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Pacific, WA 98047

# City of Pacific

## 2015's

# Water Consumer Confidence Report

Published June 2016

We are pleased to present our Annual Water Quality Report for the reporting year of 2015. This report is designed to inform you about the water quality and services 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.

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### **City of Pacific Water Information & Water Service Area**

The City of Pacific currently utilizes groundwater from three wells for its public water supply and may receive water from the City of Auburn and/or Sumner in emergencies. The City's three water supply wells are located to the north of Ellingson Road and west of Pacific Avenue in the City of Algona.

Pacific disinfects its groundwater using a chlorination system and Sodium Hydroxide injection to bring the water to a neutral pH balance. The City maintains a 750,000 gallon storage reservoir and 30 miles of water mains. Lakehaven Utility District services residents in the West Hill area.

### **General Health Effects Information**

With groundwater-sourced drinking water, water travels through the ground dissolving naturally occurring minerals and in some cases can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity. Contaminants that may be present include microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, pesticides and herbicides and radioactive materials. To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems.

U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must only provide the same protection as public drinking water systems.

## Keeping Contaminants Out of Your Drinking Water

Cross-connections are channels for contaminants to spread throughout the public water distribution system. It is the City's main goal to eliminate cross connections whenever possible. However, when cross connections cannot be eliminated, they must be controlled by the installation of an approved backflow assembly. Backflow assemblies are often required to be installed on actual or potential hazards to the drinking water system such as: irrigation systems, boilers, fire protection systems, and properties with wells—to name a few. Water can be pulled backwards when water pressure drops within the distribution system. Pressure drops are not uncommon and without a proper functioning backflow assembly protecting hazardous connections, contaminants can easily be pulled back into the drinking water supply. Water inside an irrigation system can sit in the system for months, contains chemicals and holds harmful bacteria—not something you want mixed in with your drinking water! Backflow assemblies are required on irrigation systems and must be tested each spring by a certified backflow assembly tester. Boilers and properties with wells are also common hazards to the public drinking water system where the City of Pacific requires backflow protection. If you have questions regarding cross-connections and backflow assembly testing, please contact the City of Pacific's Cross-Connection Control Office at 253-929-1116.

### Lead and Copper

The City tested for Lead and Copper in September of 2013 to determine if the City's Corrosion Control system is maintaining the proper pH levels. All samples tested were below the action levels established by the Department of Health and Ecology. We again will be testing the water on July 18<sup>th</sup>. If you want to participate in collecting water samples at your home please contact Jim Schunke at 253-929-1116, or by emailing him at [jschunke@ci.pacific.wa.us](mailto:jschunke@ci.pacific.wa.us)

### For more information about drinking water

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Jim Schunke at 253-929-1116 or go to [www.cityofpacific.com/water](http://www.cityofpacific.com/water). We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. You may also find more information at the Environmental Protection Agency at 1-800-426-4791 ([www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater)), and the Washington State Department of Health at 206-464-7059 ([www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw](http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw)).

### Who needs to take special precautions?

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

### Water Quality Monitoring Requirements

State law requires municipal water systems to monitor for numerous contaminants on a regular basis. The City is pleased to report compliance with all water quality monitoring requirements. The State allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once a year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. The following table summarizes the City's water quality monitoring requirements on a four-year cycle.

Contaminant Type	Monitoring Requirement
Bacteriological Contaminants	Seven samples per month in the distribution system.
Inorganic Chemicals	One sample every three years at each well.
Lead and Copper	Randomly tested per DOH requirements.
Volatile Organic Chemicals	Sampled every three years at the Well field.
Synthetic Organic Chemicals	The City currently has a monitoring waiver for synthetic organic chemicals, because previous sample had no detectable levels.
Radionuclides	1 sample every 4 years at each well.
Trihalomethanes	Sampled every three years.

## Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of this report. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

Contaminants	SRL	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL	Your Water	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
<b>Organic Contaminants</b>							
Chloroform	0.25µg/L	N/A	N/A	1.9µg/L	8/19/2015	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Bromodichloromethane	0.5µg/L	N/A	N/A	1.5µg/L	8/19/2015	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorodibromomethane	0.5µg/L	N/A	N/A	1.1µg/L	8/19/2015	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes	0.5µg/L	NA	80µg/L	4.4µg/L	8/19/2015	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Drinking Water Definitions</b>							
Term	Definition						
µg/L	Microgram per liter						
AL	Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.						
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level: 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.						
MCLG	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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.						
mg/L	Milligrams per liter						
MPL	State assigned maximum permissible level.						
MRDLG	Maximum residual disinfection level goal. 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.						
NA	Not Applicable						
ND	Not Detected						
NR	Monitoring not required, but recommended.						
ppm	parts per million						
SRL	Indicate the minimum reporting level required by the Washington Department of Health (DOH)						

### Chemical Spill at the Boeing Fabrication Auburn Site

A cleanup study, called a remedial investigation (RI), is evaluating the extent of contaminated groundwater that originates on Boeing property. Groundwater in the area flows to the north and northwest of the Boeing Site. The area where contaminated groundwater is found, the “plume,” extends in this direction approximately one mile beyond the property boundary. Data from groundwater samples continue to show that site contamination does not affect Pacific drinking water sources, nor does it appear likely to do so.

For more information, please go to the Washington State Department of Ecology at [www.ecy.wa.gov](http://www.ecy.wa.gov)

## Frequently Asked Questions

**How can I get more involved in decisions affecting my drinking water?** *The Pacific City Council holds regular meetings at 6:30 p.m. at the Pacific City Hall on the second and fourth Mondays of each month.*

**Is bottled water cleaner and safer than tap water?** *Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contamination does not necessarily indicate that 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 at 1-800-426-4791.*

**Who regulates bottled water?** *The Federal Food and Drug Administration regulate contaminants in bottled water and is responsible for providing the same levels of public health protection.*

**Why is chlorine added to my water?** *Pursuant to State and federal laws, very small amounts of chlorine are added to your water as a disinfecting agent to protect you from disease-causing micro-organisms. If you are bothered by the chlorine taste, keep a pitcher of tap water in the refrigerator. The chlorine will dissipate rapidly if the water is allowed to sit for a time, or use a carbon filtration unit.*

**Is fluoride added to our drinking water?** *Neither the City of Pacific nor the City of Auburn adds fluoride to its drinking water supply.*

## Water Conservation

1. Water your lawn only when it needs it. An easy test to tell if your lawn needs water is to simply walk across the grass. If the lawn springs back you don't need to water, but if you leave footprints, water may be needed. An added benefit of watering less often is that fewer, deep-soaking waterings encourage deep root growth and stronger turf.
2. Water in the early morning. As much as 30 percent of water can be lost to evaporation by watering during midday.
3. Set your lawn mower one notch higher to make your lawn more drought-tolerant.
4. Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your sidewalk, driveway or patio.
5. Forego the hose and wash your car with a bucket and sponge instead. According to EPA WaterSense, a hose left running can waste as much as six gallons per minute while a bucket and sponge uses only a few gallons to do the job.
6. Run dishwashers and clothes washers only when they are full and adjust the water level of your washing machine to match the load size. If you have a water-saver cycle, use it.
7. Keep a bottle of cold tap water in the refrigerator. You'll avoid the cost and environmental impact of bottled water and you'll have cold water available in the summer without running the faucet.
8. A short shower is better than a bath! A full bathtub can require up to 70 gallons of water, while taking a 5-minute shower uses only 10 to 25 gallons.
9. Turning off the tap while you brush your teeth can save 8 gallons per day.
10. Regularly check your toilet, faucets and pipes for leaks and have them fixed promptly. An easy test for toilet leaks from EPA WaterSense: Place a drop of food coloring in the tank. If the color tints the water in the bowl without flushing, there's a leak. Another method is to check your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter changes at all, you probably have a leak. Downloadable leak detection kits are also available on American Water's website ([www.amwater.com](http://www.amwater.com)) in the Learning Center.

Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hable con alguien que lo entienda.

此报告包含有关您的饮用水的重要信息。请人帮您翻译出来，或请看懂此报告的人将内容说给您听。

В этом сообщении содержится важная информация о воде, которую вы пьёте. Попросите кого-нибудь перевести для вас это сообщение или поговорите с человеком, который понимает его содержание.

Tài liệu này có tin tức quan trọng về nước uống của quý vị. Hãy nhờ người dịch cho quý vị, hoặc hỏi người nào hiểu tài liệu này.

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