

City of Union

342 South Main Street***PO Box 529***Union, OR 97883

Drinking Water Report 2015 Sampling Results

This is our **annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)** on your drinking water system. The most recently required sampling results have been gathered to inform customers about their tap water. With this information, we hope you will learn more about your water and will help protect the water for future use.

We provide quality drinking water that meets all federal and state requirements.

During recent years we have sampled for many different chemicals. Contamination is anything other than pure water. We sample total coliform bacteria as an indicator of microorganisms (bacteria, viruses and other small creatures) that should not be present. The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the past calendar year or in our most recent tests as noted. 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 a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling **541-562-5197** or U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791). EPA's website is www.epa.gov/safewater.

Terms and Abbreviations

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety. **IDEAL GOAL**

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): 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. **HIGHEST LEVEL ALLOWED**

Action Level (AL): the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. **na:** not applicable **nd:** not detectable at testing limit

ppm: parts per million or milligrams per liter (1 drop in 1 million gallons) **ppb:** parts per billion or micrograms per liter (1 drop in 1 billion gallons) **pCi/L:** picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation).

Regulated Contaminant	MCLG	MCL	Our Water	Sample Date	Exceedance / Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Coliform Bacteria	0	2	4*	July 2015	Yes	Probable sampling error/all retests were good
Lead (ppb)	0	15 AL	1.9	9-10-13	No	Corrosive water & home plumbing
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3 AL	0.058	9-10-13	No	Corrosive water & home plumbing
Arsenic (ppb)	na	10	3.53	6-1-15	No	Natural deposits, orchards, glass & electronic production wastes
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.61	6-1-15	No	Naturally occurring
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.02	6-1-15	No	Naturally occurring
Sodium (ppm)	na	na	37.9#	6-1-15	No	Naturally occurring
Nickel (ppb)	na	100	0.56	6-1-15	No	Naturally occurring

#Sodium: There is no standard for sodium in drinking water at the federal level, but USEPA recommends that drinking water sodium be held to 20 ppm or less because sodium is so common in other beverages and food.

VIOLATIONS

***Total Coliform Bacteria** are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful bacteria may be present. We test for Total Coliform Bacteria monthly. Coliform bacteria were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems. All other months showed no detection of contamination. The State indicates receiving this Public Notice late, however, all those concerned received this report as required.

The Drinking Water Program has identified criteria for determining whether a community public water system has provided safe water to the public and should be considered to have "**Outstanding Performance.**" The City of Union received this designation in December 2009 and again on September 30, 2014!

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT

The State of Oregon has completed this assessment plan for our wells which includes a map of where the water comes from, possible sources of contamination, and a review of the susceptibility of the source for contamination. This plan is available for public review.

Your drinking water comes from ground water

The City of Union presents this report to inform their water consumers of the quality of the drinking water supply.

The City is committed to supplying their water consumers with a safe and sufficient supply. The City's water is ground water derived from two deep wells that are tapped into a basalt aquifer. The two wells have the potential to produce four million gallons per day. During the high usage period from July through August the demand rarely exceeds 1.5 million gallons per day. Because of the nature of the aquifer, the water reaches the surface at 65°F.

The City's water supply and system are continually monitored in compliance with State and Federal laws. There are 105 different contaminants that the City tests for in the drinking water. This report will list only those contaminants that have been detected from the water samples. The samples are analyzed by laboratories certified by the State of Oregon.

Sources of drinking water: both tap water and bottled water originate as "surface water" from rivers and lakes or as "ground water" from springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material. Water picks up wastes from both human and animal activities. Surface water is usually filtered and disinfected to remove bacteria, viruses, and protozoa. Ground water is usually filtered naturally.

Contaminants that may be present include:

Microbial contaminants such as bacteria, viruses, and protozoa are very small living creatures that may be natural and harmless or harmful if originating from septic systems, agricultural livestock operations or wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants such as heavy metals can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges.

Pesticides and herbicides may come from agriculture and residential uses.

Radioactive contaminants are naturally occurring.

Organic chemical contaminants are usually man-made (synthetic) and vaporize easily (volatile). Petroleum products and degreasers are examples of gas station and dry cleaner waste transported by storm water and sewers.

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).

EPA ensures that tap water is safe to drink by writing regulations that limits both natural and manmade contaminants. We follow both state and federal regulations. Interstate bottled water is regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

HEALTH TIP

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. Our system 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 & steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

If you have any questions or in emergencies please call:

Paul Phillips 541-562-5197