



CITY OF YREKA

2013 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of water 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 and safety of your water.

We test the drinking water quality for many constituents as required by State and Federal Regulations. This report shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 – December 31, 2013

Where does your water come from? Our water source is Fall Creek, which is approximately 25 miles northeast of Yreka. This is an abundant supply of high quality water, and does not vary appreciably from season to season. The City also has an emergency water source referred to as the North Well. It is located along Yreka Creek near Montague Road. This well is on emergency standby, and is capable of producing approximately 1 million gallons per day. This source meets drinking water standards as set by the California Department of Public Health, but the water is not as desirable as Fall Creek.



The California Department of Public Health, Klamath District, completed an assessment of the drinking water source for Fall Creek in January of 2003. Fall Creek is considered most vulnerable to the following activities: Mining - *Sand/Gravel*, Surface water - *streams/lakes/rivers*, and Transportation corridors - *Roads/Streets/Historic railroad right-of-ways*. The assessment states that there have been no contaminants detected in this water supply. A complete copy of the assessment for Fall Creek and the North Well is available at <http://swap.ice.ucdavis.edu/TSinfo/TSSources.asp?mySystem=4710011>.

How is the water treated and monitored? Water from Fall Creek is chlorinated and filtered before it is delivered to our customers. All water systems using surface water are required to routinely measure the turbidity or "clarity" of the filtered water. Turbidity measurements are needed in order to monitor the effectiveness of the filtration process at removing microbiological contaminants that may be found in surface water.



How do we verify that the water is free from harmful bacteria?

Water systems are required to meet a strict standard 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 the standard is exceeded, the water supplier must notify the public by newspaper, television or radio. No coliform bacteria were detected in the 159 samples taken from the distribution system in 2013.

Contaminants that may be present in source water:

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. Types of contaminants include:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria that may come from wastewater treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, that can be naturally occurring or results from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, and mining or farming.

Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water 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, and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants, which 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 California Department of Public Health 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.

Water Quality Tables: Tables 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 list all of the drinking water contaminants and water quality indicators 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 California Department of Public Health 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.

Note: To help you better understand the tables, definitions are provided on the following page.

TABLE 1 - SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF LEAD AND COPPER

Lead and Copper (sample sets are collected at least once every three years) Sampled 8/29/13	No. of samples collected	90 th percentile level detected	No. sites exceeding AL	Regulated Levels		Typical Source of Contaminant
				AL	PHG	
Lead (ppb)	20	ND	0	15	0.20	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	20	ND	0	1.3	0.30	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

TABLE 2 - 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)	11/02/11	5.65	N/A	none	none	Generally found in ground & surface water
Hardness (ppm)	11/02/11	74	N/A	none	none	Generally found in ground & surface water

TABLE 3 - 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
Gross Alpha Radiation (pCi/L)	07/20/09	ND	N/A	15	(0)	Erosion of natural deposits
Aluminum (ppm)	10/01/07	0.052	N/A	1	0.6	Erosion of natural deposits
Perchlorate (ppb)	08/29/13	4.4	N/A	6	6	Inorganic chemical used in rocket propellant, fireworks, explosives, and a variety of industries
TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes) (ppb)	2013	Avg: 29.3	24.1 – 35.9	80	N/A	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	2013	Avg: 28.7	23.7 – 34.1	60	N/A	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine (ppm)	01/13-12/13	N/A	0.25 – 1.43	[4.0]	[4.0]	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment

TABLE 4 - 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
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	11/02/11	107	N/A	1000	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Specific Conductance (uS/cm)	11/02/11	150	N/A	1600	N/A	Substances that form ions when in water
Chloride (ppm)	11/02/11	1.1	N/A	500	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits

TABLE 5 – SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING TREATMENT OF SURFACE WATER SOURCE

Treatment Technique ^(a) (Type of filtration technology used)	Direct Filtration
Turbidity Performance Standards ^(b) (that must be met through the water treatment process)	<u>Turbidity of the filtered water must:</u> 1 – Be less than or equal to 0.30 NTU in 95% of measurements in a month. 2 – Not exceed 1.0 NTU for more than 1 hour. 3 – Not exceed 1.0 NTU for more than 8 hours.
Lowest monthly percentage of samples that met Turbidity Performance Standard No. 1.	100% were less than or equal to 0.30 NTU
Highest single turbidity measurement during the year	November 2013: 0.27 NTU's
Number of violations of any surface water treatment requirements	No Violations

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

(b) Turbidity (measured in NTU) is a measurement of the cloudiness of water and is a good indicator of water quality and filtration performance. Turbidity results which meet performance standards are considered to be in compliance with filtration requirements.

In the table, there are many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT:

(MCL) Maximum Contaminant Level: 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.

(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 are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

(PHG) Public Health Goal: 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.

(MRDL) Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level: The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

(MRDLG) Maximum Residual Disinfectant 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.

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

(SDWS) Secondary Drinking Water Standards: 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.

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

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

Variations 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)

NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units

Only detected contaminants and the parameters that are most relevant to water quality appear in this report. Other contaminants that have been tested for, but not detected, are:

Arsenic, Antimony, Barium, beryllium, Cadmium, Fluoride, Mercury, Nickel, Selenium, Thallium, Radium 228, Nitrate, Nitrite, Benzene, Toluene, Vinyl Chloride, and Xylenes.

Additional 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 (800-426-4791).



Important Health Information: 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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

With the news of several California cities facing water restrictions, the Yreka Public Works Department has received calls from residents that have expressed concerns regarding the reliability of Yreka's water supply and the potential for drought restrictions this summer.

In June of 2011, the City of Yreka adopted its Urban Water Management Plan. The Plan outlines five stages of action that could be implemented if water supplies become insufficient to meet customer demands. Stage one (basic stage) is where the City operates under normal conditions and promotes landscape water efficiency to minimize peak summer demands and discourage the wasteful use of water. Based on a water shortage event, each stage could be implemented to achieve a reduction in water use by up to 50% to preserve water for critical uses such as public health and fire protection.

Fall Creek was chosen for its historically stable supply and has met the City's water needs through other periods of low rainfall since it was constructed in 1969.

Water efficiency efforts by Yreka residents have led to a reduction of over 10% annual water use since 2004 (approximately 90 million gallons). Water customers continue to play a key role in maintaining an adequate supply and avoiding water restrictions during dry periods.

Water Saving tips can be found on the City of Yreka Website at <http://ci.yreka.ca.us/> under the "Utilities" section or you can call 841-2370 for more information.

Thank you for reading this Report and taking the time to learn about the efforts and challenges that are involved in providing high quality drinking water. If you have questions about this information, please contact Rob Taylor, Water Manager, at 841-2370. Public participation is welcome at our City Council meetings, which are held at 6:30 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays of every month at the City Council Chambers, 701 Fourth Street.

We take pride in providing safe, clean, quality water to every tap. 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.

The City of Yreka is a proud member of:



California
Rural Water Association