

THE CITY OF JEFFERSON WORKS HARD TO

Provide you high-quality water!

The City of Jefferson Water Department works around the clock to provide the highest water quality as efficiently as possible to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources.

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. These improvements are sometimes reflected as rate Structure adjustments. Thank you for understanding. We also have a city water master plan at City Hall for review; this plan was updated as of September 2014. The new Pall membrane filtration plant went online in October of 2021.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Jeff Buskirk or Alex Kemmer at 541-327-3670. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility.

The City of Jefferson is required to test for many different categories of contaminants throughout the year; these categories include Bacteriological, Volatiles, Organics, Inorganics, Radiological, Halo Acetic Acids, SOC's, and Total Trihalomethanes. There are several dozen separate contaminants that we test for; out of these, we had 7 contaminants detected, all 7 were at or below the Maximum Contaminant Levels.

The 90th percentile is the highest result found in 90% of the samples when they are listed in order from the lowest to the highest results. EPA requires testing for lead and copper at customers taps most likely to contain these substances based on when the house was built. The EPA determined that if sample results exceeded the Action Level (AL), the City must take action in reducing the risk of leaching of lead and/or copper. As you can see by the table on the reverse side, your water is well below the action level for both. The last round of testing was in 2022.

Nitrates in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age.

High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant you should ask advice from your health provider.

Nitrates: As a precaution we always notify physicians and health care providers if there is ever a higher than normal level of nitrates in the water supply.

Lead: Lead in drinking water is rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning, but can add to a persons total lead exposure. All potential sources of lead in the household should be identified and removed, replaced or reduced.

Sodium: EPA and Oregon Health Division set standards for sodium at 20 mg/l for water utilities. The sodium level for the City of Jefferson runs around 2 to 3 mg/l.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. 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 a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in the drinking water than the general population. Immuno-comprised 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 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 (1-800-426-4791).

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City of Jefferson Water Quality Report 2022



General Sources of Water

We're pleased to present to you this years Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you 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 insuring the quality of your water. Our source of water since 1987 has been the Santiam River.

We are Pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets federal and state requirements. The City of Jefferson routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws (The City of Jefferson is guided by Oregon Health Division for monitoring).

These results of our monitoring are for a period of January 1st to December 31st 2022. As water travels over the land or underground, it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. Its important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk.

Cyanotoxins

In early summer of 2018, Cyanotoxins were detected in the North Santiam River system. Cyanobacteria (Blue Green Algae) naturally occur in surface waters. Under certain conditions, such as warmwater containing an abundance of nutrients, they can rapidly form harmful algal blooms (HABs). HABs can produce toxins known as cyanotoxins, which can be harmful to humans and animals. During the summer and fall of 2022 we tested for Microcystin and Cylindrospermospin toxins, forms of Cyanotoxins. Through all of our testing, Cyanotoxins were not detected in our treated drinking water as shown in the chart above. This testing has become a yearly event running May thru October.

Water Quality Test Results for 2022

Contaminant	Violation	Level	Unit	MCLG	MCL	Likely source of contamination
Haloacetic Acids	N	4.87	ppb	NA	60	By-product of water chlorination
Trihalomethanes	N	15.8	ppb	NA	80	By-product of water chlorination
Radium 226/228	N	1.1	pCi/L	0	5	Breakdown of radioactive elements found in soil, rock and water

Inorganic Contaminants	Violation	Level	Unit	MCLG	MCL	Likely source of contamination
Nitrate	N	ND	ppm	10.0	10.0	Fertilizers and natural runoff

Inorganic Contaminants	Unit	Goal	Action Level	90th Percentile	Homes Exceeding	Complies	Source of Contamination
Copper	ppm	1.3	1.3	.240	0	YES	Corrosion of house plumbing
Lead	ppb	0.0	15	2.4	0	YES	Corrosion of house plumbing

Contaminant	Violation	Highest Level	Unit	MCLG	MCL	Likely source of contamination
Turbidity	N	0.02	NTU's	NA	100% under 1.0	Soil runoff

Contaminant	Violation	Highest Level	Unit	MCLG	MCL	Likely source of contamination
Microcystins	N	ND	µg/L	.30	NO	Cyanobacteria
Cylindrospermospin	N	ND	µg/L	.70	NO	Cyanobacteria

“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 Jefferson 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 **Safe Drinking Water Hotline** or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead> .

The City's current **Source Water Assessment** is available for all citizens to review. A total of 61 potential contaminant sources were identified in the City of Jefferson's portion of the drinking water protection area. All of these are located in the sensitive areas and 59 are high-to moderate-risk sources within “sensitive areas”. The sensitive areas within the City of Jefferson drinking water protection area include areas with high soil permeability, high soil erosion potential and runoff potential and areas within 1000' from the river/streams. The sensitive areas are where the potential contamination sources, if present, have a greater potential to impact the water supply. The information in this assessment provides a basis for prioritizing areas in and around our community that are most vulnerable to potential impacts and can be used by the City of Jefferson community to develop a voluntary Drinking Water Protection Plan.

As you can see by the table, our system did not have any violations for exceeding the MCL. All samples tested within acceptable levels. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some contaminants have been detected, but did not exceed maximum contaminant levels.

In this table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions.

Parts per million (ppm) or milligrams per liter (mg/L) – one part per million corresponds to one minute in 2 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 2000 year or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Action Level – the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other, requirements which a water system must follow.

Maximum Contaminant Level – (mandatory language) The “Maximum Allowed” (MCL) 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.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal-(mandatory language) 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.

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 2 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.

NTU's– **Nephelometric Turbidity Units.**

µg/L– Micrograms per Liter

pCi/L– Picocuries per liter

NR– **Not regulated by the EPA**

ND– **Not detected**

N/A– Not applicable

TT– **Treatment Technique**– A required process intended to reduce a contaminant level in drinking water.

All Citizens are encouraged to participate in City Council and Planning Commission meetings in the open forum portions to give input on topics of interest.

