



# Consumer Confidence Report for 2018

## **Is my water safe?**

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies. Last year, we conducted tests for over 80 contaminants. As we informed you at the time, our water temporarily exceeded drinking water standards. (For more information see the section labeled Violations at the end of the report.)

## **Do I need to take special precautions?**

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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

## **Where does my water come from?**

The City of Juliaetta utilizes water from 3 types of sources. Two underground Wells, Cox Spring, and Surface Water from Potlatch Creek which is filtered at the Water Treatment Plant.

## **Source water assessment and its availability**

A source water assessment is available at city hall for review. These source water assessments are performed every couple of years as required by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. The source water assessment is focused on upstream activities and areas that could cause contamination to our drinking water. The water Treatment plant, the wells, Cox Spring and the distribution system also had a sanitary survey performed (inspection) within the last two years and a copy is available at city hall as well.

## **Why are there contaminants in my drinking 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 (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (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, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity:

microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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 stormwater 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 stormwater 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 stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and 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 regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

## **How can I get involved?**

The public is welcome to attend the regular scheduled city council meetings to be involved and informed about our water system.

## **Water Conservation Tips**

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference - try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers - a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
- Visit [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense) for more information.

## **Cross Connection Control Survey**

The purpose of this survey is to determine whether a cross-connection may exist at your home or business. A cross connection is an unprotected or improper connection to a public water distribution system that may cause contamination or pollution to enter the system. We are responsible for enforcing cross-connection control regulations and insuring that no contaminants can, under any flow conditions, enter the distribution system. If you have any of the devices listed below please contact us so that we can discuss the issue, and if needed, survey your connection and assist you in isolating it if that is necessary.

- Boiler/ Radiant heater (water heaters not included)
- Underground lawn sprinkler system
- Pool or hot tub (whirlpool tubs not included)
- Additional source(s) of water on the property
- Decorative pond
- Watering trough

## **Source Water Protection Tips**

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides - they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community, or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with your local government or water supplier. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste - Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

## **Other Information**

### **Additional Information for Lead**

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 Juliaetta 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>.

### Total Organic Carbon (TOC) Explanation

The Total Organic Carbon removal ratio fell below the average allowable limit for several months. This violation has been reported on the back of the city water bill since the violation has occurred as required by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. The city is in the process of having the filter media replaced at the Water Treatment Plant and this should correct the removal ratio and put us back into compliance. The carbon is not a health concern, as it is a natural substance found in surface water.

## Water Quality Data Table

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
<b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfection By-Products</b>								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Chlorine (as Cl <sub>2</sub> ) (ppm)	4	4	1.28	.15	1.28	2018	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	NA	NA	NA	2018	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	NA	NA	NA	2018	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Organic Carbon (% Removal)	NA	TT	NA	NA	NA	2018	Yes	Naturally present in the environment
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	12.4	9.11	12.4	2018	Yes	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits, Well #5
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>								
E. coli (RTCR) - in the distribution system	0	Routine and repeat samples are total coliform positive and either is E. coli - positive or system fails to take repeat samples following E. coli positive routine sample or system fails to analyze total coliform positive repeat sample for E. coli.	19	NA	NA	2018	No	Naturally present in the environment
Although we have detected E. coli, we are not in violation of the E. coli MCL.								
Turbidity (NTU)	NA	0.3	100	NA	NA	2018	No	Soil runoff
100% of the samples were below the TT value of .3. A value less than 95% constitutes a TT violation. The highest single measurement was .296. Any measurement in excess of 1 is a violation unless otherwise approved by the state.								
<b>Synthetic organic contaminants including pesticides and herbicides</b>								
Picloram (ppb)	500	500	14.4	NA	NA	2018	No	Herbicide runoff, Well #5

<b>Violations and Exceedances</b>
<p><b>Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen]</b>            Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue-baby syndrome. The high Nitrate level began occurring in April of 2018 at Well #5 and lasted through July of 2018. The Well is located across the Potlatch River and all 5 users were notified of the high Nitrate levels. Well #5 is not connected to the main City water supply at this time. The city purchased bottled water for the users until the Nitrate level was decreased by wasting water away from the well house.</p>

## Undetected Contaminants

The following contaminants were monitored for, but not detected, in your water.

<b>Contaminants</b>	<b>MCLG or MRDLG</b>	<b>MCL, TT, or MRDL</b>	<b>Your Water</b>	<b>Violation</b>	<b>Typical Source</b>
2,4-D (ppb)	70	70	ND	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops, Well #5
Atrazine (ppb)	3	3	ND	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops, Well #5
Benzo(a)pyrene (ppt)	0	200	ND	No	Leaching from linings of water storage tanks and distribution lines, Well #5
Carbofuran (ppb)	40	40	ND	No	Leaching of soil fumigant used on rice and alfalfa, Well #5
Chlordane (ppb)	0	2	ND	No	Residue of banned termiticide, Well #5
Dalapon (ppb)	200	200	ND	No	Runoff from herbicide used on rights of way, Well #5
Di (2-ethylhexyl) adipate (ppb)	400	400	ND	No	Discharge from chemical factories, Well #5
Di (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (ppb)	0	6	ND	No	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories, Well #5
Dinoseb (ppb)	7	7	ND	No	Runoff from herbicide used on soybeans and vegetables, Well #5
Diquat (ppb)	20	20	ND	No	Runoff from herbicide use, Well #5
Endothall (ppb)	100	100	ND	No	Runoff from herbicide use, Well #5
Endrin (ppb)	2	2	ND	No	Residue of banned insecticide, Well #5
Ethylene dibromide (ppt)	0	50	ND	No	Discharge from petroleum refineries, Well #5
Glyphosate (ppb)	700	700	ND	No	Runoff from herbicide use, Well #5
Heptachlor (ppt)	0	400	ND	No	Residue of banned pesticide, Well #5
Heptachlor epoxide (ppt)	0	200	ND	No	Breakdown of heptachlor, Well #5

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Violation	Typical Source
Hexachlorobenzene (ppb)	0	1	ND	No	Discharge from metal refineries and agricultural chemical factories, Well #5
Hexachlorocyclopentadiene (ppb)	50	50	ND	No	Discharge from chemical factories, Well #5
Methoxychlor (ppb)	40	40	ND	No	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on fruits, vegetables, alfalfa, livestock, Well #5
Oxamyl [Vydate] (ppb)	200	200	ND	No	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on apples, potatoes and tomatoes, Well #5
Pentachlorophenol (ppb)	0	1	ND	No	Discharge from wood preserving factories, Well #5
Simazine (ppb)	4	4	ND	No	Herbicide runoff, Well #5
Toxaphene (ppb)	0	3	ND	No	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on cotton and cattle, Well #5

Unit Descriptions	
Term	Definition
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
ppt	ppt: parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter
NTU	NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.
positive samples	positive samples/yr: The number of positive samples taken that year

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	Definition
MCLG	MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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.
MCL	MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: 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.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variations and Exemptions	Variations and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

<b>Important Drinking Water Definitions</b>	
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection level goal. 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.
MRDL	MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level. 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.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

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