

2010 Consumer Confidence Report

Water System Name: City of Portola

Report Date: June 29, 2011

This report shows the most recent results of constituents detected in your drinking water through December 31, 2010.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Type of water source(s) in use: Groundwater

Name & location of source(s): Water for the City of Portola originates from three sources know as Willow Creek Springs, the Corporation Yard Well, and the Commercial Street Well.

A Drinking Water Source Assessment was completed between July 2002 and August 2003. A copy can be obtained by calling the Department of Public Health at (530) 224-4800. The Commercial Street Well was found to be most vulnerable to the following activities associated with detected contaminants: contractor or government agency equipment storage yards; sewer collection systems. Our sources were found to be most vulnerable to the following activities not associated with any detected contaminants: Managed Forests, photo processing/printing; railroad yards/maintenance/fueling areas; septic systems; utility stations – maintenance areas.

Time and place of regularly scheduled board meetings for public participation: Second and Fourth Wednesday of each month.

For more information, contact: Todd Roberts Phone: (530) 832-6809

TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT:

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

Public Health Goal (PHG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment that may not be exceeded at the consumer's tap.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Primary Drinking Water Standards (PDWS): MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.

Secondary Drinking Water Standards (SDWS): MCLs for contaminants that affect taste, odor, or appearance of the drinking water. Contaminants with SDWSs do not affect the health at the MCL levels.

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

Regulatory Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Variances and Exemptions: Department permission to exceed an MCL or not comply with a treatment technique under certain conditions.

ND: not detectable at testing limit

ppm: parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

ppb: parts per billion or micrograms per liter (ug/L)

ppt: parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/L)

pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)

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.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- *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, that 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*, that 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, that are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.
- *Radioactive contaminants*, that 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 USEPA and the state Department of Public Health (Department) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Department regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

Tables 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 list all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the most recent sampling for the constituent. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The Department allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, are more than one year old.

TABLE 1 - SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF COLIFORM BACTERIA

Microbiological Contaminants (to be completed only if there was a detection of bacteria)	Highest No. of detections	No. of months in violation	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source of Bacteria
Total Coliform Bacteria	1	0	More than 1 sample in a month with a detection	0	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform or <i>E. coli</i>	0	0	A routine sample and a repeat sample detect total coliform and either sample also detects fecal coliform or <i>E. coli</i>	0	Human and animal fecal waste

TABLE 2 - SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF LEAD AND COPPER

Lead and Copper (to be completed only if there was a detection of lead or copper in the last sample set)	No. of samples collected	90 th percentile level detected	No. sites exceeding AL	AL	PHG	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb) 2009	10	2.0	0	15	2	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems.
Copper (ppm) 2009	10	.037	0	1.3	0.17	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems.

TABLE 3 - SAMPLING RESULTS FOR SODIUM AND HARDNESS

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Sodium (ppm)	2005-2008		5.5-45	none	none	Generally found in ground & surface water
Hardness (ppm)	2005-2008		58-122	none	none	Generally found in ground & surface water

TABLE 4 - DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	Typical Source of Contaminant
Aluminum (ppb)	2005-2008		ND - 118.9	1000	600	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes.
Fluoride (ppm)	2005-2008		ND - 0.26	1400	1000	Erosion of natural deposits; discharges from fertilizers and aluminum factories
Nitrate (ppm)	2010		ND - 2.0	45	45	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage and erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	2001-2007		ND - 10.2	15	none	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (pCi/L)	2007		ND - 8.11	20		Erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic (ppb)	2010	4.75	ND - 20*	10	none	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production waste

TABLE 5 - DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Iron (ppb)	2006-2008		ND - 533.3*	300	none	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Chloride (ppm)	2005-2008		ND - 13	600	none	Naturally occurring
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	2005-2008		168 - 375	1,600	none	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2005-2008		120 - 229	1,000	none	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Color (Units)	2007		3.0 - 4.0	15.0	none	Naturally occurring organic materials
Turbidity (Units)	2008		ND - 6.07*	5	none	Soil runoff

*Any violation of an MCL, MRDL, or TT is asterisked. Additional information regarding the violation is provided later in this report.

Summary Information for Contaminants Exceeding an MCL, MRDL, or AL, or a Violation of Any Treatment Technique or Monitoring and Reporting Requirement

Some sampling results in 2010 were above the MCL for arsenic, however, compliance with the arsenic MCL is based on a running annual average of quarterly samples. In 2010, these averages for the Corporation Yard and Commercial Street wells were 8.0 and 6.25 ppb respectively. Therefore, our water did not violate the 10 ppb MCL for arsenic in 2010. While your drinking water currently meets the federal and state standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The arsenic standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the cost of removing arsenic from drinking water. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

Most recent results for iron and turbidity from the Commercial Street well were above the secondary MCL for these constituents. Secondary MCLs are based on generally acceptable aesthetic qualities for water. Past results for these constituents have been consistently below the secondary MCLs. The most recent samples were collected during the winter while the well had been off-line for an extended period of time, which may explain the abnormal results. There are no associated health risks for this level of iron and turbidity in drinking water. The Department of Public Health has not required the City to take any further action at this time.

Additional General Information on 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 USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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. USEPA/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 Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).