



## City of Wheeler Annual Drinking Water Quality Report - 2015

### **Report Purpose**

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Joe Velkinburg at 503-812-9214. The City wants to inform our valued customers about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled City Council Meetings. They are held on the third Tuesday of each month at Wheeler City Hall, 775 Nehalem Blvd., Wheeler.

**Annual Drinking Water  
Quality Report  
City of Wheeler  
June 12, 2015**

**The City of Wheeler is pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. The City designed this report to inform you about the quality of the water and services we deliver 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.**

The City of Wheeler routinely monitors drinking water according to Federal and State laws for constituents. The table below shows the results of our monitoring for the period of Jan. 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014. 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 drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. It is important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk.

### **The Water System**

The City of Wheeler's water source is groundwater. The City owns and operates two wells located near the Nehalem River just off Foss Road. The City delivers about 23,000,000 gallons of water a year to its users. The City identified its source of the water as a coarse gravel aquifer 500 feet north of the Nehalem River.

### **Source Water Assessments (SWAs)**

The City of Wheeler maintains a source-water protection plan available at our City Hall office. Citizens may read the plan any time during normal business hours. The plan provides more information such as potential sources of contamination. Moderate to high risk contamination sources within the drinking water protection area includes; pesticide, fertilizer, & petroleum storage / handling, mixing and cleaning areas, wells and abandoned wells, irrigated crops, and truck loading / unloading depots. Further information concerning the source-water assessment report is available at City Hall. The City is pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets federal and state requirements.

### **Definitions:**

In the test result table below you will find several terms and abbreviations that may not be familiar. To help better understand these terms the City is providing the following definitions:

- **Contaminants**- Substances or organisms that have a significant adverse effect on human health
- **Maximum Contaminant level (MCL)** - 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.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)** - The "Goal" (MCLG) is the level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- If a contaminant exceeds an Action level, the System is required to select an appropriate **Treatment Technique (TT)** and make its best efforts to reduce the contaminant level below the Action level. If these efforts are unable to reduce the contaminant level enough, the System must inform you of these steps you can take to protect your health against the effects of the contaminants.
- **Minimum Detection Level (MDL)**: The smallest amount of a contaminant that can be identified with present technology.
- **Acute Risk**: Exposure to concentrations above the MCL for short periods of time that may cause health problems. Bacteria and nitrate are examples of acute risks.
- **Chronic Risk**: Exposure to concentrations above the MCL for long periods of time that pose health problems.
- **Treatment**: Chemicals added by the system to the water before it is distributed to correct deficiencies or insure the quality of the source water during delivery to users. The City of Wheeler used chlorine and potassium permanganate, with sand filtration for treatment

As you can see by the table, our system had no detection violations. We are 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.

Monitoring Violation

Contaminant	Violation No	Level Detected	Test Results		MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
			Unit Measurement				
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>							
Total Coliform Bacteria		NONE	Coliform/100ml		0		Naturally present in the environment
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Nitrate (As Nitrogen)		.9950	Mg/1		10	10	Run off form fertilizer use
<b>Disinfection Byproducts</b>							
Trihalomethanes		ND	Mg/1		0.08		
Halo acetic Acids		ND	Mg/1		0.06		
<b>Radiological Contaminants, Lead, &amp; Copper</b>							
uranium		ND	Ug/1		0	30	Erosion of natural deposits
Copper		0.671	Mg/1		1.3	1.5	Corrosion of household plumbing
Lead		0.005	Mg/1		0	0.015	Corrosion of household plumbing

We constantly monitor for various constituents in the water supply to meet all regulatory requirements. This past year we experienced no monitoring or reporting violations.

Drinking Water Health Risks

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or manmade. 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 health risk. Citizens may obtain more information about contaminants and their potential health effects by calling the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791. The EPA sets MCLs 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 1 in a million chance of having described health effects.

Total Coliform

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 the City finds Coliform bacteria, they perform special follow-up tests to determine if harmful bacteria are present in the water supply. If the City finds harmful bacteria, the water supplier must notify the public by newspaper, television or radio. To comply with the stricter regulation, we have increased the average amount of chlorine in the distribution system. The City experienced no Total Coliform failures in 2014. In 2014, The City also performed a series of analytical tests to determine if chlorine was combining with organic material in the water to form any undesirable byproducts. The City detected no chlorine byproducts during the analytical testing. The report is on file at City Hall for viewing.

Water Rates

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

Disease Susceptibility

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-compromised persons such as persons with cancer, those undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, or people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders may be at a higher risk. 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.

Water Problems

Please feel free to call Joe Velkinburg at 503-812-9214 or our City Hall Office at 503-368-5767 if you have any questions.