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The City of Pocatello is committed to safe drinking water

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.

WHERE YOUR WATER COMES FROM

1. Snow melt from the Mink Creek and Gibson Jack Watershed areas contribute the majority of the water that recharges the Lower Portneuf Valley Aquifer. Because the water from this aquifer is so pure, we do not have to treat the water. We do add a small amount of chlorine to ensure purity throughout our distribution system.

2. The City of Pocatello uses seventeen well stations located throughout the City to extract water from the Lower Portneuf Valley Aquifer. These wells are capable of producing more than 45 million gallons of water per day.

3. In order to serve the customers who live on the foothills surrounding Pocatello, water is pumped from the valley floor to fifteen water storage facilities located throughout the higher elevations of Pocatello. These storage facilities have a combined storage capacity of 23,120.00 gallons.

4. Because the water storage facilities are located at higher elevations, gravity provides water pressure to the homes below. To regulate the water pressures for customers in lower elevation areas, water control valves are installed and maintained by highly trained operators.
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.

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 may be in Drinking Water

The City of Pocatello provides its customers with drinking water that surpasses all State of Idaho and EPA drinking water health standards. 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.

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTAMINANT</th>
<th>TYPE</th>
<th>SOURCES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Microbiological</td>
<td>Viruses &amp; Bacteria</td>
<td>Sewage treatment plants, septic waste, agricultural, and livestock runoff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inorganic Chemical</td>
<td>Salts &amp; Metals</td>
<td>Naturally-occurring; urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organic Chemical</td>
<td>Pesticides &amp; Herbicides</td>
<td>Residential and agricultural use, urban storm water runoff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Synthetic &amp; Volatile</td>
<td>Byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radioactive</td>
<td>Natural &amp; Man Made Deposits</td>
<td>Mining, gas, and oil production, naturally occurring</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GET INVOLVED...

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 meeting are posted on the bulletin boards at City Hall, and on the internet at http://www.pocatello.us/.
## 2017 Sampling Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Substance</th>
<th>Year Sampled</th>
<th>EPA's Standards</th>
<th>Pocatello's Results</th>
<th>Possible Sources</th>
<th>Violation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>MCL</td>
<td>MCLG</td>
<td>Minimum</td>
<td>Maximum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inorganic Contaminants</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nitrate (ppm)</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2.58</td>
<td>7.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alpha Emitters (pCi/l)</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>1.99</td>
<td>4.49</td>
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<tr>
<td>Radium 226 and 228 Combined (pCi/l)</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>0.11</td>
<td>1.55</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uranium (ppb)</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1.92</td>
<td>1.92</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volatile Organic Contaminants</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tetrachloroethylene (ppb)</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>ND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trichloroethylene (ppb)</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.53</td>
<td>0.75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lead &amp; Copper Sampling at Residential Water Taps</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lead (ppb)</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>AL</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copper (ppb)</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>AL</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disinfection By Products</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>5.45</td>
<td>20.90</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Running Annual Average = 12.10 ppb)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Haloacetic Acids (ppb)</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>1.17</td>
<td>3.80</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Running Annual Average = 2.73 ppb)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum Residual Disinfection Level</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Chlorine (ppm)</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>MRDL</td>
<td>MRDLG</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.80</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Annual average = 0.276)</td>
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</table>

### Terms & Abbreviations

**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. MCLs 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 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.

**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.

### Source Water Assessment

The 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act amendments created a new program of source water assessments. The source water assessment report for the City of Pocatello was completed in November 2000. The report describes the City of Pocatello’s drinking water system, the boundaries of the zones of water contribution, and the associated potential contaminant sources located within these boundaries. The ultimate goal of the assessment is to provide data to the City of Pocatello to develop a protection strategy for our drinking water supply system.

### 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 1,500 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 2017. 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.
The City of Pocatello was awarded the 2017 Drinking Water Taste Test Award “Best of Show” - AWWA Intermountain Section

Frequently Asked Questions...

