



## ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2016

Every year the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires cities across America provide an information report to their “water users”; a statement about water testing and how a city detects water contaminants to ensure safe drinking water. This report is intended to increase public awareness of drinking water, how it gets from its source to your homes and businesses, and what tests are applied to detect contaminants. To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA sets limits on the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Drinking water, including bottled water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. ***For more information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline @ 1-800-426-4791.***

The source of our water is two groundwater wells. The wells are approximately 300 feet deep and draw from underground aquifers. The water is pumped to a reservoir in lines that serve to fill and to draw from the reservoir. Much of the time when you turn on the tap, you are receiving water from the reservoir. If you happen to turn on a tap at a time that the well is running, you are probably getting a mixture of water from the wells and from the reservoir.

The City of Scio routinely monitors and tests for substances in your drinking water in accordance with Federal and State laws. Not all tests are performed each year. Some are on 2 year schedule, some on a 3 year schedule and so forth, so each year you will see some different tests on the table included in the Annual Water Quality Report.

The Water Quality Test table included in this report may contain terms and abbreviations that you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms; we have provided the following definitions:

***ND (Non-Detects)*** - laboratory analysis indicates that the substances cannot be detected by the approved tests used by the lab.

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

***ppb (parts per billion) or mpl (micrograms per liter)*** – one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

***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 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.

Water Quality Tests for January 1 to December 31, 2016				
Well Tested	Date of Test	Contaminate Tested	Result (ppm or mg/L)	Maximum Contaminate Level (MCL)
Well #4	09/23/2015	NITRATE	ND	10.000000 MG/L
	07/12/2016	Lead	0.0085700	0.0150000 MG/L
	07/12/2016	Lead	0.0074700	0.0150000 MG/L
	07/12/2016	Lead	0.0023200	0.0150000 MG/L
Well#4	04/19/2016	GROSS ALPHA, EXCL. RADON & U	3.5000000	15.000000 PCI/L

As illustrated by the table above, the city water was well below the Maximum Contaminate Level for substances tested in 2016.

What is a pCi L?

It is expressed in picoCuries per liter of air, or "**pCi/L**". A Curie is a unit of radioactivity equivalent to 1 gram of radium and the prefix "pico" means a trillionth. In the metric system, radon concentration is expressed in Becquerels per cubic meter (Bq/m<sup>3</sup>).

Scio's drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. If interested, you can obtain a complete list of water test results at Scio City Hall. The EPA has determined that your drinking water *IS SAFE* at all testing levels.

MCLs are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated substances and 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.

**Total Coliform** – The Total Coliform Rule requires water systems to meet a stricter 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. Then disinfect the system to bring the system into compliance with regulations. The city's water system is tested monthly for Total Coliform.

**Nitrates** – As a precaution we always 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's water system is tested annually for Nitrates.

**Lead** – Lead in drinking water is rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning, but it can add to a person's total lead exposure. All potential sources of lead in the household should be identified and removed, replaced or reduced. 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 Scio 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 for the *Safe Drinking Water Hotline* or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead). The city's water system is tested every 3 years for both Lead and Copper, the next test is scheduled for July 2016.

Water and soil in the Willamette Valley naturally contain substances that are not necessarily harmful but can be an annoyance, such as iron, manganese, and sulfur.

**Iron** - At sufficient concentration, iron can adversely affect the taste of water and beverages and can leave rust-colored stains on laundry, plumbing fixtures and porcelain. The city's water system is not tested for this substance.

**Manganese** – Manganese, while less abundant than iron, causes similar problems, can cause a bitter metallic taste in water and leaves visible black “specks” in ice cubes. Manganese can also produce staining and cause the water to have a brown or black discoloration. The city's water system is not tested for this substance.

**Sulfur** – Sulfur is notorious for the “rotten egg” type of smell in water. At low temperatures, these gaseous particles are less likely to cause problems. As the weather warms and the reservoir temperature increases, there is an increasing possibility of problems from sulfur. The city's water system is not tested for this substance.

Flushing the affected area of the system eases all three of these problems. As the water table lowers in the late summer and fall, we cannot flush as often as we might like. We will respond to problems called in during this time of the year. So if you have a problem with one of these three substances, please call 503-394-3342 and report your address and the problem.

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 disorder, 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 or other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

### **How to protect your water sources**

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 fertilizer and pesticides as they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.

We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

**To report pollution or ask a question about an environmental concern, call the spill hotline at 503-823-7180. Environmental Services staff monitors the hotline 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Staff answers the hotline during business hours.**

**Conservation: Save water, save money.**

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 five minute shower uses four to five 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 shower-head they are 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 1000 gallons per month.
- 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.
- Keep a pitcher of drinking water in the refrigerator instead of letting the faucet run until the water is cool.

For more information visit: [www.epa.gov/watersence](http://www.epa.gov/watersence).

If you have any questions about this report or concerns about water utility, please contact Ginger Allen, Interim City Manager or Robert Waller, Public Works Superintendent at 503-394-3342. We want all of our customers to be well informed about water quality. We encourage all citizens to attend and participate in decisions made regarding water quality. City Council meets the second Monday of each month at 7:00 PM at Scio City Hall, 38957 NW 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue.