

## City of Wheeler 2023 Consumer Confidence Report

The City of Wheeler is pleased to submit its Annual Water Quality and Consumer Confidence Report to our customers for 2023. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of the 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 and upgrade the water treatment process and to protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water and want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility.

### **Is my water safe?**

*The City of Wheeler's drinking water met all US. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Oregon State drinking water health standards in 2023. The City of Wheeler monitors its distribution system daily to ensure quality water reaches its customers safely.*

### **Where does my water come from?**

The City of Wheeler and the City of Manzanita jointly draw water from a groundwater source along the Upper Nehalem River on Foss Road. This groundwater is naturally filtered and meets both Federal and State requirements for clarity.

### **VIOLATIONS:**

***The City received three violations in 2023 which were outlined in the City's System Survey by Oregon Health Authority on September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023. These errors included non-submittal of previous consumer confidence reports required in 2018 and 2020, as well as the City not having an enabling authority ordinance on file with the state cross-connection control program. The flapper on the overflow valve at Vosberg Reservoir was also not operating correctly. These issues have all been promptly addressed by the City.***

### **Source Water Assessment**

A "Source Water Assessment" has been completed by the Department of Environmental Quality and the Oregon Health Authority Drinking Water Division. These published assessments are available on request by contacting City Hall.

### **Are there contaminants in my drinking water?**

As water travels over land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, contaminants such as radioactive particles and substances from animal/human activity. These may include:

- Microbial contaminants such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife activity.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as naturally occurring salts and metals, storm or industrial runoff, **wastewater** discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining.

To ensure tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations which limit certain contaminants in water provided by public systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, ensuring the same protection for public health.

### **Do I need to take special precautions?**

Some people may be more affected by drinking water contaminants, such as immune-compromised persons, those undergoing chemotherapy, or are recovering from an organ transplant, people with HIV/AIDS, or other immune system disorders; particularly among the elderly and infants.

These water users should be advised about drinking water by their health care providers. EPA Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines are available to lessen the risk of infection by microbial contaminants such as cryptosporidium and giardia from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791. (This Information is required by the EPA and OHD to be included in this report.)

### **Additional Information for Lead as a contaminant:**

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 cannot control the use of materials in household plumbing which may contain lead, however, public works staff will be doing an inventory of all service lines this summer to determine if there are lead lines entering or exiting the meter box area at individual service connections. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize exposure to lead 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, particularly in older fixtures, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791, or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead). (This contact information is required by the EPA and OHD for this report.)

### **Can I get involved?**

For more information contact Wheeler Public Works at (503)368-5767.

The City Council also holds monthly meetings at 6PM on the third Tuesday of the month. The public is welcome and there is an opportunity for public comment.

**Water System Safety requires a responsive BACKFLOW and CROSS-CONNECTION prevention program. Oregon State and Federal governments strictly regulate the quality of water that municipalities provide. The City of Wheeler maintains a current cross-connection program. Quality water can be compromised by water that has entered a homeowner's plumbing system and then is drawn back into the public system in a back-flow event.**

### **What is a Cross Connection?**

This is a direct or indirect connection of a drinking water line with a non-potable source, like a sprinkler system, a chemical sprayer connected to a hose, unprotected booster pumps, and temporary fill hoses left draped into hot tubs, wash tubs, etc.

### **Why be concerned?**

Cross connections are inadvertently made each day in the United States by homeowners, landscapers, and others who are unaware of the potential harm. Chapter 0222-061-0700 of the Oregon Administrative Rules governs public water systems. There are installations which require a certified double check valve to be installed and inspected annually. A report is required by the Oregon Drinking Water Program.

### **How does the City handle possible cross connections?**

The City provides inspections and information to prevent contaminated water from being drawn into the City system. This can occur when pressure drops during a break or repair event. New meters have been installed which detect and record the smallest reverse flow. These are recorded automatically. Check valves can be installed to mitigate this potential source of contamination. Homeowners are responsible to keep drinking water lines free from cross connections.

