2014 CITY OF KLAMATH FALLS Water Quality Report

THE CITY OF KLAMATH FALLS PROVIDES

Exceptional water for you!

Water is truly an essential part of each of our lives. We rely on water daily for a wide range of uses from growing crops to aiding in industrial processes. None of these uses is more important than our need for high quality water that we can safely drink. To that end, we remain vigilant in meeting the challenges of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to service the needs of all of our water users. If you would like additional information we encourage you to call us at 541-883-5363.

The information in this annual report is for the period of January 1 through December 31, 2014. The City of Klamath Falls routinely monitors for over 125 regulated and unregulated contaminates in all sources of your drinking water. As a result of this monitoring Klamath Falls' water meets and exceeds Federal and State drinking water standards.

WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?

City of Klamath Falls' water source comes from groundwater supplied by 11 wells with depths that range from 300ft to 1000ft.This makes Klamath Falls' water system unique in that only 1% of all groundwater supplied water systems across the nation serve more than 10,000 people. We provide water to nearly 40,000 customers. As our groundwater tends to be free of impurities and contaminates we only treat the water with a single common additive, chlorine. Chlorine is injected into the water and acts as a safety net against disease causing bacteria and viruses. Although only a small amount of natural fluoride is present in our groundwater, the City of Klamath Falls does not inject additional sodium fluoride into our drinking water.

CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL & BACKFLOW PREVENTION

The City of Klamath Falls strives to provide the highest quality drinking water to our customers and protecting against potentially harmful backflow is a very important part of this effort. The City's Water Division maintains a data base of backflow prevention assemblies installed throughout the city. We monitor all testing and send customers an annual reminder notice. Your efforts in performing required testing is essential in protecting your drinking water.

If you have an irrigation system for your yard, fire suppression sprinkler system, boiler, pool/spa or water feature, state law requires that you get a backflow prevention assembly to prevent contaminated water from flowing back into your drinking water.

Garden hoses can be hazardous to the water quality in your home. To prevent backflow and keep your water safe do not submerge a garden hose into anything that you would not want to drink. Do not use hose-end applicators to apply garden chemicals to your yard. When not in use keep the hose bibs on the house in the "off" position. The spray nozzle at the end of the hose is not a safe shut off.

WATER USAGE AND CONSERVATION

The City of Klamath Falls encourages and promotes the conservation of our precious natural resource. The City's water system is fully metered. We strive to maintain the distribution system unaccounted for water losses below 10%. Unaccounted for water loss is based on the total water produced by the wells less the amount of water sold to customers and used for other system purposes like flushing and fire fighting. A single conservation measure that can have the biggest impact by saving water and money is to fix all leaks. Even the smallest leak can have a big effect on your water usage.

REQUEST A PAPER COPY

This year you are likely reading the report online rather than the traditional paper copy sent by mail. The Environmental Protection Agency recently changed the requirements to allow utilities to communicate this important information digitally.

Customers are still able to request a paper copy and can do so by calling Utility Billing at 541-883-5301.

WATER QUALITY RESULTS FOR 2014

PWSID #4100443

While the vast majority of substances monitored are not found within our water, the table below includes information that tends to be of the most interest to our customers. If you desire further information, a complete summary of test results is available at the billing office or can be acquired by calling 541-883-5388.

Substance	Unit Description	Goal (MCLG)*	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)*	Range Detected or Overall Results	Source of Substance	Violation?
RESULTS OF MICROBIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS						
Total Coliform Bacteria	positive samples/month		Coliform bacteria may be present in no more than 5% of monthly samples	Zero positive samples	Naturally present in the environment	No
Fecal Coliform Bacteria	positive samples/month		The standard is exceeded if a routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one is also fecal coliform or E. coli positive.	Zero positive samples	Human and animal fecal waste	No
RESULTS OF LEAD AND COPPER SAMPLING FROM RESIDENTIAL WATER TAPS						
Copper	ppm*	1.35	AL*: 90% of the homes tested must have copper levels less than 1.35 ppm*.	90th percentile value = 0.0320 ppm* No sample exceeded the action level.	Corrosion of household plumbing systems	No
Lead	ppm*	0	AL*: 90% of the homes tested must have lead levels less than 0.0150 ppm*.	90th percentile value = 0.0000 ppm* No sample exceeded the action level.	Corrosion of household plumbing systems	No

ADDITIONAL SAMPLES TAKEN AT EACH WATER SOURCE

Substance or Variable	MCL*	Balsam Well	Conger Wellfield	Debbie Well	Fremont Well	Hilyard Well	Homedale Well	Wocus Well
Chlorine	4.0 MRDL	0.20	0.22	0.22	0.19	0.23	0.22	0.22
Ph	<6.5/>8.5**	7.8	8.1	8.2	7.7	8.2	7.6	8.0
Hardness as Calcium Bicarbonate	250	130.0	50.0	66.0	74.0	76.0	140.0	66.0
Iron	0.3	0.115	N/D	N/D	0.156	N/D	N/D	N/D
Fluoride	4	0.209	0.307	0.223	0.212	0.311	0.344	0.196
Haloacetic Acids (HAAs)	0.06	ND	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	0.08	N/D	0.00058	N/D	0.0012	N/D	0.00442	0.002
Lead	0.015	ND	N/D	ND	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D
Arsenic	0.01	ND	N/D	ND	N/D	0.0033	0.007	0.0074
Nitrate	10.0	0.239	N/D	ND	N/D	1.23	0.237	0.656

Raw water (untreated sample) from each well was analyzed monthly throughout the year. No pathogens were detected.

**These guidelines are secondary standards, not MCLs. They are generally based on aesthetic effects rather than health concerns. All measurements are in parts per million (ppm*) unless otherwise stated.

***UNIT DESCRIPTIONS:** **ppm** (Parts per million), **ppb** (Parts per Billion), **mg/L** (milligrams per liter)

AL Action Level – The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

MCL Maximum Contaminant Level – The highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

MCLG Maximum Contaminant Level Goal – The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

ND Not Detected

MRDL Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

Message from the EPA

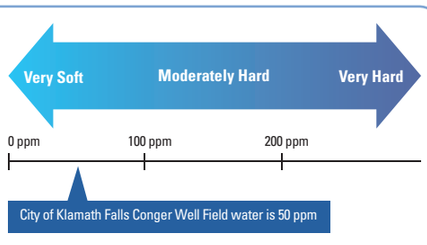
Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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 are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

If present, 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 Klamath Falls is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. 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 for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your drinking 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.

Is my water hard?

If substantial amounts of Calcium or Magnesium, both nontoxic minerals, are present in drinking water, the water is said to be hard. Hard water does not dissolve soap readily making lather for washing and cleaning difficult. Conversely, water containing little Calcium or Magnesium is called soft water.



What types of contaminants are tested and regulated?

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, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- 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, 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 byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- 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 and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

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