

# 2020 WATER QUALITY REPORT



# The City of Pendleton Works Hard to Provide High Quality Water Services to You!

The City continues to move forward with several important projects related to the water filtration and resource recovery plants that serve you, our customers, and we want you to know.

Did you know the City's Public Works Department operates and maintains:

108

MILES OF **WATERLINES**

89

CENTERLINE MILES OF **ROADS**

88

MILES OF **SEWER LINES**

40

MILES OF **STORM DRAIN PIPES**

6

MILES OF **OPEN DRAINAGE**

4

MILES OF **UMATILLA RIVER FLOOD CONTROL LEVEE SYSTEM**

The completed master plan is available online. To view or download, please visit <https://pendleton.or.us/publicworks> and click on the left-hand Documents tab, then scroll down to the Water Utility document section. See how the City is planning for the future of our community and how to best meet the water system needs and maintain reliable services for you.

**FUN  
FACT**

Pendleton was one of the first cities in Oregon to use **Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) technology** to help restore groundwater levels. Since 2003, the city has "banked," or left, just under 10 billion gallons of natural groundwater in the aquifer.

# 5 TIPS to Conserve Water Outside this Summer!

As stewards of the most precious resource, water, we all need to continue to do our part to conserve water. It will help with the livability and vitality of our community, plus it can save you money!



Only water grass, not sidewalks, driveways and streets.

Water between 6:00 pm and 10:00 am.



Check for leaks at hose connections, in hoses and with all sprinklers.

Use automatic shut off nozzle for any hose.



If planting, consider drought resistant plants or any plants requiring less water.

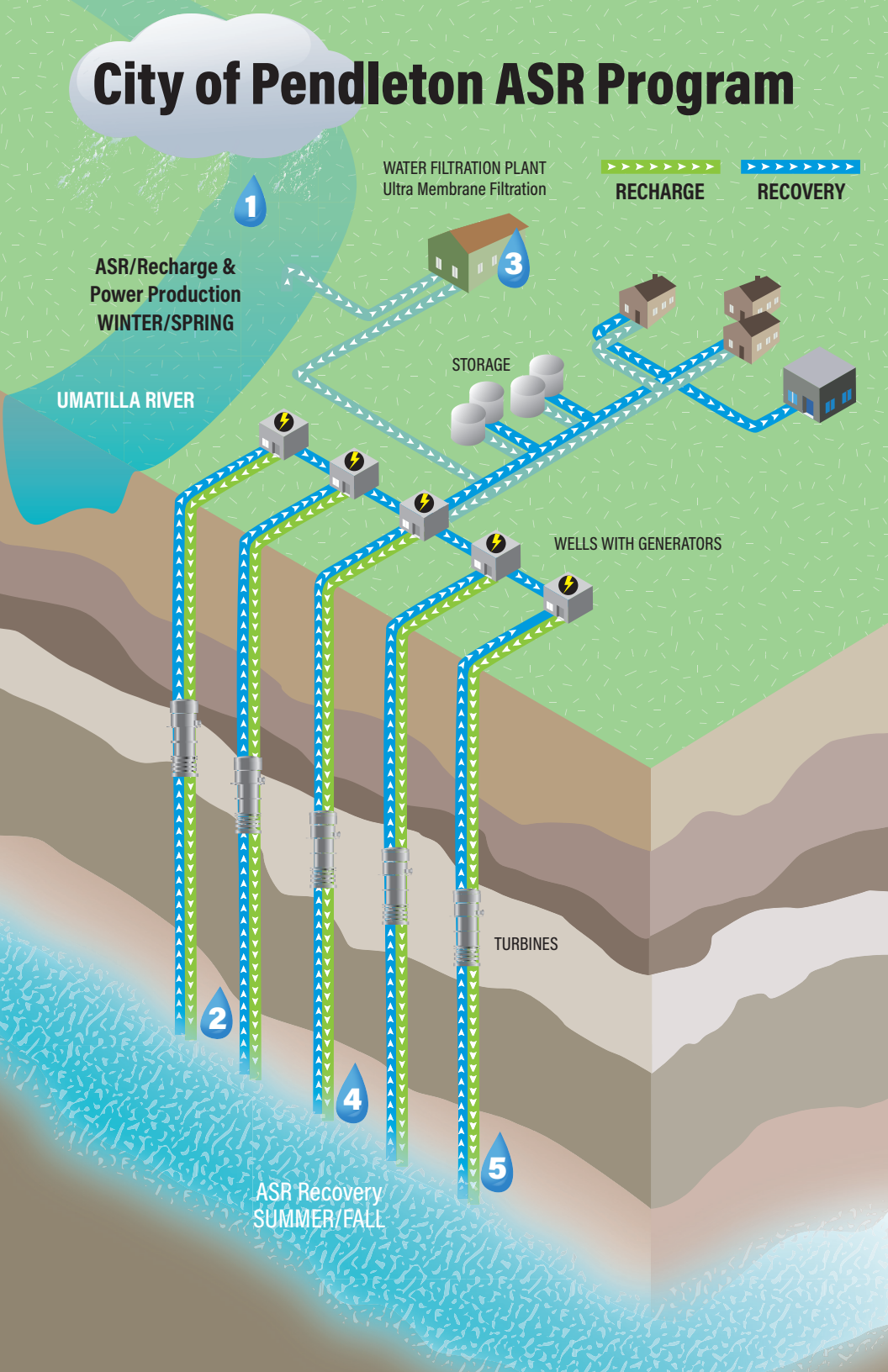
## Keep fats, oils & grease out of your drain to prevent clogged pipes and sewer back-ups!

