

BAKER CITY PUBLIC WORKS

2011

Annual Edition

WATER QUALITY REPORT AND WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

WATER QUALITY IS OUR PRIORITY

The Baker City Public Works Department is proud to provide the citizens of Baker City with a safe, high quality supply of drinking water. Our employees work every day to ensure that water delivered from our facilities meets all regulatory requirements for safety, reliability, and quality. You have the right to fully understand the efforts we make to assure that your water is safe to drink. In this report you will find detailed analytical testing results from samples of the water supply which compares your tap water to Federal and State standards. Your water meets or exceeds all standards set for quality and safety.

You can be assured that the City has always provided safe water for the homes and businesses we serve. This report reflects our commitment to keep our community informed and to strengthen the partnership between you, the consumer, and us, your water utility provider.

The Oregon State Health Division adopted the "Surface Water Treatment Rule" in December, 1990. This rule was part of the amendments made to the Safe Drinking Water Act. The "Surface Water Treatment Rule" prescribes treatment by filtration to protect against potential adverse health effects of viruses and pathogenic organisms that are removed by filtration. Watershed control measures to limit human activities are designed to reduce the potential for viruses to occur in our water supply, which eliminates the need for filtration. We were granted an exemption from filtration by the Oregon Health Division in 1991. Source water is continually monitored by the City for turbidity (clarity) and is tested in a lab for bacteria four times a week.

The Safe Drinking Water Act, among other things, requires that all public water systems issue an annual report to customers telling them what substances are in their water and in what quantities. This newsletter and report meet those requirements.

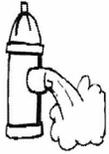


WATER PROJECTS FOR 2011

The City of Baker City Public Works crews will be working on a number of different water projects this summer. Already under way is the replacement of a portion of water mainline on E Street between 7th and 9th streets near Baker High School. This work is being done in preparation of a street overlay planned for August.



As part of the planned Resort Street Improvement Project for 2012, water mainline will be replaced on Resort from Broadway to Campbell Street this fall. This particular 1200 foot section of 6" cast iron mainline will be replaced with 8" ductile iron pipe to improve water flows in the area.



There are three primary water transmission lines from the Baker City Watershed which carry surface water to the Baker City Water Treatment Facility. Two of those lines, the Goodrich line and the Marble Creek Inter-tie line require cathodic protection. Cathodic protection is a technique used to control the corrosion of a metal surface (the transmission line). This summer work will be done to update and maintain the existing sacrificial anode beds for these two water transmission lines.



One other annual project is fire hydrant flushing. This process involves opening each fire hydrant to flush out any sediment that has accumulated over the past year. The City is required to maintain the hydrants in this fashion so that they are ready to be put to use if required.

Look for the Public Works Crews this summer and remember to use caution near a work zone.

Safety is our top priority!

WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?

Your drinking water is from two separate sources. The first source is the Baker City Watershed. The watershed encompasses 10,000 acres of primarily Federal Land and contains Goodrich (Lake) Reservoir with a capacity of 210 million gallons and many other primary springs, streams and diversions. The second source of water is ground water from the Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) well located at 4100 Indiana Avenue. The watershed water is injected into the well during winter months, stored for a period of time in the aquifer underground, and then is "recovered" during our peak summer season. The City is also authorized to utilize the native ground water via this well. All water is treated with chlorine as required at the City's reservoir site.



AVALANCHE AT GOODRICH LAKE

WATER TRIVIA...BAKER CITY STYLE!

-  The Baker City Watershed is comprised of over 10,000 acres of primarily US Forest Service Property.
-  Access to the Watershed is limited to employees of the City and USFS during most of the year.
-  Eligible hunters may obtain a watershed access permit with proper hunting credentials (license, tag) for big game (deer and elk).
-  The water customers in Baker City used an average of 1.85 million gallons of water per day in the winter months of 2010.
-  The water customers in Baker City used an average of 2.67 million gallons of water per day in the summer months of 2010
-  The City has a hydro electric facility that generated nearly 950,000 KWH of electricity in 2010!

