2009 Consumer Confidence Report Owen Waterworks Water System Information

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

We're pleased to present to you this year's **Annual Quality Water Report**. This report is designed to inform you about the quality 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 we drink comes from underground aquifers or fissures found in sand and gravel formations located deep beneath the earth's surface. Some people have come to name this area as the highway 29 corridor.

I'm pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets all federal and state requirements. If you have any questions about this report or, concerning your water utility please contact Gary Smith at 229 - 4612 or Terri Ernst at 229-2404 from 8:00 AM-4:00 PM, Monday through Friday. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month at the City Hall in Owen.

The Owen Water Utility routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2009. All drinking 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. 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:

Non-Detects (ND) *- laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.*

Parts per million (PPM) or Milligrams per liter (MGL) *- one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in & 10,000.*

Parts per billion (PPB) *- one part per billion or micrograms per liter - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2000 years or a single penny in $10,000,000.*

Parts per trillion (PPT) or Nanograms per liter (nanograms/liter) *- one part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years, or a single penny in $10,000,000,000.*

Parts per quadrillion (PPQ) or Picograms per liter(picograms/l) *- one part peer quadrillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000,000 years, or a single penny in $10,000,000,000,000.*

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) *- picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.*

Millirems per year (mrem/yr) *- measure of radiation absorbed by the body.*

Million fibers per liter (MFL) *- million fibers per liter is a measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.*

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) *- nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.*

Action Level (AL) *- The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements, which your water system must follow.*

Treatment Technique (TT) *- A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.*

Maximum Contaminant Level *- "Maximum Allowed Level" (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.*

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) *- The "Goal" is 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.*

Health Information

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).

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 systems 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 Environmental Protection Agency's safe drinking water hotline (800-426-4791).

Sources of Water

Source id	Source	Depth (in ft)	Name
2	Groundwater	60	WELL #2 (NORTH ST/RENAMED WILLOW RD)
3	Groundwater	60	WELL #3 (INDUSTRIAL AVE)
6	Groundwater	220	WELL # 6 (MELBINGER ST)
7	Groundwater	65	WELL #7 (LEHNEN ST & CTH X)
13	Groundwater	300	WELL #13 (ALTENBERG)
14	Groundwater	600	WELL #14 (512 W THIRD ST)
300	Purchased Groundwater		PURCHASED FROM WITHEE

A source water assessment will be required for all public water systems by May 6, 2003. The assessment will identify land areas that contribute water to each system, significant potential contaminant sources within those areas, and the susceptibility of the drinking water systems to contamination. This report will become available on the DNR website as the assessments are completed.

Educational Information

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, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

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

Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff and residential uses.

Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can, also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which shall provide the same protection for public health.

Number of Contaminants Required to be tested

The table below displays the number of contaminants that were required to be tested in the last five years. The CCR may contain up to five years worth of water quality results. If a water system tests annually, or more frequently, the results from the most recent year are shown on the CCR. If testing is done less frequently, the results shown on the CCR are from the past five years.

Contaminant Group	# Contaminants
Disinfection Byproducts	2
Inorganic Contaminants	16
Microbiological Contaminants	1
Radioactive Contaminants	3
Synthetic Organic Contaminants including Pesticides and Herbicides	24
Unregulated Contaminants	4
Volatile Organic Contaminants	20

Additional Health Information

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than 6 months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant you should ask advice from your health care provider.

Definition of Terms

AL - Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

MCL - Maximum Contaminant Level: 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.

MCLG - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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.

MFL - million fibers per liter

mrem/year - millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)

NTU - Nephelometric Turbidity Units

pCi/l - picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

ppm - parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)

ppb - parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l)

ppt - parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter

ppq - parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter

TCR - Total Coliform Rule

TT - Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

As you can see by the below tables, our water system had no violations. We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected. The EPA has determined that your **water is safe** at these levels. "All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by constituents that are naturally occurring or man made". These constituents can be microbes, organic or inorganic chemicals or radioactive materials.

In our continuing efforts to maintain a safe and dependable water supply it may be necessary to make improvements in your water system. The cost of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments may be necessary in order to address these improvements.

We at the Owen Water Utility work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

Sincerely Yours
The Owen Water Utility

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