- Pour cold fats, oils and grease into a covered, disposable container and throw it into your garbage. Never pour fats, oil or grease down sink drains or toilets.
- Soak up spilled oils and grease with an absorbent material such as paper towels or kitty litter and throw into your garbage.
- Before you wash dishes, scrape food scraps, fats, oils and grease into your garbage.
- Use sink strainers to catch any remaining food waste while washing dishes.



**FIGHT  
F.O.G.**  
(Fats, Oils & Grease)

# City of Pendleton ASR Program



# Water Filtration Plant (WFP)

The City's Water Filtration Plant turned 17 years old in June 2020. This facility not only allows the City to meet current and future drinking water standards, but it also allows us to store high quality water in the underground aquifer through Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR). During the winter and spring months each ASR well injects water into the aquifer for storage, which allows us to generate electricity.

The City currently has five ASR wells which allow us to store excess water in the underground aquifer and generate power while doing so through the Energy Recovery Technology (ERT) Project. Initial estimates indicate the ERT will produce approximately 350 megawatt hours (MWh) of power annually, providing about \$17,406 in electricity credits during 2020. The facility is located on Goad Road southeast of Pendleton.

## Aquifer Storage & Recovery (ASR)

- 1** Source water is pumped from the river (Recharge phase) to the WFP in winter/spring when the Umatilla River flow is above 250 cfs.
- 2** Source water is pumped from the aquifer (Recovery Phase) in summer/fall when the Umatilla River flow is below 250 cfs.
- 3** After ultra membrane filtration at the Water Filtration Plant, source water is pumped into the City storage and distribution system. About 1.4 billion gallons of filtered water are sent through the City water system each year.
- 4** In winter/spring, excess filtered water is pumped into the aquifer, which generates electricity. The City received about \$17,406 in electrical credits in 2020 which helps to offset the annual \$500,000 electrical bill for the water system.
- 5** The City averages about 800 million gallons of water each year that are deposited and stored in the aquifer. The City has left just under 10 billion gallons of native groundwater in the aquifer since the ASR program began.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Water entering the Water Filtration Plant passes through about three million membrane filtration strands that have pores so small that bacteria cannot pass through. Laid end-to-end, these strands would be over 3,000 miles in length!

# Your Stormwater System at a Glance



Stormwater is untreated water that comes from rain and water runoff from land and properties, including over-watering. The water picks up pollutants along the way including fertilizer, oils, debris, pet waste etc, and flows into the storm drains.

Stormwater travels through sections of the 40 miles of storm drain pipes the City manages before running directly into the Umatilla River or the Patawa, Tutuilla or McKay Creeks.

# All water and contaminants that enter storm drains go directly into our environment.

Storm drain contamination is one of the major causes of pollution in our rivers, lakes, and streams. To control stormwater, the City of Pendleton operates and maintains a 40 mile system of underground pipes and catch basins to transport rain and snow melt into the ground, rivers and streams. This water does not get treated so we need to keep contaminants out of our storm drains.

