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City of Ontario 2004
Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
PWSID#4100587

City of Ontario
444 SW 4TH ST.
Ontario, OR 97914

What's The Quality of My Water?

Para recibir información en español favor de ir a Ontario City Hall, 444 S.W. 4th Street, Ontario.

The City of Ontario is pleased to share this water quality report with you. It describes to you, the customer, the quality of your drinking water. This report covers January 1 through December 31, 2004. The City of Ontario's drinking water supply surpassed the strict regulations of both the State of Oregon and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which requires all water suppliers to produce reports like this every year to each customer.

In 2004 our water department distributed 1,988 billion gallons of water to our customers. Our water source is surface water from the Snake River as well as ground water from the Snake River Aquifer. The water from both sources is blended at the Ontario water treatment plant.

The State is currently reviewing our Source Water Assessment and has not approved it for public viewing. You will be notified later of the availability of the assessment.

Your water is treated using disinfection and filtration to remove or reduce harmful contaminants that may come from the source water. Ontario uses a five-step process to treat water: Coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation, filtration, and disinfection.

Coagulation is a process where chemicals are mixed into the water to cause solids to clump together forming particles called floc. Flocculation is a slow stirring process, which assists the coagulation process. Sedimentation is the process of floc and other particles settling to the bottom of water into large basins. Filtration is the process of moving the water supply through filters to remove particles that do not settle into basins. Disinfection is the process of destroying disease-causing organisms.

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

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Ken Rawson by calling (541)889-8011 or by writing to this address: 444 S.W. 4th Street, Ontario, Oregon 97914. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. You can attend regular City Council meetings on the first and third Monday of each month, beginning at 7:00 p.m., at City Hall, 444 SW 4th Street. Find out more on the Internet at www.ontariooregon.org and for further information see Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) water information at www.epa.gov/safewater.com.

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.

2004 Monitoring Results for Contaminants in Drinking Water

The table shows the results of the City of Ontario Water Treatment Plant's water quality analyses. The table contains the name of each substance that we detected, the highest level allowed by Federal and State regulations (MCL), the target goal we strive for (MCLG), the amount detected, the usual sources of such contamination, notes explaining our findings, and a key to units of measurement. We monitor dozens more contaminants like these that were not detected.

Contaminant	Unit	MCLG Health Goal	MCL EPA's Limits	Highest Level Detected	Range Detected	Violation (Yes / No)	Year ¹ Sampled	Potential Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants								
Total Organic Carbon	NA	NA	TT	3.61	2.18 - 3.61	NO	2004	Naturally present in the environment.
Inorganic Contaminants								
Arsenic ²	ppb	NA	10	6	NA	NO	2004	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Barium	ppm	2	2	0.04	NA	NO	2004	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	ppm	1.3	1.3 = AL	0.068 90th percentile	ND - 0.17	NO	2003	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
All sites below AL								
Lead	ppb	0	15 = AL	ND 90th percentile	ND - 2.0	NO	2003	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
All sites below AL								
Fluoride	ppm	4	4	0.6	NA	NO	2004	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive to promote strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate	ppm	10	10	2.8	ND - 2.3	NO	2004	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Volatile Organic Contaminants								
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	ppb	NA	60	20.4 HARA	8.0 - 48.2	NO	2004	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination.
Total Trihalomethanes ³ (TTHMs)	ppb	0	80	47.8 HARA	19.5 - 80.2	NO	2004	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination.
Chlorine	ppm	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	0.761	0.621 - 0.950	NO	2004	Water additive used to control microbes.

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. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

Non-Regulated Substances: Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants.

Substance	Unit	Level Detected	Year ¹ Sampled
Bromodichloromethane	ppb	3.5	2003
Bromoform	ppb	0.7	2003
Chloroform	ppb	3.5	2003
Dibromochloromethane	ppb	3.1	2003
Sodium	ppm	36	2004

NOTES:

¹The state allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though accurate, is more than one year old.

²While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

³Some people who drink water, containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidney or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

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 microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Definitions

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): 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 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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal or MRDLG: The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level or MRDL: The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

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

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

90th Percentile: 90% of samples are equal to or less than the number in the chart.

NA: Not applicable.

ND: Not detectable at testing limits.

PPB (or parts per billion): micrograms per liter (ug/l). One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

PPM (or parts per million): milligrams per liter (mg/l). One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

HARA: Highest Annual Rolling Average, based on 7 quarters of testing results.