What is the hardness of Pocatello’s water?
Pocatello’s water is very hard and averages 350 parts per million, which is the equivalent of 20.5 grains per gallon (water above 10 grains per gallon is considered hard). Water hardness is mainly caused by an excess of calcium and magnesium in the water. Hardness is reported as the equivalent amount of calcium carbonate (CaCO₃). Scale formation and excessive soap consumption are the main concerns with hardness. Consumers may notice an increased difficulty in cleaning and laundering tasks, decreased efficiency of water heaters and other water-using appliances, and white/chalky deposits on dishes. While these problems can be frustrating, water hardness is not a safety issue. Hard water is safe for drinking, cooking, and other household uses. A water softener may address many concerns associated with hard water, but it is not recommended to drink soft water.

If tap water is really of good quality why do some people dislike the taste??
Our water’s taste is caused by naturally occurring minerals and chlorine. Chlorine is added to keep the water safe from bacteria. Water quality is best measured by the amount and concentration of contaminants; we have very few contaminants in our drinking water, and those that are present are within the Safe Drinking Water Act limits.

Does the City of Pocatello fluoridate the water?
No, the City of Pocatello does not add fluoride to the water. Nationally, fluoridation continues to be a heated topic of discussion. According to the American Water Works Association, fluoridation of drinking water is endorsed by the American Dental Association and U.S. Public Health Service. When used at the recommended levels, fluoride is considered safe and effective in preventing and controlling tooth decay. Consuming high concentrations of fluoride can cause a condition called dental fluorosis which can cause teeth to become mottled and fragile. Opponents argue that because fluoride is a carcinogen they should have a choice in the matter and not want it added to their drinking water. Others believe that a topical application (fluoridated toothpaste and mouth rinses) is more beneficial than ingesting fluoridated water.

In any event, neither side can deny the fact that only a small percentage of the total amount of water produced is actually consumed. In residential use alone, the vast majority of water is used for irrigation, laundry, washing dishes, personal hygiene, flushing toilets, etc. The philosophy of the Pocatello Water Department is that the tremendous equipment expense and maintenance costs do not justify a system-wide fluoridation program to provide treatment that only benefits a small segment of its water consumers.

Is bottled water safer than our drinking water?
No. Because our drinking water meets all federal regulations, you can be assured of its safety. Bottled water is regulated by the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) and is required to meet most of the same water quality standards as tap water but no one should assume that bottled water is safer or purer. Many consumers buy bottled water as a convenience while others prefer the taste. Pocatello’s drinking water costs $.002 per gallon whereas bottled water costs between $1.00 and $4.00 per gallon.
The month of May marked another successful Water Week event held at the Water Operations Facility with this year’s theme “Your Water - to know it is to love it”.

As part of our program to educate the public, Water Week has become an annual event, 2018 being our 27th annual. Since the Pocatello Water Department held its first event in 1992, we have strived to continue our public education on water related issues. This year’s annual event educated approximately 2,830 children and adults within the area. The program has won the American Water Works Association Pacific Northwest competition in “Water Education” and the 2008 Association of Idaho Cities – City Achievement Award.

In addition to third grade elementary students, the event welcomes Boy Scout troops, families and individuals to attend. The youth of this community are seen as an instrument to educate their families and the public about the importance of our water resources. Developing this mentality at an early age allows our youth to be more cognizant about how we can preserve our water for future generations. Interactive displays demonstrate how the water aquifer works, how pollutants can damage the water supply and how the water supply system operates throughout city neighborhoods. Water conservation is another highlight of the event with visual displays which persuade the youth to actively participate in learning how to use water wisely.

In conjunction with the Water Department, the Bannock County Solid Waste Department is also part of the ongoing education. Community efforts of reducing, recycling and reusing products, along with managing yard waste, will help save the landfill and protect the environment.

**Creativity at its finest!**

A poster contest was held as a challenge to third grade elementary students. Winners were selected from individual schools by their creativity and knowledge.

*Congratulations Isabella!!*

Submitted by Isabella Hodge
For more information about this report or if you have questions relating to your drinking water, please visit our web site at www.pocatello.us/water or contact us at:

The City of Pocatello Water Department  
1889 N. Arthur Avenue  
P.O. Box 4169  
Pocatello, ID 83205-4169  
208-234-6174

Share This Information
Please provide this Water Quality Report to any person who receives water from you, such as tenants, residents and employees. This and chemical analysis reports are available on our website or through the Water Superintendent’s Office by calling 234-6174.

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