## LITTLE KNOWN FACTS ABOUT OUR STORMWATER SYSTEM:

**Storm drains do NOT treat the water that flows into the drains.** When RV and pet waste, along with any paints, fertilizer or car wash soap, enter storm drains, it all flows directly into our beautiful environment causing foul odors and pollution.



**Storm drains do NOT prevent flooding when clogged.** Weeds, dirt, grass clippings and leaves, when left on the road and driveway, eventually find their way to the drain. This can cause the drain to clog and create possible flooding of your property.

**Storm drains do NOT protect the fish, rivers and streams.** There is no difference between pouring pollutants (paint, fertilizer, oils) down a storm drain and dumping them directly into the river.



**Street cleaning protects water quality and minimizes the burden on the storm drain system from surface debris.** Regular removal of leaves and debris by members of the public as well as the City Crews is necessary to prevent stormwater drains from clogging, which can result in street flooding. Annually,

the Street Cleaning Program sweeps over 4500 miles curb line and collects over 1500 cubic yards of debris within the City of Pendleton, including residential streets and major arterial streets.



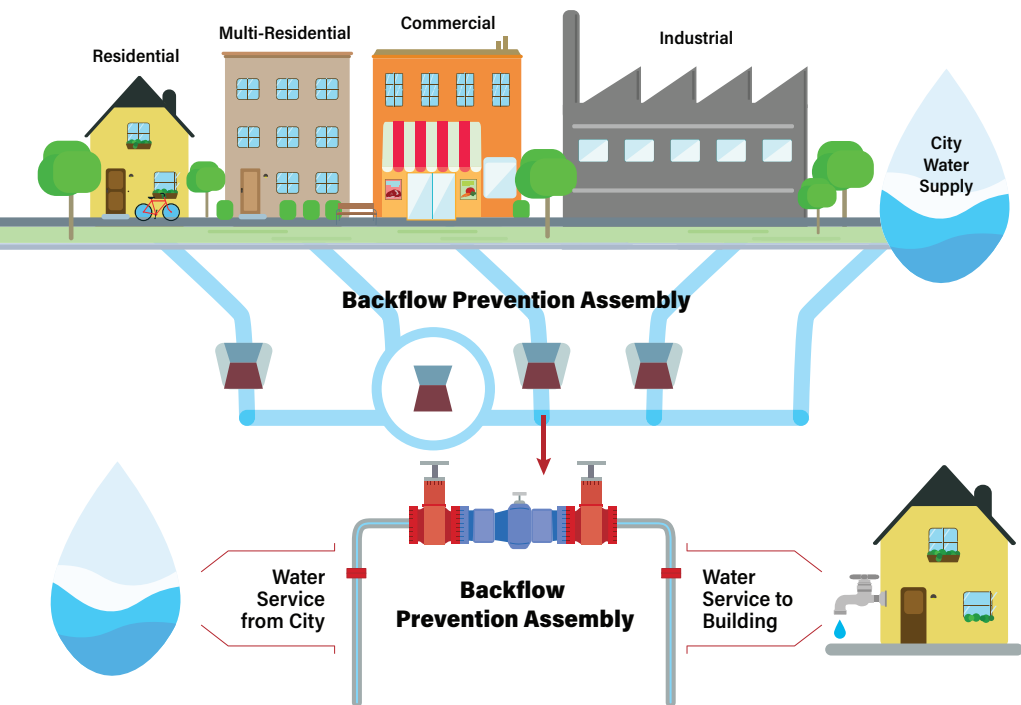
*For questions regarding the stormwater system, please contact:*

**Public Works Office at 541-966-0202 or  
Public Works Shops at 541-276-3078**

# ONLY RAIN DOWN THE DRAIN...

# CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL PROGRAM

- ✓ Required by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Drinking Water Regulations and the EPA
- ✓ Backflow devices are required by state and federal law to be tested annually
- ✓ Keeps drinking water clean and safe for you and your neighbors



**BACKFLOW:** The undesirable reversal of flow of water or mixtures of water and other liquids, gases, or other substances into the City's water system.

**BACKFLOW PREVENTION ASSEMBLY:** Any approved assembly used to prevent backflow into a potable water system.

## COMMON CROSS-CONNECTION EXAMPLES

These common household and commercial connections to the public water system pose a threat to our clean water if not protected by the appropriate Backflow Prevention Assembly.



