



City of Milton-Freewater, Oregon

2009 Annual Drinking Water Report

Dear City Water Customer;

The City is very pleased to provide you with this year's Annual Water Quality Report. We want to keep you informed about the excellent water quality and services we have provided to you over the past year. Our goal is and has always been to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. Our water source comes from a total of four well fields, which consist of seven deep basalt wells. **We are pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets federal and state requirements.**

The City of Milton-Freewater routinely monitors your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The table shows the results of our monitoring samples for the period of January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009. As water travels over the land or underground, it can acquire 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.

| <i>TEST RESULTS</i> | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|------|--------|---|
| Contaminant | Violation Y/N | Level Detected | Measurement Unit | MCLG | MCL | Likely Source of Contamination |
| Inorganic Contaminants | | | | | | |
| Copper | N | .081 | ppm | 1.3 | AL=1.3 | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits, leaching from wood preservatives. |
| Fluoride | N | .200 | ppm | 4.0 | 4 | Erosion of natural deposits; water additive, which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. |
| Lead | N | .002 | ppb | 0.0 | AL=15 | Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits. |
| Nitrate (as Nitrogen) | N | 0.44 | ppm | 10.0 | 10 | Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits. |
| Barium | N | .019 | ppb | 2.0 | 2.0 | Erosion of natural deposits and mining. |

You may find many terms and abbreviations that you may not be familiar with in the table above. We have provided the definitions to help you better understand these terms on the reverse side.

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Abbreviations, Definitions and Notes:

ppb - Parts Per Billion or Micrograms Per Liter – One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

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

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal – The “Goal” (MCLG) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG’s allow for a margin of safety.

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 “Maximum Allowed” is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL’s are set as close to the MCLG’s as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

As you can see by the table, our water system did not have any violations this past year. We are proud to provide drinking water that meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and sampling that some constituents have been detected. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has determined that our water **IS SAFE** at these levels.

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. 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 EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or you can visit their website at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/>.

MCL’s are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink two 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.

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 also available from the EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline.

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 of Milton-Freewater 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 on the EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline or website.

Each year the City collects at least eight drinking water samples per month from various pre-determined locations throughout town. In December 2009 we were notified of one sample that tested positive for total coliform. Immediately thereafter we re-sampled this location along with other locations to determine if there was indeed a problem in our water system. Results for the re-test all came back negative for total coliform meaning there was no potential problem in our drinking water system. The initial positive test was deemed a false positive, which occurred when the sample was inadvertently contaminated or the source is not adequately sterilized prior to sample collection.

During the past year 13 water services were upgraded prior to a street improvement project.

We at the City of Milton-Freewater 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.

El “Consumer Confidence Report” es disponible en Espanol en la oficina de Milton-Freewater si usted lo quiere.

If you have any questions about this report please contact David Bradshaw at 541-938-8272. We want you, our valued customer, to be informed about the quality of your water utility.

Sincerely,

David L. Bradshaw

Public Works Superintendent

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