Regulations: If a potential or known hazard exists, the property owner shall install an approved backflow device, which shall be tested in accordance with state and local regulations. The City maintains records on each backflow prevention device connected to the City water and enforces federal, state and local regulations regarding such devices and satisfies requirements with a Backflow Prevention program.

**Water Conservation tips? Visit [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense) or <http://www.wrd.wtate.or.us/OWRD/WaterConservation.shtml> or call the City of Wheeler at (503) 368-5767.**

### WATER QUALITY Terms and Definitions

| Terms                    | Definitions   |
|--------------------------|---|
| ppm or mg/L              | Parts per million or milligrams per liter (same quantity)   |
| Ppb / ug/L               | Parts per billion or micrograms per liter   |
| MFL                      | Million fibers per Liter (asbestos concentration)   |
| NA                       | not applicable  |
| ND                       | not detected  |
| NR                       | Monitoring not required, but recommended  |
| MCLG                     | Maximum Contaminant Level Goal:<br>The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected requirement   |
| MCL                      | Maximum Contaminant Level:<br>The highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the level feasible for testing using the best available treatment technology |
| TT                       | Treatment technique: A required process intended to reduce a contaminant level in drinking water.   |
| AL                       | Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which triggers treatment or requirements to be followed  |
| Variances and Exemptions | State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or treatment technique under certain conditions  |
| MRDLG                    | Maximum residual disinfection level goal.<br>The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no   |

|      |  |
|------|--|
|      | known or expected risk to health   |
| MRDL | Maximum residual disinfectant level:<br>The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. |
| MNR  | Monitored, not regulated   |
| MPL  | Maximum permissible level  |

**Gross Alpha, Radium and Uranium Code 4000, 4010, and 4006:** Testing on these parameters is required every 9 years. Test results from 2022 resulted in none detected.

**Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) and Synthetic Organic Compound (SOC)**

Testing is required every 3 years, the city last tested for VOC and SOC in 2022.

Test results for VOC and SOC resulted in non-detection on all parameters.

**I.O.C. Inorganic Contaminants:**

The City tests for I.O.C. every 9 years, and last tested in 2018. The table below represents the most recent monitoring done in compliance with regulations. The District Received Non-Detect on all contaminants tested except for Barium and Sodium, which were below the MCL:

| Contaminant | Level Detected | Unit of Measure | MCL |
|-------------|----------------|-----------------|-----|
| Barium      | .0021800       | Mg/L            | 2.0 |
| Sodium      | 5.3            | Mg/L            | NA  |

**Water Quality Data Table (Test Results)**

| Contaminants                 | MCLG/MRDL G | MCL/TT/MRDL | Wheel er | Ran ge | Violati on | Test Date | Common Source   |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|----------|--------|------------|-----------|---|
| TTHMs: Total Trihalomethanes | NA          | .06 mg/l    | ND       | NA     | No         | 9/29/23   | Possible byproduct of Chlorination                        |
| HAAS: Haloacetic Acids       | NA          | .08 mg/l    | ND       | NA     | No         | 9/29/23   | Possible byproduct of Chlorination                        |
| Asbestos (MFL)               | 7 MFL       | 7 MFL       | ND       | NA     | No         | 12/18/19  | Transite water mains                                      |
| Nitrate (as nitrogen)        | NA          | 10 gm/l     | .902     | NA     | No         | 11/15/23  | Fertilizer, sewage, natural deposits                      |
| Uranium                      | NA          | .03 ppm     | ND       | NA     | No         | 10/17/18  | Natural deposits  |
| Synthetic Organic Chemicals  | NA          | Various     | ND       | NA     | No         | 12/13/22  | Man-made for industrial/commercial uses like PCBs, dioxin |

|                 |      |           |            |  |    |        |                             |
|-----------------|------|-----------|------------|--|----|--------|-----------------------------|
| Lead at faucets | NA   | .015 mg/l | .0038 mg/l |  | No | 6/7/23 | Corrosion/natural           |
| Copper          | .061 | 1.3 mg/l  | .0473 mg/l |  | No | 6/7/23 | Corrosion/ natural deposits |

For more information please contact:

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