Products	Units)	MCL	MCLG	Range/Result	Violation	Likely source
2011 - Chlorine Residuals	(ppm)	4	4	0.2 - 0.32	No	By-product of DW disinfection
2009 - Total Trhalomethane	(ppb)	80	N/A	3.8 - 4.0	No	By-product of DW disinfection

The City Of Sisters chlorinates well #1 with a chlorine gas and wells 2 & 3 with an on site generated sodium hypochlorite to insure that the water you are drinking is free of any microbial contaminants from the source to your tap. The disinfection process is carefully controlled so that the disinfection effectiveness is maintained while keeping the levels of disinfection by-products below regulatory limits.

Cross Connections:

Cross connection within your water system most often occurs at your home. Cross connection is when the drinking water and non drinking water sources i.e., irrigation, stock tanks, chemical sprayers, etc., cross paths and become interconnected. The garden hose is the most common cross connection, •connecting it directly to a hose-end sprayer to apply pesticide or fertilizer to your yard, •connecting it to a soap-and-brush attachment to wash your car, boat, or siding, •Letting the end of the hose lie in a puddle or pool of water on the ground, •a garden hose left emersed in a stock tank or water dish for animals. Pressure and back flow in your water system can occur and cause contamination. Please visit the EPA website:

www.epa.gov/ogwdw/smallsystems/pdfs/guide_smallsystems_crossconnectioncontrol.pdf

City Of Sisters

The 1996 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act require that all states conduct Source Water Assessments for public water systems within their boundaries. The assessments consist of (1) identification of the Drinking Water Protection area, i.e., the area at the surface that is directly above the part of the aquifer that supplies groundwater to our well. (2) identification of **potential** sources of pollution within the drinking water protection area, and (3) determining the susceptibility or relative risk to the well water from those sources. The purpose of the assessment is to provide water systems with information they need to develop a strategy to protect their water resource if they choose.

The Drinking Water Programs of The Department of Human Services and Environmental Quality have completed a Source Water Assessment. Please contact us at (541) 549-6022 if you would like to view this report.

How to access more information on our water system

On the internet type in [HTTP://170.104.63.9](http://170.104.63.9), under the blue box that has Drinking Water Program choose **WS ID Look Up**, and in the box beside PWS Number: OR41 type in 00826 and click View Results. You can scroll to the bottom and choose options to browse information for The City Of Sisters.