

# 2015 Water Quality Report



*The City of Sisters provides exceptional water. This is accomplished by continually monitoring for Coliform Bacteria, Inorganics, Organics and Radiologicals that ensure we meet and exceed regulatory standards. The City of Sisters is proud to say we have met that goal and will continue to work hard to meet the high standards required by the EPA and the State agencies. If you have any questions after reading this report, please feel free to contact us at (541) 549-6022.*

## 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 (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, we cannot control the variety of materials used in the 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](http://www.leadline.org), or by contacting Edge Analytical, drinking water testing laboratory 541-639-8425.

### 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 healthcare 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. Additional information can be found on the CDC website: [www.cdc.gov/healthywater/drinking/public/faq.html](http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/drinking/public/faq.html).**

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	Range/Result	Violation	Likely Source
2014 - Fluoride	ppm	4	4	0.268	No	Erosion of natural deposits
2015 - Nitrate	ppm	10	10	0.29 - 0.4	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Unregulated Contaminants						
2014 - Sodium	ppm	N/A	N/A	9.83	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Lead and Copper	Units	MCLG	AL	90 <sup>th</sup> %	Violation	Likely Source
2015 - Copper	ppm	1.3	1.3	0.27	No	Household plumbing
2015 - Lead	ppb	0	15	3.0	No	Household plumbing
Disinfection-Byproducts	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Range/Result	Violation	Likely Source
2015 - Trihalomethane	ppb	80	N/A	2.6	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
2015 - Chlorine Residuals	ppm	4	4	0.11 - 0.37	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection

The City Of Sisters chlorinates well #1 with a chlorine gas and wells 2 & 3 with an on site generated sodium hypochlorite to ensure that the water you are drinking is free of any microbial contaminants from the source to your tap.

Reporting Violation - Our water system received a late reporting violation of a coliform bacteria sample in August 2015. 2 samples required by the state were collected by the City of Sisters within the Month of August and absent of any coliform. The laboratory inadvertently missed getting one of the samples entered to state within the correct time frame required by the state which resulted in a violation for the City of Sisters. Our system returned back to compliance when the results were submitted by the laboratory in September.

### 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.
- **pCi/l - Picocuries Per Liter**, a measure of radioactivity
- **Range/Result** - the column that shows you what level of contaminant was found in the water you drink.

### City of Sisters Source Assessment

#### For more information about our water system

Go to: <https://yourwater.oregon.gov> and click on the **WS ID Look up** link. Enter **00826** and click View Results.

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 our groundwater 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 available for viewing by contacting our office at (541) 549-6022.

