Zoned to Protect Your Water

The Plummer City Council added an additional layer to the zoning regulations and map to provide extra protection to the drinking water sources in Plummer. The Wellhead Protection Overlay zones are established for the purpose of protecting public water supply wells from contamination by land use activities occurring or which may occur within the delineated recharge areas for the wells.

The specific goals for this district are to protect human life and health, insure that the public is provided with a sustainable safe potable water supply, minimize expenditure of public money for pollution remediation projects, minimize regulations on land use, and minimize business interruptions.

The three Wellhead Protection Overlay zones are described below.

W-1 Zone is a fixed radius of fifty feet (50') around each well head where the only permitted use is that which is directly related to the operations of the water system.

W-2 Zone is a fixed radius of two hundred feet (200') around each well head. Storage of fuel, herbicides, pesticides, fertilizer, solvents, waste oils, toxic materials, or other detrimental materials that pose a proximate threat to groundwater as determined by the State of Idaho are prohibited. Commercial animal husbandry, livestock, farming, land application of waste, septic systems, sawmills, cemeteries, solid waste facilities, commercial animal clinics, boarding kennels, mining operations, industrial uses, wrecking yards, and commercial service facilities are also prohibited in this zone.

W-3 Zone is the boundary delineated by IDEQ to represent the one to three year time of travel for ground water. Prohibited uses for this area include manufacturing of fuel, chemicals, fertilizer, solvents, pesticides, oils and other similar petroleum products, or hazardous materials; septic systems, sewage lagoons, and waste disposal; cemeteries; commercial feed lots; wrecking and junk yards; and landfills.

2009 Plummer Water System Water Quality Report

This report is a summary of last year's water quality for the Plummer Water System. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to EPA and state standards.

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www.cityofplummer.org

Published June 28, 2010

Your Water Source

The Plummer Water System has 410 residential connections serving a population of 990 residents. The water supply is from four wells drawing from a basalt aquifer which is protected by a clay layer.

In our continued effort to supply you with the safest possible water, we chlorinate the water supply for disinfection of viruses and bacteria. Plummer water is hard and has iron and manganese. These are both naturally occurring minerals which do not pose health concerns, but can provide an objectionable taste and smell to the water. The sediment of the minerals can cause discoloration.

A Source Water Assessment Report was completed by the State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality in 2003 and is available for public review through City Hall. A ground water susceptibility analysis was done and ranked Well #1 at low risk relative to all classes of regulated contaminants. Wells #2, #3, and #4 are moderately susceptible to contamination due to risk factors related to local geology.

Health Information

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/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptospordium and other microbial contaminates are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or http://www.epa.gov/safewater/ hotline/.

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 at 1-800-426-4791 or http:// www.epa.gov/safe water/hotline/.

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 (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Contaminants that may be present in source water before we treat it 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 storm water 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 storm water 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 storm water runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Lead Informational Statement

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 liens and home plumbing. The City of Plummer 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.

Water Conservation

We encourage our customers to use water wisely and conserve this precious resource.

Plummer's water rates increase with increased water usage to further encourage discourage waste.

Ways to save water include: planting native vegetation for landscaping, using drip irrigation, watering lawns during the cool time of day, fixing leaky faucets and toilets, running full loads in dishwashers and clothes washers, and limiting shower time.

Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in these water quality tables is from testing done between January 1, 2009—December 31, 2009.

Level of Detected Chemical and Radiological Contaminants

Contaminant	Violation (Yes/No)	MCL	MCLG	Lowest Level Detected	Highest Level Detected	Date Tested	Typical Source of Contamination
Nitrate	No	10	10	.60	.60	11/09	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.

Level of Lead and Copper Detections

Contaminant	Date Collected	90th Percentile	Action Level	MCLG	# of sites above Action Level	Violation Yes/No	Possible Source of Contamination
Lead	2007	7	15	0	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	2007	.48	1.3	1.3	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.

Level Detected Contaminants that must comply with the Disinfection/Disinfection by Products Rule

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	MCL	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Running Annual Average	Sample Date	Typical Source of Contamination
Chlorine	No	4	N/A	1.08	.29	Monthly	Water additive used to control microbes
Total Trihalomethanes	No	80	N/A	1.2	N/A	9/09	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination

Bacteria

Contaminant	Highest # Positive in a month	MCL	MCLG	Violation Yes/No	Possible Source of Contamination
Total Coliform	2	>1	0	No	Naturally present in the environment

Violations

The City of Plummer had two positive results for coliform bacteria during September 2009, resulting in a monitoring violation. It was determined to be an error in collection procedures.

Definitions

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs 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. MCLGs allow for a margin of safely.

Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

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

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that additional of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

Published June 28, 2010

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