

# The City of Vale, Oregon

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Malheur County Seat

## ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT For the Year 2018

*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, 2018. 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.

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 microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (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 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 Vale 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 from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Jack McElvany 541-216-0670. 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 2018 we experienced three 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. The Water System Improvement project was Completed in October. The 2018 fourth quarter arsenic results were well beneath the EPA Standards of 10ppb. 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.

[Additional information can be found on the internet at OREGON.GOV/DHS/PH/DWP/](http://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					
TRICHALOMETHANES	10.29.2018	4.26	4.05	4.26 for Total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination	
HALOACETIC ACID	10.29.2018	1.38	1.16	1.38	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	03.28.18	17.4	12.3	17.4	0	10 ppb	Y	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards runoff from glass and electronics product wastes
	06.21.18	18	13.0	18.0			Y	
	10.24.18	15.2	14.9	15.2			Y	
Nitrate(measured as Nitrogen)	11.19.18	6.84	5.51	6.84			N	
	12.11.18	2.93	2.44	2.93	10	10 ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
LEAD	08.09.16	2.5	0	2.5	0	15 ppb	N	Household Plumbing
COPPER	08.09.16	0.651	.00372	.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	0.010	no range detected	0	30	ug/l	N	Erosion of natural deposits

CITY WELLS HARDNESS IS 150 MGL OR 10 GRAINS FOR THE YEAR 2018 THE CITY OF VALE RECEIVED 3 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.