

WATER QUALITY REPORT & CONSERVATION TIPS

2015 ANNUAL EDITION

WHAT IS IN OUR 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.

LEAD AND COPPER SAMPLE RESULTS FOR 2015

SUBSTANCE	ANALYSIS	ACTION LEVEL	NUMBER OF SAMPLES EXCEEDING ACTION LEVEL	CONTAMINATE SOURCE
Copper	0.3200 Mg/L @ the 90 th Percentile Value	1.3 Mg/L	0	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Lead	0.0000 Mg/L @ the 90 th Percentile Value	15 Mg/L	0	Corrosion of household plumbing.

Note: 20 lead and copper samples are collected every 3 years from selected homes throughout the City. Next samples will be collected in June 2017.

2015 SAMPLE ANALYSIS RESULTS

SUBSTANCE	ANALYSIS	MCL	MCLG	NUMBER OF SAMPLES	CONTAMINATE SOURCE
Fecal Coliform Bacteria 2015	All samples had 20 or fewer bacterial	0	0	0	Naturally present in the environment
Total Coliform Bacteria 2015	ND	Fewer than 10 samples/month= 1	0	0	Naturally present in the environment
Nitrate for 2015	<0.30	10 PPM	10 PPM	0	Fertilizer runoff, septic tank leaching, sewage leakage, erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite for 2015	<0.20	1 PPM	1 PPM	0	Fertilizer use runoff, septic tank leaching, sewage leakage, erosion of natural deposits
Disinfection Residuals					
Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	0.0233 PPM Avg.	80 PPM	NA		Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Halocacetic Acids(HAA)	0.02491 PPM Avg	60 PPM	NA		Byproduct of drinking water disinfection

- Definitions:**
- PPM= Parts Per Million
 - Mg/L= Milligrams/Liter
 - ¹ MCL= Maximum Contaminant Level (the highest level of contaminant allowed in drinking water)
 - ² MCLG= Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (the level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk)

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 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 contaminant.

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

- There were approximately 29 synthetic organic chemicals tested for and not detected.
- There were approximately 21 volatile organic chemicals tested for and not detected.
- The 2015 hardness value for UV treated water was 63 Mg/L.
- The 2015 iron value for well water was 0.161 Mg/L.
- The 2015 flouride value for UV treated water was <0.30 PPM.
- 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).”
- Cryptosporidium: In January 2006, the federal EPA implemented the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule known as LT2. This rule required the City to perform 12 months of sampling and testing, resulting in the detection of the cryptosporidium oocyst in Baker City’s surface water collection source (Watershed) in 2012. The Cryptosporidium parasite can be found in the feces of most animals, this parasite can cause gastrointestinal health issues if ingested by a healthy person, and for people with a poor immune system can cause more serious illness. Detection of the oocyst has triggered the ultraviolet light treatment technique that renders the oocyst sterile and harmless to ingest.
- In 2014, the City constructed a UV Treatment Facility (UVTF) in order to comply with the EPA’s Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2). The UVTF contains (3) Wedeco LBX-1000 UV reactors which are validated for 3-log removal of *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia*. The facility has a maximum treatment capacity of 12 MGD. The UVTF was granted final approval by the Oregon Health Authority on November 26, 2014 and was placed into full operation on December 1, 2014.



WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?

Our drinking water comes from two separate sources. The first source is the Baker City Watershed. The watershed encompasses 10,000 acres primarily comprised of 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 Ave. 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 and ultra violet light as required at the City’s reservoir site.

WHAT CONTAMINANTS MAY BE PRESENT?

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.



FOLLOW THESE TIPS TO SAVE MONEY AND WATER!

- ◆ Put food coloring in your toilet tank. If you see the color in the bowl without flushing, there's a leak. Fix it and start saving gallons.
- ◆ Dishwashers typically use less water than washing dishes by hand. Now, energy start dishwashers save even more water and energy.
- ◆ Plug the sink instead of running water to rinse your razor and save up to 300 gallons per month.
- ◆ One drip every second adds up to five gallons per day! Check your faucets and showerheads for leaks.
- ◆ Avoid planting grass in areas that are hard to water, such as steep inclines and isolated strips along sidewalks and driveways.
- ◆ Use 2 to 4 inches of organic mulch around plants to reduce evaporation and save hundreds of gallons of water a year.
- ◆ Adjust your lawn mower to the height of 1.5—2 inches. Taller grass shades roots and holds soil moisture better than short grass.
- ◆ Water your plants deeply but less frequently to encourage deep root growth and drought tolerance.
- ◆ When you give your pet fresh water, don't throw the old water down the drain. Use it to water your trees and shrubs.

Data Source: <http://wateruseitwisely.com/100-ways-to-conserve/?view=list>



MONTHLY BILLING FOR WATER AND SEWER

In July, 2016 the City of Baker City will begin transitioning to monthly utility statements. The City will read your meter and bill you 1/2 the total charges the first month. You will be billed for the remaining 1/2 of the charges the next month.

Baker City Public Works
P.O. Box 650
1655 1st Street
Baker City, Or 97814
Phone: 541-524-2031
Fax: 541-524-2029
E-Mail: mowen@bakercity.com
www.bakercity.com

U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 18
Baker City, Or 97814

TO: Current Resident

**Este Informe` contiene information muy importante.
Traduscalo o hable con un amigo quien lo entienda bien.**

WORKING TOGETHER FOR YOU!