



The Water We Drink

Quality Water

We are pleased to provide you with this year's Annual Quality Water Report. We want to keep you informed about our water quality and the services we have provided for you over the past year. Our goal is and always has been, to provide to you a safe and dependable

supply of drinking water. Our water source is the Grande Ronde Aquifer.

The City's existing water supply system consists of five active wells. Three of our wells are considered shallow alluvial wells, and two are deep basalt wells. The shallow wells

are the Gekeler Well, the Island City Well, and the Highway 30 Well. The two basalt wells are the 2nd and H Ave Well, and the 12th Street Well.



What comes out of your faucet???

City of La Grande

June 2007

Visit these web sites for more information:

- American Water Works Association Water Wiser Efficiency Clearinghouse
<http://www.waterwiser.org/>
- City of Albuquerque Water Conservation Office
<http://www.cabq.gov/waterconservation/indoor.html>
- USGS Domestic Water Use
<http://ga.water.usgs.gov/edu>

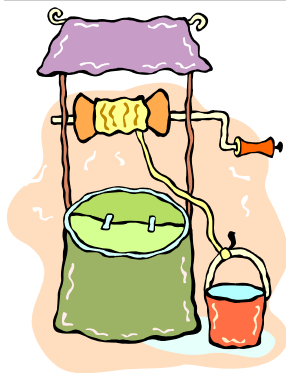
Water System

The City will be faced with making significant improvements to its water system to comply with existing and future State and Federal water quality standards. In addition to the capital improvements that will be required, increases

in the costs of operation and maintenance will also be incurred due to these standards. In order for these improvements to be accomplished, rates may need to be increased in the future through Council action. Please contact our

City Recorder for the dates of our Council meetings if you wish to attend a City Council meeting. Council meetings are held monthly at 6:00 PM in the council chambers at City Hall located at 4th and Adams.

Monitoring



The City of La Grande routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal

and State laws. The following table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st 2002 to December 31st, 2006. During this time period we tested each of our wells for over 179 different contaminants. The distribution system received an additional

580 tests. This table shows only those substances we found in our water. As water travels over the land or underground, it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. All drink-

ing water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. It's important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk.



Results of Monitoring for REGULATED CONTAMINANTS

| Contaminant | Violation | Level Detected | Unit Measurement | MCLG | MCL | Likely Source of Contamination |
|---|-----------|----------------|------------------|------|--------|--|
| Inorganic Contaminants | | | | | | |
| 8. Arsenic | No | .70- | ppb | 0 | 10 | Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and |
| 9. Asbestos | No | .083 | MFL | 7 | 7 | Decay of asbestos cement water |
| 10. Barium | No | .0054-.046 | ppm | 2 | 2 | Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion |
| 14. Copper, @ 90 th percentile level | No | .013 | ppm | 1.3 | AL=1.3 | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives |
| 16. Fluoride | No | .02-.20 | ppm | 4 | 4 | Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and |
| 17. Lead, @ 90 th percentile level | No | 2 | ppb | 0 | AL=15 | Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits |
| 19. Nitrate (as Nitrogen) | No | .10-.6 | ppm | 10 | 10 | Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of |
| 20. Nitrite (as Nitrogen) | No | .01 | ppm | 1 | 1 | Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of |
| 73. TTHM (Total Trihalomethanes) | No | .0022-.0042 | Mg/L | 0 | 0.08 | By-product of drinking water disinfection. |
| HAA5 | No | .005-.006 | Mg/L | 0 | 0.06 | By-product of drinking water disinfection. |

Terms in Table



In this table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

- **Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)** - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.
- **Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter** - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.
- **Million Fibers per Liter (MFL)** - million fibers per liter is a measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.
- **Action Level** - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level** - (mandatory language) The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Environmental Protection Agency

While our drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing the arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

As you can see by the table, our system had detections of low levels of some elements, but no violations. We are proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. The EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at the levels detected.

All sources of drinking wa-

ter are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. All 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 the 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 at 1-800-426-4791.

MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the

MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).



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**City of
La Grande**

PRESORTED STANDARD
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Permit # 40

The City of La Grande does not anticipate a shortage of water for business or personal usage. This does not, however, diminish the importance of water conservation. Simply put, saving water saves you money. Water is a community resource, which means it is part of the natural and collective wealth of every citizen. Conservation of all our natural resources is important, the world's water supply is nei-

ther increasing, nor decreasing, so the water we have should be kept clean and plentiful for everyone. The average home uses 30 to 100 gallons per person each day. This amounts to 650 gallons per household daily. About half of this is used in the home, the rest is used for irrigation and other outside uses. We have many opportunities to save water throughout the

house. Repairing small leaks, installing low water use fixtures, and altering behavior can save a large amount of water. How many of us let the water run all the time while brushing our teeth? Remember, you are paying for every drop you use, whether that usage is beneficial or wasteful.



Contact Information

The City of La Grande, through continuous testing of our water, is learning more all the time about the composition of our water, and how we may deliver to our consumer's water of the highest quality.

If you have any questions regarding this report, or your water utility, please contact Lee Mannor or Debbie Cornford of the City of La Grande Public Works Department at 541-962-1325.