*Additional Cross Connection Control / Backflow Prevention information will be provided in your June 2020 utility bill.*



# THE CITY OF PENDLETON WORKS HARD TO PROVIDE HIGH QUALITY WATER FOR YOU!

The City of Pendleton Public Works Department is pleased to provide you with this summary of 2020 drinking water quality information. We want to keep you informed about the water and services we have delivered to you over the past year. Our goal is, and always has been, to provide you a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. There are two sources of drinking water for the City. The first source consists of 7 deep basalt wells located throughout the City and another deep basalt well located 6 miles east of the City near Mission. The second source is the Umatilla River. Beginning in December, 2003, the City began withdrawing water from the Umatilla River and filtering it through the high tech membrane ultra-filtration process at the Water Filtration Plant.

**We are pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets federal and state requirements. This report shows the City's water quality as delivered to you in 2020.**

## HEALTH INFORMATION

The Water Division routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to federal and state laws. Chlorine is added to the water for disinfection purposes and to assist with meeting federal and state requirements. The tables included in this report show the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2020, or, in some cases, the results of the most recent sampling completed in accordance with state and federal regulations. All 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 Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (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).

## EXPLANATION OF EXPECTED CONTAMINANTS

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.

Contaminants that may be present in City of Pendleton source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from septic systems, livestock, or wild animals.

- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm-water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, mining or farming activities.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as farming, home or business use, or urban storm-water runoff.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm-water runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can occur naturally.

In order 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. Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) 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 (approximately 2 quarts) 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. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

## AQUIFER STORAGE AND RECOVERY (ASR)

The City continues to store high-quality drinking water produced in its membrane filtration WFP in the basalt aquifer system beneath the City. That water is stored during the winter months when there is adequate water in the Umatilla River. The stored water is recovered during the summer months when demand is high. The process is referred to as Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR). Five ASR wells are now in operation.

In 2020, the City had another good ASR program year. This year the City stored 516 million gallons (MG) of filtered Umatilla River water in the aquifer and recovered all of the stored water and 104 million gallons (MG) of ground water from the 8 deep basalt wells. Since 2003, the City has been able slow the trend of declines in the groundwater aquifer and now relies primarily on surface water. In fact, the City has "banked" or left in the aquifer about 9.981

billion gallons of native groundwater since the Aquifer Storage and Recovery project began. This equates to leaving a yearly average of about 587 million gallons of native ground water in the aquifer. During 2020, the groundwater levels declined 0.6 feet. The seventeen years of this ASR project have clearly demonstrated that aquifer recharge, storage and recovery is a viable method for Pendleton to store and recover filtered water and also assist in reducing native groundwater declines.

## UNREGULATED CONTAMINANT MONITORING

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) as amended in 1996 requires the EPA to establish criteria for a program to monitor unregulated contaminants in drinking water and to identify no more than 30 contaminants to be monitored every five years. The name of this EPA program is Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR). The EPA's purpose for monitoring selected unregulated contaminants is to gain nation-wide data to evaluate. The EPA will then decide whether or not to regulate these selected contaminants in the future for the protection of public health. Pendleton was randomly chosen to participate in the UCMR program. There have been four UCMR cycles to date. The development of a fifth UCMR (UCMR-5) began in 2018. For Pendleton, the 5th UCMR sampling cycle is scheduled to start in January 2023.

The items listed in Table 1 below were the only UCMR-4 contaminants detected in Pendleton's water during the last monitoring period in 2018. Levels are listed in parts per billion (ppb). The maximum level that was detected in a sample is reflected in Table 1 below. Twenty-one other UCMR monitored contaminants were not detected.

**Table 1**  
**RESULTS OF MONITORING FOR**  
**UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS (UCMR)**

Manganese	ND
Cyanotoxins	ND
HAA's	30.9 ppb

## DEFINITIONS

*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:*

**Not Available (NA)** - some values are not available at this time.

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

**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 (µg/l)** - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

**Parts per trillion (ppt) or Nanograms per liter (nanograms/l)** - one part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000,000.

**Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)** - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

## MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS

Microbiological testing of water helps protect the public from diseases. Chlorine is added to drinking water as a disinfectant to destroy or inactivate bacteria, viruses, and protozoa. City of Pendleton drinking water is routinely sampled for both total coliform Bacteria and E. Coli Bacteria. Total coliform bacteria are naturally present in the environment, and the presence of E. Coli bacteria indicates that water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. There were 240 routine microbiological samples taken throughout the distribution system in 2020. No E. Coli bacteria was detected in 2020.

## LEAD AND COPPER

In 2020, the City conducted OHA-DWP mandated lead and copper sampling at 30 residences within City limits. The MCL for Lead is .015 ppm. Seventeen out of 30 residences had lead detections; none exceeded the MCL action level. The overall reportable 90th percentile sampling results were at .003 ppm. The MCL for Copper is 1.3 ppm. Out of 30 residences, none exceeded the MCL action level. All results are posted on the OHA Drinking Water Program website under the City of Pendleton Water System. The next mandated lead and copper sampling is scheduled for the summer of 2023.

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. 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 (800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

## RESULTS OF REGULATED MONITORING FOR 2020

NOTE: The contaminants listed in the Tables below are the only regulated contaminants detected in Pendleton's water during the most recent monitoring period. Monitoring was completed in 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020. Not listed in Table 2 were **21** volatile organic compounds, **30** synthetic organic compounds, and **18** inorganic compounds, for which we tested for but were not detected.

**Table 2**

Parameter	Highest for Compliance	Range of Level Detected		MCL (highest) safe level allowed	MCLG (ideal goal)	Complies? (Is it OK?)	Potential Sources of Contaminant
		Minimum	Maximum				
Turbidity	.58 NTU	.02 NTU	.58 NTU	5.0 NTU	NA	<b>YES</b>	Soil runoff, algae

### INORGANICS:

Barium	0.022 ppm	.009 ppm	0.022 ppm	2 ppm	2 ppm	<b>YES</b>	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	0.22 ppm	ND	0.22 ppm	4 ppm	4 ppm	<b>YES</b>	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate	4.92 ppm	.05 ppm	4.92 ppm	10 ppm	10 ppm	<b>YES</b>	Erosion of natural deposits; animal waste; fertilizer; sewage; septic tanks
Nitrite	0.48	ND	0.48	1 ppm	1 ppm	<b>YES</b>	Erosion of natural deposits; fertilizer

### DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS:

Total TrihaloMethanes (TTHMs)	41.6 ppb	10.3 ppb	41.6 ppb	80 ppb	0	<b>YES</b>	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Halo Acetic Acids (HAAs)	30.9 ppb	ND	30.9 ppb	60 ppb	0	<b>YES</b>	By-product of drinking water chlorination

### RADIONUCLIDES:

Gross Alpha	798 pCi/L	ND	798 pCi/L	15 pCi/L	0	<b>YES</b>	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium 226/228	ND	ND	ND	5 pCi/L	0	<b>YES</b>	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Uranium	7 ppb	2.4 ppb	7 ppb	30 ppb	0	<b>YES</b>	Erosion of natural deposits

Disinfection Residuals		Minimum	Maximum	MRDL	MRDLG	Complies? (Is it OK?)	Potential Sources of Contaminant
Chlorine Residual @ First User		0.27 ppm	0.96 ppm	4 ppm	4 ppm	<b>YES</b>	Water additive to control microbes

**Table 3**

## RESULTS of MONITORING FOR LEAD & COPPER at RESIDENTIAL WATER TAPS

Parameter	90th Percentile Values	No. of Sites Exceeding Action Level/No. Tested Sites	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	Complies? (Is it OK?)	Potential Sources of Contaminant
Lead	3.0 ppb	0/30	15 ppb	0	<b>YES</b>	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits
Copper	0.135 ppm	0/30	1.3 ppm	1	<b>YES</b>	

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)** - nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**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 (MCL)** - The 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 (MCLG)** - The 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.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)** - the highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)** - the level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health.



**City of Pendleton**  
**Public Works Department**  
500 SW Dorion Ave  
Pendleton, OR 97801

### **WANT MORE INFORMATION?**

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water quality. If you have any questions about this report or the City of Pendleton Water Division, please contact the Regulatory Specialist at 541-966-0249.

PRE-SORT STD.  
U.S.  
POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT #57  
PENDLETON  
OR