

# 2013 Consumer Confidence Report

## **Is my water safe?**

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

## **Do I need to take special precautions?**

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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

## **Where does my water come from?**

4 ground water wells distributed within city limits. Well depth ranges from 120 feet deep to 724 feet deep.

## **Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?**

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 (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791)

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of 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: 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 by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas station, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems; and 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 that 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 approve the same protection for public health.

## **How can I get involved?**

Feel free to attend any or all city council meetings. Regularly scheduled on every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday evening at 6 p.m.

## **Cross Connection Control Survey**

The purpose of this survey is to determine whether a cross-connection may exist at your home or business. A cross connection is an unprotected or improper connection to a public water distribution system that may cause contamination or pollution to enter the system. We are responsible for enforcing cross-connection control regulations and insuring that no contaminants can, under any flow conditions, enter the distribution system. If you have any of the devices listed below please contact us so that we can discuss the issue, and if needed, survey your connection and assist you in isolating it if that is necessary.

- Boiler/Radiant heater (water heaters not included)

- Underground lawn sprinkler system
- Pool or hot tub (whirlpool tubs not included)
- Additional sources(s) of water on property
- Decorative pond
- Watering trough

### Monitoring and reporting of compliance data violations

During 2013 the city was required to sample for nitrate from each of the four wells. No nitrate samples were collected in 2013. Nitrate samples have been collected from each well for 2014.

### Additional Information for Lead

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. 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 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 QUALITY DATA TABLE

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentration of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG or MRDL G</u>	<u>MCL, TT, or MRDL</u>	<u>Your Water</u>	<u>Range Low/High</u>		<u>Sample Date</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
<b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfectant By-Product</b>								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
TTHMs[Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	15.5	NA		2013	No	By-product of drinking water disinfectant
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	2.48	NA		2013	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine (as Cl2) (ppm)	4	4	1.53	0.11	1.53	2013	No	Water additive used to control microbes
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.13	0.04	0.13	2013	No	Discharge of drilling waters; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.3	0.2	0.3	2013	No	Erosion of natural deposits;

								Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizers and aluminum factories
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	0.89	ND	0.89	2013	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Synthetic organic contaminants including pesticides and herbicides</b>								
Pentachlorophenol (ppm)	0	1	0.089	NA		2012	No	Discharge from wood preserving factories
<b>Contaminants</b>	<b>MCLG</b>	<b>AL</b>	<b>Your Water</b>	<b>Sample Date</b>	<b># Samples Exceeding AL</b>	<b>Exceeds AL</b>	<b>Typical Source</b>	
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Lead-action level at consumer taps (ppm)	0	15	5.8	2013	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	
Copper-action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.049	2013	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	
<b>Unit Descriptions</b>								
<b>Term</b>				<b>Definition</b>				
ppm				Ppm; parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)				
ppb				ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)				
NA				NA: not applicable				
ND				ND: not detected				
NR				NR: monitoring not required, but recommended				
<b>Important Water Definitions</b>								
<b>Term</b>				<b>Definition</b>				
MCLG				MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is not known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety				
MCL				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				
TT				TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water				
Variances and Exemptions				Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions				
MRDL				MRDL: Maximum residual disinfection level goal. The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants				
MRDL				MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level. The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants				
MNR				MNR: Monitored not regulated				
MPL				MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level				
<b>For more information please contact:</b>								

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