

The City of Vale, Oregon

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Malheur County Seat

ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

For the Year 2016

For Spanish Speaking Customers in need of Assistance, please contact Vale City Hall

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Quality Water Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of water and services we supply 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 *the Airport Well Field and the Washington Street Well. Our wells draw from Alluvium or Valley Bottom of the Malheur River.* This report contains the results of testing and monitoring your water supply during the past year.

The City of Vale Water System routinely monitors for constituents present in your drinking water as required by both Federal and State laws. This report shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2016. As water travels over the land or underground, it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. It's important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk. Information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Bottled water does not have to meet the EPA standards but is required to meet standards set by the Food and Drug Administration which considers bottled water a food product.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Terry Harris 541-216-0671. For afterhours emergencies, contact dispatch at 541-473-5125. 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 Public Works Committee meetings. Our Public Works Committee Meetings are held on the first and third Mondays of each month, beginning at 5:00PM at Vale City Hall.

If you notice a large increase in water consumption on your utility bill (10,000 gallons or more) you may request the City to check your water meter to see if you have a water leak. The City will consider adjustment if there is a significant water leak and you can verify that the leak has been fixed in a timely manner.

In this report, 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:

Non-Detects (ND) - laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

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 - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

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

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.

Not Tested (NT)* - Certain contaminants are tested for on some other cycle other than annually (such as biannually).

The City of Vale tests periodically for various chemicals in our drinking water. This is to ensure that we provide you the safest drinking water at or above state standards. During 2016 we experienced four violations of the state drinking water standards due to high arsenic. Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

The City Council and staff have made several steps in improving our drinking water. We have completed a Water Master Plan outlining specific areas of improvement and we have secured funding to implement our identified improvements. We have tested current technology to determine the best filtration process to remove Arsenic from our water as well as improve the source, storage and distribution of our treated water. We have issued a construction contract and expect these improvements to be completed by the Spring of 2018. If you have specific questions about our identified improvements, please contact Vale City Hall at (541-473-3133).

MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, 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. The City takes tests monthly for any possible coliform bacteria that may be found in our system.

While your drinking water does not meet EPA Standard for Arsenic, it does contain low levels of Arsenic. EPA's Standard balances the current understanding of Arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing the Arsenic from drinking water. EPA 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.

On January 6, 2006, the EPA Standard was set at 10 ppb instead of 50 ppb. This is what necessitated the completion of the arsenic project.

Additional information can be found on the internet at OREGON.GOV/DHS/PH/DWP/ Then click on data online,

REGULATED CONTAMINANTS									
DISINFECTANTS AND DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS	COLLECTION DATE	HIGHEST LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE OF DETECTED	MCLG	MCL	UNITS	VIOLATION	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION	
TOTAL				No Goal for Total					
TRICHALOMETHANES	10.24.16	17.5	17		80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination	
HALOACETIC ACID	10.24.16	7.0	7		60	ppb	N		

Not all sample results may be used for calculating the Highest Level Detected because some results may be part of an evaluation to determine where compliance sampling should occur in the future

INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS	COLLECTION DATE	HIGHEST LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE OF DETECTED	MCLG	MCL	UNITS	VIOLATION	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
ARSENIC	01.13.16	20.9	14.7 - 20.9	0	10	ppb	Y	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
	06.08.16	13.8	2.7 - 13.8				Y	
	08.10.16	17.7	13.7 - 17.7				Y	
	12.14.16	12					Y	
BARIIUM	05.19.08	0.456		2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes, discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
CHROMIUM	05.19.08	5.29	3.09 - 5.29	100	100	ppb	N	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
FLUORIDE	05.19.08	0.623	617 - 623	4	4	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate(measured as Nitrogen)	11.17.16	3.73	2.33 - 7.25	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
SELENIUM	05.19.08	3.21	1.79 - 3.21	50	50	ppb	N	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
LEAD	08.09.16	2.5	0 - 2.5	0	15	ppb	N	discharge from mines Household Plumbing
COPPER	08.09.16	0.651	0.0372 - 651	1.3		ppm	N	
RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS	COLLECTION DATE	HIGHEST LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE OF DETECTED	MCLG	MCL	UNITS	VIOLATION	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
COMBINED RADIUM	12.20.16	NO DETECTED	no range detected	0	5	pci/l	N	Erosion of natural deposits
GROSS ALPHA EXCLUDING RADON AND URANIUM	12.20.16	10	no range detected	0	15	pci/l	N	Erosion of natural deposits
URANIUM	12.20.16	0.050	no range detected	0	30	ug/l	N	Erosion of natural deposits

CITY WELLS HARDNESS IS 150 MGL OR 10 GRAINS

FOR THE YEAR 2016 THE CITY OF VALE RECEIVED 8 VIOLATIONS FOR HIGH ARSENIC LEVELS
 NON REGULATED CONSTITUENT SODIUM AT LEVEL OF 176 MG PER LITER
 THE STATE ALLOWS US TO MONITOR FOR SOME CONTAMINANTS LESS THAN ONCE PER YEAR BECAUSE THE CONCENTRATIONS OF THESE CONTAMINANTS DO NOT CHANGE FREQUENTLY. SOME OF OUR DATA, THOUGH REPRESENTATIVE, ARE MORE THAN ONE YEAR OLD.