

Committed to Safe Drinking Water

The City of Pocatello provides its customers with drinking water that surpasses all State of Idaho and EPA drinking water health standards. The Safe Drinking Water Act requires every community water system to provide customers with a Consumer Confidence Report annually. Some information in this report is mandated but we also provide information that we think you, our customer, will find helpful.

Drinking water is our most precious resource and we are committed to provide a safe and adequate supply of water for our residential, commercial and industrial customers at the lowest practical cost, which is a bargain at two cents for ten gallons considering all that water provides—public health protection, fire protection, support for the economy, and quality of life.

Our customers play a significant role in maintaining the highest quality drinking water for the entire community and we appreciate the time you take to read this report, recognize your role and promote responsible action by everyone in the watershed.

For more information about this report or if you have questions relating to your drinking water, please contact the City of Pocatello Water Superintendent’s Office at (208) 234-6174 or visit our web site at www.pocatello.us/water.

Community Participation

The City of Pocatello Water Department encourages public interest and participation in our community’s decisions affecting drinking water. Regular Pocatello City Council Meetings occur on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month beginning at 6:00 p.m., at 911 North 7th Avenue in the City Council Chambers. The agendas for these meetings are posted on the bulletin boards at City Hall, and on the Internet at <http://www.pocatello.us/>.

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



Substances that Might be in Drinking Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

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 (800-426-4791). 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 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 before we treat it include:

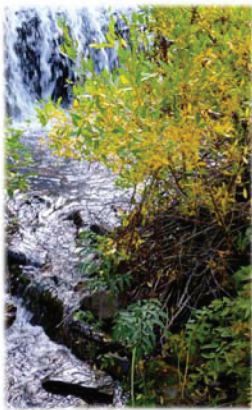
Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife;

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;

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 stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses;

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



Where Does My Water Come From?

Snow melt from the Mink Creek and Gibson Jack Watershed areas contribute the majority of the water that recharges the Lower Portneuf Valley Aquifer, from which Pocatello extracts its ground water using deep wells. There are currently 17 wells in production that are capable of producing more than 45 million gallons of water per day.

In order to serve customers who live on the benches surrounding Pocatello, water is pumped from the valley floor to 15 water storage facilities with a storage capacity of 23, 120,000 gallons.

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CITY OF POCATELLO

WATER DEPARTMENT

2016 Annual
Drinking Water Quality Report
Public Water System #ID6030043

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua beber. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Sampling Results

Substance	Year Sampled	EPA’s Standards		Pocatello’s Results		Possible Sources	Violation
		MCL	MCLG	Minimum	Maximum		
Inorganic Contaminants							
Arsenic (ppb)	2010	10	0	2.00	4.00	Erosion of natural deposits.	No
Barium (ppm)	2010	2	2	0.08	0.17	Discharge from drilling wastes; erosion of natural deposits.	No
Chromium (ppb)	2010	100	100	ND	9.0	Erosion of natural deposits.	No
Nitrate (ppm) (Running Annual Average = 5.6)	2015	10	10	1.08	7.12	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.	No
Selenium (ppb)	2010	50	50	ND	3.0	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines.	No
Radionuclides							
Alpha Emitters (pCi/l)	2014	15	N/A	6.85	6.85	Erosion of natural deposits.	No
Beta/Photon Emitters (pCi/l)	2009	50	N/A	4.97	8.46	Decay of natural and manmade deposits.	No
Radium 226 and 228 Combined (pCi/l)	2013	5	N/A	0.57	1.84	Erosion of natural deposits.	No
Uranium (ppb)	2014	30	0	1.46	1.46	Erosion of natural deposits.	No
Volatile Organic Contaminants							
Tetrachloroethylene (ppb)	2015	5	0	ND	ND	Discharge from factories & dry cleaners.	No
Trichloroethylene (ppb)	2015	5	0	ND	ND	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories.	No
Lead & Copper Sampling at Residential Water Taps							
Lead (ppb) 90 th percentile for lead = 3.0 ppb AND number of sites above the AL = 0	2013	AL = 15	0			Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.	No
Copper (ppm) 90 th percentile for copper = 0.136 ppm AND number of sites above the AL = 0	2013	AL = 1.3	1.3			Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.	No
Disinfection By Products							
TTHM’s [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2015	80	N/A	4.74	17.10	By-product of drinking water disinfection.	No
	(Running Annual Average = 11.50 ppb)						
Total Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	2015	60	N/A	1.08	4.52	By-product of drinking water disinfection.	No
	(Running Annual Average = 3.12 ppb)						
Maximum Residual Disinfection Level							
Chlorine (ppm)	2015	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	0.06	0.89	Water additive used to control microbes.	No
	(Annual average = 0.326)						

Note: The MCL for Beta/Photon emitters is 4mRem/year. EPA considers 50 pCi/l to be the level of concern for beta particles. Because Beta particle results were below 50 pCi/L, no testing for individual beta particle constituents was required.

