2015 Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report

The City of Veneta is pleased to provide you with the annual Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report for the year 2015. This report is being provided as part of the City's ongoing commitment to provide you with high quality, safe, and dependable drinking water and related services. A Drinking Water Protection Plan, as well as a Water Conservation and Management Plan are available at the Veneta Administrative Center, 88184 8th Street, and on our website. These documents provide more information about potential sources of contamination and the steps the City is taking to protect and conserve our drinking water.

Water Source & Treatment

In 2013, the City of Veneta and the Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB) worked together to complete a pipeline connection from EWEB facilities located in West Eugene to the City of Veneta Public Works facility on Broadway Avenue. The 24-inch pipeline allows the City of Veneta to purchase surplus water from EWEB to augment the City's own water production capabilities. It is expected that this agreement will help the City meet projected water needs for decades. If you would like to view EWEB's 2014 Consumer Confidence Report to read about their water quality, it can be found at: http://www.eweb.org/public/documents/water/consumerConfidenceReport.pdf

The City of Veneta's other water source is from deep wells located within City limits. The water from those wells is treated at the City's Water Treatment Plant located on Broadway Avenue. It is then comingled with EWEB water and fed out to the distribution system for use.

The City routinely monitors for contaminants in the drinking water according to State and Federal laws. We are pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets all federal and state requirements.

City Staff members who work on the Water system are on call around the clock to provide continual, top quality water.

Online Posting

The EPA no longer requires a paper copy of this report to be mailed to each customer and allows electronic posting on the utility website to serve as notice.

Beginning with the 2016 Consumer Confidence Report, the City of Veneta will no longer provide a paper copy of this report. This will save money on printing and mailing costs and is more environmentally friendly.

Water Emergency?

If you experience an emergency with your water during business hours (Monday - Friday 9am-5pm) call City Hall at 541-935-2191; after business hours, please contact the Lane County Sheriff's Dispatch at 541-682-4141 and they will contact our on-call staff member.

Contacts

- ***City of Veneta - 541-935-2191***
  Public Works Director - Kyle Schauer
  www.venetaoregon.gov

- ***Environmental Protection Agency's*** (EPA)
  Safe Drinking Water Hotline - 1-800-426-4791

- ***Lane County Sheriff's Office*** Dispatch
  541-682-4141

Water Quality Testing

The US Environmental Protection Agency has established levels at which a contaminant may pose a risk and the requirements a community water supply must meet if the level is exceeded.

The following contaminants are commonly tested for in water:

Total Coliform:

The Total Coliform Rule requires water systems to meet a strict limit for coliform bacteria. Coliform bacteria are usually harmless, but their presence in water can be an indication of disease-causing bacteria. When coliform bacteria are found, special follow-up tests are done to determine if harmful bacteria are present in the water supply. If this limit is exceeded, the water supplier must notify the public by newspaper, television or radio. Veneta tests its water weekly for coliform bacteria to ensure the system is free of disease causing bacteria. The City's water did not test positive for Total Coliform in 2015.

Hardness:

Hardness in water is the most common water quality problem reported by U.S. consumers. Hard water occurs when excess minerals in the water create certain nuisance problems. While these water problems can be frustrating, water hardness is not a safety issue. Hard water is safe for drinking, cooking, and other household uses. Water Hardness is generally measured in Milligrams per Liter (mg/L) or Grains per Gallon. Water tested within the City of Veneta's water distribution system had results of 60 mg/L or about 4 grains per gallon of Hardness. Water is considered "Hard" if it tests at 120mg/L (7.0 grains per gallon) or higher.

Water tests are done in conformance with compliance cycles determined by State and Federal regulations. Cycles range from one year to nine years. The City of Veneta is current with all required testing.

Lead:

Lead in drinking water is rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning, but it can add to a person's total lead exposure. 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 Veneta 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 http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead. The City is required to test for lead in homes every three years. These tests (along with copper) were last taken from selected homes during the summer of 2014. The levels of lead and copper detected were well below State mandated action levels. The City will test for lead and copper again during the summer months of 2017.

Nitrates:

Nitrates in water can come from natural, industrial, agricultural, or residential sources, (including septic systems and run-off). Nitrates in drinking water are a serious health concern for infants. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. As a precaution we will notify physicians and health care providers in this area if there is ever a higher than normal level of nitrates in the water supply. The City is required to test annually for the presence of nitrates. No Nitrates were detected in the City's water supply in 2015.

Test Results

The City completed all tests required by the State for 2015. Though we test for many things, the following table shows a comparison of our detected test results to the regulated EPA levels.

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, or radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably 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.

2015 DRINKING WATER QUALITY RESULTS

TEST	MCL	MCLG	VENETA'S DETECTION RANGE	IN COMPLIANCE	PROBABLE SOURCE
DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM					
Copper	AL=1.3	1.3	0.161 - 0.596 mg/L	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Lead	AL=.015	0.0	.00219 - .00776 mg/L	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS					
Xylenes, total	10.0	10.0	.00267 - .00737 mg/L	Yes	Gasoline Production
Ethylbenzene	0.7	0.7	.0005 - .00142 mg/L	Yes	Gasoline Production
DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS					
Total Trihalomethanes	.08	n/a	0.0109 - 0.0431 mg/L	Yes	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine	4.0	4.0	.1 - .5 mg/L	Yes	Water additive to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids	.06	n/a	0.004 - 0.0168 mg/L	Yes	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Definitions

MCL Maximum Contaminant Level: The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is 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.

MCLG Maximum Contaminant Level Goal- The "Goal" (MCLG) is 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.

mg/L Milligrams per liter (**mg/L**). This measurement is the mass of a chemical or contaminate per unit volume of water. Equal to parts per million (ppm).

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

Water Treatment Flow Chart

City Wells

Treatment & Filtration

EWEB Pipeline

Reservoir

Distribution Piping

Clean
Drinking Water

Special Health Considerations

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as cancer patients 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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at **1-800-426-4791**.

Water Conservation

Water conservation is an important part of our revised Water Master Plan that was adopted in 2012. Summertime use of water is double to triple that of winter. Practicing water conservation will reduce your water bill and reduces the need for future capital improvements which can be costly to our water customers. To review a copy of the Water Master Plan please visit our website at http://www.venetaoregon.gov/publicworks/page/water-system-master-plan-2012

Indoor Conservation

- Check your toilet periodically for leaks or if it is constantly running; toilets are the number one water consuming fixture indoors.
- Turn off water while brushing your teeth or shaving, rather than running a steady stream.
- Limit showers to five minutes.
- Make sure dishwasher and washing machine are full before running.
- Retrofit all outdated water fixtures with newer water-conserving fixtures.
- Keep a pitcher of drinking water in the refrigerator. This will save water you might otherwise waste when you let the faucet run until the water is cool.

Outdoor Conservation

- When washing a car, use a bucket and sponge. Wash car on grass if possible to recycle water.
- Sweep sidewalks and driveways instead of hosing them down.
- Install covers on pools and spas and check for leaks around your pumps.
- Use native or drought-resistant plants that will minimize long term water consumption.
- Consider an evapotranspiration (ET based) irrigation system. These systems use 20% to 30% less water than standard irrigation systems.
- If you have automatic sprinklers be sure to turn them off if rainfall has been sufficient for your yard's needs.