



Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

(Informe contiene información importante y debe traducirse
Copias disponibles en el Ayuntamiento O en línea)



This Annual Drinking Water Quality Report is designed to inform you about the quality of water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water source(s) consist of Well #4, Well #5, Well #6 and Well #7, all located at the water plant in the southern part of the City, while Well # 8 is located north of the City on Peoria Rd.

We are pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets federal and state requirements. If you have any questions about this report or concerns with your water utility, please contact Chuck Scholz, Public Works Director, at City Hall, 120 Smith Street, and (541)995-6655. We want our valued customers to be informed concerning your water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our Public Works Committee Meetings. Meetings are scheduled as needed. All residents are most welcome to attend!

The City of Harrisburg routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State Laws. The following report states the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2015.

To help you better understand terms and abbreviations in this report, we have provided the following definitions:

- **Action Level**-the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level**- the "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG's) as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- **Minimum Detection Level (MDL)** - the minimum detection level that a contaminant is detected in drinking water.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Non Detect (ND)**

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of 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 contaminants, 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.

Total Coliform: There was no detectable coliform found in the City's water during 2015. The Total Coliform Rule requires water systems to meet a stricter limit for coliform bacteria. Coliform bacteria are usually harmless, but their presence in water can be an indication of disease-causing bacteria. When coliform bacteria are found, special follow-up tests are done to determine if harmful bacteria are present in the water supply. If this limit is exceeded, the water supplier must notify the public by newspaper, television or radio.

Lead and Copper: There is no detectable lead or copper in the City's water supply source. However, these metals can enter the drinking water supply through corrosion within the water distribution system or household plumbing. Therefore, supplemental testing is conducted at the individual taps of customers whose plumbing meets criteria for being at the risk for elevated lead and copper levels. Based on several rounds of testing, it has been found that our water does not tend to promote the leaching of lead or copper. However, we would still advise people to let the water run a short while before drinking it if the faucet has not been used for more than six hours. Also, since hot water promotes the leaching of lead or copper, avoid using hot water for drinking or cooking. These are particularly important precautions to take when mixing formula or other beverages for infants or children.

The 90th percentile is the highest result found in 90% of the samples when they are listed in order from the lowest to the highest results. EPA requires testing for lead and copper at customers' taps most likely to contain these substances based on when the house was built. The EPA determined that if the sample results exceeded the Action Level (AL), the City must take action in reducing the risk of leaching of lead and/ or copper. As you can see by the table on the second page, your water was well below the Action Level on our last round of testing in 2015. [This test is required once every three years. Next testing will be July 2018.]

Results of the lead and copper sampling at Residential Water Taps on 7/28/15

	Substance	
	Copper	Lead
Units	ppm	ppb
Reporting Limits MG/L	0.100	0.00200
Action Level (AL) MG/L	1.3	0.015
90 th Percentile	0.508	0.00733
Homes Exceeding Action Level	0	0
Complies	Yes	Yes
Source of Contaminate	Corrosion of Household Plumbing	Corrosion of Household Plumbing

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. Harrisburg 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 two 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 at 1(800)426-4791 or at their website at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Results of the nitrate sample taken in the distribution system on 7/14/15

	Contaminant
	Distribution Nitrate-N
MCL	10
Reporting Limit	.100
Results	ND
Units	MG/L
*ND means not detected at the reporting limit	

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 1(800)426-4791.

All states must conduct a Source Water Assessment for public water systems within their boundaries to (1) identify the Drinking Water Protection Area-the area at the surface that is directly above the part of the

aquifer that supplies groundwater to our wells, (2) identify potential sources of pollution within the Drinking Water Protection Area, and (3) determine the susceptibility or relative risk to the well water from those sources. The purpose of the assessment is to provide water systems with the information they need to develop a strategy to protect their drinking water resource if they choose. The respective Drinking Water Programs of the Departments of Human Resources and Environmental Quality have completed the assessment of our system. A copy of the report is on file at City Hall.

The City of Harrisburg’s water system draws water from deeper confined aquifers with the alluvial sediments of the Willamette Lowland Aquifer. Assessment results indicate that the water system would be moderately to highly susceptible to a contamination event inside the identified Drinking Water Protection Area. The presence of several high and moderate risk potential contaminant sources within the protection area was confirmed through a potential contaminant source inventory. Under a worst case scenario, where it is assumed that nothing is being done to protect groundwater quality at the identified potential contaminant sources, the assessment results indicate that the water system would be highly susceptible to several of the identified potential contaminant sources. In addition the assessment results indicate that, at the time, the water system is not considered susceptible to viral contamination. This information is helpful to the City to prevent a possible contamination from occurring.

The City of Harrisburg will continue to provide healthy and safe water to our citizens, and to look for opportunities to continue to upgrade our product and services. If you have any questions, please call City Hall at (541)995-6655.

Have you heard about the Groundwater Management Area? In 2004, the Department of Environmental Quality declared part of the Southern Willamette Valley a Groundwater Management Area (or GWMA for short). This area is primarily the valley floor between Corvallis and Eugene, and includes four cities: Coburg, Junction City, Harrisburg and Monroe. Many years of studies showed there are areas in the Valley that have high levels of nitrate in the underground water supply, and this contamination occurs mainly in the shallow groundwater. While all public water suppliers are required to test and meet certain health standards-including nitrate-private well owners are not.

There has been a concentrated effort to help inform residents in order to protect those private well owners from the risk that high levels of nitrate in drinking water can pose. The GWMA Committee and their partners are focused on providing guidance to those who live or work in the GWMA to help them protect their families and the groundwater resource. If you have any questions on how you can help even if you do not have a private well, or want to see what is being done, you could check out the GWMA website at www.gwma.oregonstate.edu or contact Chuck Scholz, Public Works Director at (541)995-6655, or at cscholz@ci.harrisburg.or.us.