



## Information regarding your drinking water

This annual "Consumer Confidence Report," required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), tells you where your water comes from, what our tests show about it, and other things you should know about drinking water. This report was prepared by the City of Brookings Water Department.

The City of Brookings Water Department is committed to providing residents with a safe and reliable supply of high-quality drinking water. We routinely test our water and submit reports to the Oregon Department of Human Services, Health Division. They monitor our compliance with the many regulatory standards and testing required to assure that your water is safe to drink.

If you have any questions please call: Water Billing (541) 469-2163 or Ray Page at the Water Department (541) 412-0424. We will gladly furnish you with a more detailed report of our water test results.

The 1996 Amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act require that all states conduct Source Water Assessments for public water systems within their boundaries. The assessments consist of (1) identification of the Drinking Water Protection Area, i.e., the area at the surface that is directly above that part of the aquifer that supplies groundwater to our well(s), (2) identification of potential sources of pollution within the Drinking Water Protection Area, and (3) determining the susceptibility or relative risk to the well from those sources.

The purpose of the assessment is to provide water systems with information they need to develop a strategy to protect their drinking water resources if they choose. The respective Drinking Water Programs of the Departments of Human Services and Environmental Quality have completed the assessment for our system. A copy of this report is on file at the Water Department (541) 412-0424.

The public is invited to attend City Council meetings the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 7 pm.

# WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR YEAR 2015



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## The City is committed to providing a safe and reliable supply of high-quality drinking water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes limits on the amount of certain contaminants in the water provided by public water systems. The Federal Drug Administration (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 trace contaminants within EPA's Drinking Water Standards 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 (800-426-4791).

## Brookings City Water Pre-filtered Naturally

Brookings City water comes from beneath the Chetco River through a well intake assembly located four miles from Brookings. The intake water from this facility is designated by the State of Oregon as a ground water source and is pre-filtered naturally through many layers of sand before underground intake. The State of Oregon defines the minimum water quality standard for groundwater to be disinfection. The City operates a Water Treatment Plant (WTP) which provides disinfection and additional filtering and sedimentation removal for treatment. Under the State permit, the WTP can be utilized or bypassed as long as the bypass water is disinfected, in order to be in compliance with State treatment standards. Depending on the time of year and water turbidity, the City will operate the WTP or bypass. The City takes daily samples from the well intake facility and throughout the water piping system and reports this data to the State. This document summarizes the results of the testing data collected throughout the year.

The City of Brookings has had zero detectable traces of contaminants except for any contaminants listed in this report. Detection of chemicals must register above a certain threshold - anything greater than 0 for the Synthetic Organic Compounds (SOC) and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) groups; and greater than half the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for the Inorganic Compounds (IOC) group. A single detection does not mean that a problem exists -- some reasons for single detections include the use of solvents in the area (WD40 for example), gasoline operated machines, deodorant blocs/devices in restrooms, or painting in the vicinity while the sample was collected. The tests for the SOC and VOC groups are very sensitive and can have a detection from something wafting in the air.

**Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua beber. Tradúzcala ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.**

## Facts About Drinking Water

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 radio-active material and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminates 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 & metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic, wastewater discharges, oil & gas products, mining & 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 process and petroleum production and can also be 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.

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 at 800-426-4791 or [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater)**.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, and 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 EPA's **Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791 or [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater)**.

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 Brookings 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 2 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 EPA's **Safe Drinking Water Hotline, 800-426-4791 or [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead)**.

Some people who drink water containing fluoride well in excess of the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) over many years could get bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones and children may get mottled teeth. Fluoride is a natural substance found in many areas of the country, however required testing shows *levels well below the MCL* in Brookings water. We do not add fluoride to City of Brookings water.

## Year 2015 Testing

Our water is tested to assure that it is safe, healthy and does not exceed the minimum regulatory threshold for allowable contaminants.

### City of Brookings Test Results

Month	Contaminant	Detected	*MCL	Major Sources
December 2015	Nitrate Nitrogen	0.380 mg/L	10 mg/L	Smoke, plants, animals

Although we sampled for many parameters of DBP's (Disinfection By Products). All results, if positive, were well below the EPA limits. Details of testing can be viewed by going to <https://yourwater.oregon.gov>.

\*MCL - (Maximum Contaminant Level): the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.

We collect eight samples every month from various locations and these samples are sent to an independent lab for analysis. All testing samples were found absent for total coliform bacteria and conformed to state requirements. Detailed information can be obtained for the City of Brookings drinking water data online at: <http://yourwater.oregon.gov>.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water is 4.0 mg/l. The City flushes the water system regularly to maintain the state required chlorine residuals in the piping system.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (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 contamination. This level is also 4.0 mg/l.

## Source Water Assessment Report

The aquifer supplying the drinking water for the City of Brookings consists of water, sand and gravel (alluvium) of the Chetco River and the North Fork of the Chetco River. The aquifer occurs in a depth of less than 10 feet to more than 50 feet. Assessment results indicate that the water system would be moderately to highly susceptible to a contamination event inside the identified Drinking Water Protection Area as well as within the North Fork watershed. The presence of a high risk potential contaminant source (traffic along the highway) within the protection area was confirmed through a potential contaminant source inventory. Under a "worst case" scenario, where it is assumed that nothing is being done to protect groundwater quality at the identified potential contaminant sources, the assessment results indicate that the water system would be highly susceptible to this identified potential contaminant source. In addition, the assessment results indicate that, at this time, the water system **is not** considered susceptible to viral contamination.