CONTAMINANTS...

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 storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining and farming.

Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture 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.

SO...WHAT IS IN MY WATER?

Contaminants that may be found in the water include inorganic compounds. These are naturally occurring contaminants (salts and metals) as a result of storm runoff, mining, and farming. In order to insure the water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulation which limit the amount of certain contaminants.

The following substances were detected in our surface drinking water (based on 2010 testing):

	Analysis	MCL ¹	MCLG ²	Contaminant Source
Nitrate	<0.10 ppm	10.00 ppm	10.00 ppm	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Nitrite	<0.10 ppm	1.00 ppm	1.00 ppm	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Fluoride	Not Detected	4.00 ppm	4.00 ppm	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Total Coliform	0			
Total Fecal Coliform & E Coli	0			

PPM= Parts Per Million

¹MCL= Maximum Contaminant Level
(the highest level of contaminant allowed in drinking water)

²MCLG= Maximum Contaminant Level Goal
(the level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk)

- There were approximately 30 synthetic organic chemicals tested for and not detected.
- There were approximately 21 volatile organic chemicals tested for and not detected.
- 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. The City of Baker City 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, 1-800-426-4791 or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.
- "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)."
- We measure turbidity of the water coming into our system. The highest single measurement cannot exceed 5.0 NTU. During the 2010 calendar year our highest reading was 3.513 NTU on April 21. Our 12 month average was 0.15 NTU. 100% of our measurements were below the 5.0 NTU limit (95% is the minimum percent acceptable). We had no violations. The major source of our turbidity is soil runoff.

A TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY 100 CHEMICALS WERE MONITORED BUT NOT DETECTED IN BOTH OUR SURFACE DRINKING WATER AND OUR RESERVOIR WELL.

CONSERVATION CONVERSATION



Interested in doing a self-directed home water use audit? Forms are available at



City Hall. There are also many automated forms on the internet if you have a computer with web access.



Xeriscaping in the High Desert

Whether you are an experienced gardener or a newcomer to the high desert, learning how to successfully garden here can be an exciting challenge. By adopting the seven steps of xeriscaping, from design – to ongoing maintenance, not only can you plan a gorgeous landscape for your home or business, but you can do it in a low impact, sustainable way.

For more information on Xeriscaping visit <http://extension.oregonstate.edu> or contact your local extension service at 541.523.6418.



VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.BAKERCITY.COM AND CLICK ON THIS LINK FOR WATER CONSERVATION TIPS, AUTOMATED HOME WATER AUDIT AND OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION.



\$\$ HERE ARE SOME NO AND LOW-COST TIPS FOR SAVING WATER INSIDE YOUR HOME \$\$

- Don't use the toilet as a wastebasket. Each flush wastes water.
- Check toilets for leaks. You can put food coloring in your tank. If color appears in the bowl before you flush, your toilet is leaking.
- Run your dishwasher only when it's full.
- Don't run water continuously when washing dishes by hand. The average dishwasher uses about 10 gallons of water per load. Washing the same number of dishes by hand takes about 16 gallons. Newer, efficient dishwashers use as little as five gallons per cycle, which means they also consume less energy to heat the water.
- Wash only full loads of laundry, or use the proper water level setting for your load size.
- Fix leaky faucets immediately. A leaky faucet, dripping once per second, wastes six gallons of water a day.
- Install low-flow aerators on every faucet.
- Don't leave the water running when brushing your teeth or shaving. With the tap running at full force, shaving takes 20 gallons of water, teeth-brushing takes 10 and hand washing takes two.
- Take shorter showers and use less water in your bath. A full bathtub requires about 36 gallons of water. A five-minute shower using a water-conserving showerhead will use just 15 to 25 gallons. Showers and baths account for one-third of most families' water use.