



CITY OF
GEARHART

**ANNUAL
WATER
QUALITY
REPORT**
2020 Year End



Gearhart Water System is proud of the fine drinking water it provides. This annual report shows the source of our water, lists the results of our tests, and contains much information about water and health. Our goal is and always has been to provide you a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. There are many reports these days in the press, on radio, and television questioning the safety of the water we drink.

We encourage public interest and participation in our community's decision affecting drinking water. The Gearhart Public Works Director is available to answer questions and comment on the quality of Gearhart's water.

Water Source: The City of Gearhart Water comes from a combination of eight wells located along Neacoxie Blvd.

Testing the water: At this time; the City of Gearhart water is treated for arsenic removal, disinfected with chlorine, filtered, and fluoride is then added. The City of Gearhart tests its water system daily for sufficient chlorine levels.

Water Quality Standards: The Federal Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 and the 1986 and 1996 amendments were developed to insure the quality and safety of the nation's drinking water. The federal government, through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), had the authority to regulate public water systems to protect public health. The EPA sets national drinking water standards and establishes drinking water testing methods. The Oregon Health Division (OHD) administers the drinking water regulations for the EPA in our state.

Currently, there are more than 120 water quality standards for potential contaminants in drinking water supplies in Oregon, and more standards will be added in the coming years.

A contaminant is defined as any substance in water, however, not all contaminants are harmful. Some contaminants are of concern only if they are detected above certain levels. In order to be in compliance with EPA regulations, the City of Gearhart's water must have contaminant levels at or below all drinking water quality standards.

The City of Gearhart routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to federal and state laws. A copy of these test results can be obtained from Gearhart City Hall. To help you better understand some of the terms used on this report we have provided the following definitions: Non- Detects (ND) laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present. Parts per million (ppm) or milligrams per liter (MPL) one part per million corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000. Parts per billion (ppb) or micrograms per liter one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years or a single penny in \$10,000,000. Parts per trillion (ppt) or nanograms per liter (pinograms) or one minute in 2,000,000 years or a single penny in \$10,000,000,000. Parts per quardrillion (ppq) per picograms per liter or one minute in 2,000,000,000 years or one penny in \$10,000,000,000,000. Picocuries per liter (pCi) is a measure of the radioactivity in water. Millrems per year (mrem/yr) measure of radioactivity absorbed by the body. Million Fibers per liter (MFL) measure of presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers. Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) measure of the clarity of water. In excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person. Variances & Exceptions (V&E) permission not to meet and MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions. Action Level concentration that triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Treatment Technique (TT) mandatory language, a treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water. Maximum Contaminant level mandatory language the "maximum allowed" (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.

MCLs are set as close to the MLG'S as feasible using the best available treatment technology. Maximun Containment Level Goal mandatory language the "goal" is the level of containment in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

Microbiological contaminants:

Total Coliform. Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present

in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially harmful bacteria may be present. Turbidity, Turbidity has no health effects, however, it can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease causing organisms. Copper, Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Lead. Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight defects in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

Test Results: We are proud to report that the water provided by the Gearhart Water System meets or exceeds established water quality standards.

Special Notes: 1. Testing was completed on the following contaminants: Inorganic chemicals are those found in nature, such as metals, minerals and salts. Synthetic Organic Chemicals include weed killer and insect sprays. Volatile Organic Chemicals include petroleum based products, industrial by-products and dry cleaning solvents. 2. Turbidity is monitored 24 hours a day. 3. Results from lead and copper testing are far below the EPA maximum contaminant level. Maximum contaminant level for lead is .015 mg/l, Maximum contaminant level for copper or lead is 1.3 mg/l. The City of Gearhart has not detected any lead or copper that has exceeded these limits. 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. City of Gearhart 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 FROM THE Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead. 4. No Nitrates were detected in any of the samples that were taken over the past year.

Required Additional Health Information

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes limits on the amount certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water. 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 Hotline 1-800 426-4791. 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 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: (A) Microbial contaminants such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife. (B) Inorganic contaminants; such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production or farming. (C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, storm water runoff, and residential uses. (D) Organic chemical contaminants; including synthetic and volatile organics, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems. (E) 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 which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.