Definitions

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

Maximum Contamination Level (MCL): 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.

Maximum Contamination Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG’s allow for a margin of safety.

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

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

Inorganic Contaminants: Chemical substances of mineral origin, such as lead and copper.

Organic Contaminants: Naturally occurring or synthetic substances containing mainly carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, and oxygen. This includes most pesticides and industrial chemicals.

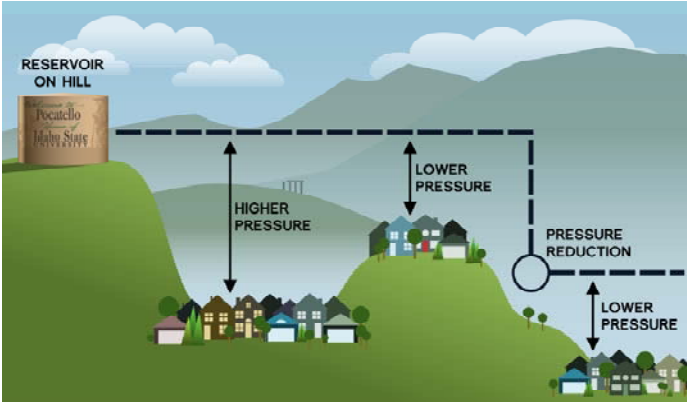
ND: Not detected in the water at the testing limits.

Parts per billion (ppb) or micrograms per liter (µg/l): Indicates the amount of a contaminant found in a billion parts of water.

Parts per million (ppm) or milligrams per liter (mg/l): Indicates the amount of a contaminant found in a million parts of water. This is equivalent to finding one penny in \$10,000.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/l): A measure of radioactivity.

Pressure Management/Homeowner Responsibility



The City of Pocatello water delivery system is a complicated and complex network of various supply wells, pump stations and water storage tanks. Due to the challenging topography of the City of Pocatello, with hillside benches located on both sides of the valley, water is pumped from the main valley floor and stored within water storage tanks. These tanks utilize gravity through elevational differences to supply water pressure. As the pressure increases due to elevation change, it has to be reduced by the use of pressure regulating valves. The valves separate or create a pressure boundary within the distribution system.

The Pocatello water system currently has 45 pressure boundary zones that control pressure created by these elevational differences. These pressure zones currently maintain water pressure within a range of 40 - 150 psi. Where it is both economically and operationally feasible, the City is working on a capital improvement program to lower operating pressures that exceed 100 psi, which is the State of Idaho’s recommended limit. This can help reduce water leakage rates and also protect individual service connections with associated plumbing fixtures.

As a secondary form of protection, the City of Pocatello requires within its ordinances that each individual service connection or household install a pressure regulating valve within their plumbing system. These are required when a resident takes out an individual plumbing permit to make improvements to their property. Once installed, these devices offer a second level of protection against any pressure fluctuations and help to reduce water consumption; saving individuals money on their water bill. As with any household plumbing device, it is the responsibility of the property owner to ensure the proper operation and maintenance of their pressure regulating valve.

If you should have any additional questions regarding this topic, please contact the Water Department at 208-234-6174.

Water Testing

The Federal Safe Drinking Water Act requires water agencies to meet health-based water quality standards. Last year the City of Pocatello Water Department conducted approximately 1,600 tests for more than 100 different constituents in your drinking water, in accordance with Federal and State regulations.

Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in the water quality data table is from testing performed in 2015. The State allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentration of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Only those substances on the EPA’s primary (regulated) contaminant list that are detected in the drinking water are listed on the table.

More Information:

Drinking water regulations require the city to mail this information to customers each year—it’s the law. Most of the language is also required. Congress and the EPA want to be sure that people know what is in their drinking water. The Pocatello Water Department agrees. The Pocatello Water Department has tried to make this complex information readable and produce this report at a low cost. This report was produced and mailed for 38 cents each.

The annual water quality and chemical analysis reports are available on our website at www.pocatello.us/water or through the Water Superintendent’s Office by calling 234-6174.

Health Effects

Lead health effects and ways to reduce exposure:
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 Pocatello 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>.

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask advice from your health care provider.



Watering tip:

Water your lawn only when it needs it. Water early in the morning or later in the evening when it’s cooler and there is less evaporation.