

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Portal, North Dakota

2016

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the safe clean water 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 ensuring the quality of your water. Our water source is groundwater. Chlorine is added for disinfection.

The City of Portal is participating in North Dakota's Wellhead Protection Program. A copy of this program is available upon request. The North Dakota Department of Health has prepared a Source Water Assessment for Portal. Information regarding this program is also available upon request.

Our public water system, in cooperation with the North Dakota Department of Health, has completed the delineation and contaminant/land use inventory elements of the North Dakota Source Water Protection Program. Based on the information from these elements, The North Dakota Department of Health has determined that our source water is not likely susceptible to potential contaminants. No significant sources of contamination have been identified.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact **Cynthia Larsen**, Portal City Auditor at 701-926-3601. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Portal Community Center. If you are aware of non-English speaking individuals who need help with the appropriate language translation, please contact Steve at the number listed above.

The City of Portal would appreciate it if large volume water customers post copies of the CCR in conspicuous locations or distribute them to tenants, residents, patients, students, and/or employees, so individuals who consume the water, but do not receive a water bill can learn about our water system.

The City of Portal routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The following table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2016. As authorized and approved by EPA, the state has reduced monitoring requirements for certain contaminants to less often than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of our data [e.g., for inorganic contaminants], though representative, is more than one year old.

The sources of drinking water (both tap 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.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which 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, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil 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.

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, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

In the following 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:

Not Applicable (NA)

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/l}$)- one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/l) - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

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

Treatment Technique (TT) - A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

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.

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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) - 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.

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 contaminants.

IDSE - Initial Distribution Systems Evaluations.

Obsvns - Observations/field at 100 Power.

TEST RESULTS for Portal								
	MCLG	MCL	Level Detected	Unit Measured	Range	Date (year)	Violation Yes/No Other Info	Likely Source of Contamination
Lead/Copper								
Copper	1.3	AL=1.3	1.266 90 th % Value	ppm	NA	2016	1 Sites exceeded AL	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead	0	AL=15	2.72 90 th % Value	ppb	NA	2016	0 Sites exceeded AL	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Inorganic Contaminants								
Barium	2	2	0.226	ppm	NA	2016	No	Discharge of drilling wastes, Discharge from metal refineries, Erosion of natural deposits
Flouride	4	4	1.46	ppm	NA	2016	No	Erosion of natural deposits, Water additive which promotes strong teeth, Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
SELENIUM	50	50	4.37	ppb	NA	2016	No	Erosion of natural deposits, discharge from petroleum and metal refineries.
Disinfectants								
Chlorine	MRDL G =4	MRDL =4.0	2.1	ppm	1.48- 2.83	2016	No	Water additive used to control microbes.
Radioactive Contaminants								
Gross Alpha, Including RA, Excluding RN & U	15	15	0.85	pCi/1	NA	2015	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium, Combined (226, 228)	NA	5	1.42	pCi/1	NA	2015	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Stage 2 Disinfection Byproducts								
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	NA	60	2	ppb	NA	2014	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	NA	80	1	ppb	NA	2014	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Unregulated Contaminants								
Alkalinity, Carbonate			19	ppm	NA	2016	No	NA
Alkalinity, Total			1090	Ppm	NA	2016	No	NA
Bicarbonate as HCO ₃			1300	Ppm	NA	2016	No	NA
Calcium			6.47	Ppm	NA	2016	No	NA
Chloride			158	Ppm	NA	2016	No	NA
Conductivity@ 25C UMHOS/CM			2670	Um ho/c	NA	2016	No	NA

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Hardness, Total (as CaCO3)			24	Ppm	NA	2016	No	NA
Iron			0.175	Ppm	NA	2016	No	NA
Magnesium			1.9	Ppm	NA	2016	No	NA
Ph			8.47	PH	NA	2016	No	NA
Potassium			2.3	Ppm	NA	2016	No	NA
Sodium			657	Ppm	NA	2016	No	NA
Sodium Adsorption Ratio			58.3	Obs vns	NA	2016	No	NA
TDS			1650	Ppm	NA	2016	No	NA
Zinc			0.0053	ppm	NA	2016	No	NA

EPA requires monitoring of over 80 drinking water contaminants. Those contaminants listed in the table above are the only contaminants detected in your 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 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 (1-800-426-4791).

MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated contaminants, 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.

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 Portal is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. **Use water from the cold tap for drinking and cooking. 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 drinking 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>.

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/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).

Please call our office if you have questions.

