

City Of Sisters  
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2009

## Annual Water Quality Report

### *Your water quality is our first priority*

*On behalf of the City Of Sisters, we urge you to take a moment to consider the value of your tap water and read this report. Drinking water is essential to the every day vitality of our community. This includes protecting public health, fire protection, economic viability, and overall quality of life. The Federal government requires that we provide this report every year. In 2009, as in the years past, we are proud to provide you with the updates from our water system. The most important information is that water you drink continues to meet all state and federal requirements. For more information you can attend one of our public meetings held the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month, 7:00 pm at 520 E. Cascade Ave.*

#### Key and Definitions

- **AL - Action Level**, the concentration of a contaminant which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements.
- **EPA - Environmental Protection Agency**, sets water quality standards and establishes methods and monitoring requirements for water utilities.
- **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.
- **MCLG - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal**, the level of a contaminant in drinking water which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow a margin of safety.
- **PPB/ug/l - Parts Per Billion**, the equivalent of one second in 32 years.
- **PPM - Parts Per Million**, the equivalent of one second in 12 days.
- **Result /Range**– This column shows you what level of contaminant was found in the water you drink.
- **> Greater than**
- **pCi/l - Picocuries Per Liter**, a measure of radioactivity

### Sources of Drinking Water

The sources of (both tap 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, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals and human activity.

**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 stormwater runoff,

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

**Pesticides and Herbicides**, comes from agricultural, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

**Organic Chemical Contaminants**, synthetic and volatile organic chemicals are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

**Radioactive Contaminants**, Naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Drinking water and bottled water may 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)



### Lead in Drinking Water

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 Sisters 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 to drink 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>. Or by contacting Umpqua Research Company, drinking water testing laboratory 541-312-9454.

The table below reflects test results from 2009. The EPA allows The City Of Sisters to test for some contaminants less often, only the most recent contaminants that were detected and within the last 5 years have been reported below. Our water system has tested hundreds contaminants within a 5 year period.

#### Primary Standards (directly related to the safety of drinking water)

Inorganic Contaminants	(Units)	MCL	MCLG	Result	Violation	Likely source
2009 - Arsenic	(ppb)	10	0	<b>0.002</b>	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Radiological Contaminants	(Units)	MCL	MCLG	Range/Range	Violation	Likely source
2009 - Gross Alpha	(pC/l)	15	0	<b>0.5 - 0.6</b>	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium	(pc/l)	5	5	<b>0.7 - 1.0</b>	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Lead & Copper	(Units)	MCLG	AL	90th%	Violation	Likely source
2009 - Copper	(ppm)	1.3	1.3	<b>0.205</b>	No	Household plumbing
Disinfection By-Products	Units)	MCL	MCLG	Range/Result	Violation	Likely source
2009 - TTHM	(ppb)	80	N/A	<b>3.8 - 4.0</b>	No	By-product of DW disinfection
TTHM - Total Trihalomethane						
2009 - Chlorine Residuals	(ppm)	4	4	<b>0.2 - 0.3</b>	No	By-product of DW disinfection

The City Of Sisters chlorinates well #1 and #2 with a chlorine gas. Well #3 is chlorinated with an on site sodium hypochlorite to insure that the water you are drinking is free of any microbial contaminants from the source to your tap. The disinfection process is carefully controlled so that the disinfection effectiveness is maintained while keeping the levels of disinfection by-products below regulatory limits.

#### Violations

Our water system received a non reporting violation for Synthetic and Volatile Organic chemicals for the 2nd quarter of 2009. Samples were collected within the scheduled time period and absent of any chemicals. The City of Sisters and the laboratory were unaware that the reporting was to occur within 10 days of the end of the quarter the samples were collected. Results have since been reported to the Department Of Human Services.

## Health Information required by the EPA

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 advise 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 (800-426-4791)**

### Our Water Source

The aquifer supplying water to our groundwater wells has been identified as comprising lava flows, cinders, and sediments within the Deschutes Formation.

#### Quality of Life

Drinking Water is a part of everyday life, from residential uses to industrial production. Regardless of it's use, the availability of, and confidence in, safe drinking water is essential in maintaining the quality of life we will continue to enjoy in the future. The City Of Sisters thanks you for your continuing efforts in helping keep our drinking water safe.

### Source Water Assessment

The 1996 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act require that all states conduct Source Water Assessments for public water systems within their boundaries. The assessments consist of (1) identification of the Drinking Water Protection area, i.e., the area at the surface that is directly above the part of the aquifer that supplies groundwater to our well. (2) identification of **potential** sources of pollution within the drinking water protection area, and (3) determining the susceptibility or relative risk to the well water form those sources. The purpose of the assessment is to provide water systems with information they need to develop a strategy to protect their water resource if they choose.

The Drinking Water Programs of The Department of Human Services and Environmental Quality have completed a Source Water Assessment. A copy of the report is on file for viewing by visiting City Hall at 520 E. Cascade Ave.

### How to access more information on our water system

On the internet type in [WWW.dhs.state.or.us/publichealth/dwp](http://WWW.dhs.state.or.us/publichealth/dwp), under MENU click on [Data Online](#), under the blue box that has Drinking Water Program choose [WS ID Look Up](#), and in the box beside PWS Number: OR41 type in 00826 and click View Results. You can scroll to the bottom and choose options to browse information for City Of Sisters information.