



READ THIS REPORT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT
THE WATER YOU DRINK

2013 Water Quality Report

The City of Sisters is committed to every individual who drinks the water we provide and continues to work hard at maintaining the safety from harmful contaminants. We are proud to say our efforts in meeting or exceeding the standards required by the EPA have been successful. This report includes the most recent data from 2013 and from the last 5 years for chemicals. If you have questions after reading this report, please feel free to contact the Public Works Department at (541) 323-5212 or attend one of our scheduled City Council meetings held on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month.

An Important Message from the Environmental Protection Agency Required information by EPA

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 storm-water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

Pesticides and Herbicides, comes from agricultural, urban storm-water 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 storm-water 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 at (800) 426-4791.

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 but can't 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 for cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. For information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure, please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or Umpqua Research Company's drinking water testing lab at (541) 312-9454. You can also find information at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead and at www.leadline.org.

Important Information About Water and Your Health

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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. There are 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 at (800) 426-4791 or visit the EPA's website at www.epa.gov. Additional information can be found on the CDC's website at www.cdc.gov/healthywater.*

How to access more information on our water system

On the internet go to: [HTTP://170.104.63.9](http://170.104.63.9) Click on [WS ID Look Up](#) and type 00826 in the box beside PWS Number: OR41 and click on View Results. Scroll down to view options to browse for more information about City of Sisters water.

Detected Regulated and Unregulated contaminants are listed below. Unregulated Contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to help EPA determine their occurrence in drinking water and potential need for future regulation.

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

Inorganic Contaminants	(Units)	MCL	MCLG	Result	Violation	Likely Source
2011 - Fluoride	(ppm)	4	4	0.132	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
Lead & Copper	(Units)	MCLG	AL	90th%	Violation	Likely source
2012 - Copper	(ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.264	No	Household plumbing
Disinfection By-Products	(Units)	MCL	MCLG	Range/Result	Violation	Likely source
2013 - Chlorine Residuals	(ppm)	4	4	0.04 - 0.29	No	By-product of DW disinfection
2012 - Total Trihalomethane	(ppb)	80	N/A	0.0 - 2.4	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.

Violation

2013 - Our water system received a violation warning for non reporting of a Coliform Bacteria test for March. We are required to collect 2 routine samples per month. Both samples were taken. One of the routine sample was inadvertently missed being picked up by the laboratory. Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. There were no positive tests for Coliform Bacteria in 2013.

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.

Where our water source comes from:

City Of Sisters, like many small water systems in Oregon, relies on groundwater for its domestic water supply. The well's range from 211' to 302' feet deep.

Did You Know

Keeping the body hydrated with water helps the heart more easily pump blood through the blood vessels to the muscles. And, it helps the muscles remove waste so that they can work efficiently.

"If you're well hydrated, your heart doesn't have to work as hard"

City Of Sisters Source Assessment

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.

The Drinking Water Programs of The Department of Human Services and Environmental Quality have completed a Source Water Assessment. A copy of the report is on file for viewing by visiting City Hall at 520 E. Cascade Ave.