SOUTHWEST LINCOLN COUNTY WATER PUD 2020 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

PWS 00925

Is my water safe?

Yes! During the year of 2020 we conducted 36 routine bacteriologic analysis tests and **ALL** sample results were **negative** for Coliform bacteria. Our water meets or exceeds all State and Federal water quality standards set by EPA and OHA. We have provided a detailed table with all our sample results from the past year.

This report is a snapshot of last year's, 2020, water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies (EPA & OHA). We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies. The system is classified as a Community Water System by Oregon Health Authority (OHA).

Do I need 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).

Where does my water come from?

Your water comes from three (3) surface water streams within the Siuslaw National Forest: Dicks Fork, Big Creek and Starr Creek. We also have a surface stream diversion on private land from Vingie Creek, the drainage area for Vingie Creek is mostly within the Siuslaw National Forest. We have raw water intakes at each of these four streams. The raw water from Dicks Fork flows to our Dicks Fork Treatment Plant. The raw water from Big Creek, Vingie Creek and Starr Creek flows to our Blodgett Treatment Plant.

Treatment process

Our Dicks Fork and Blodgett Treatment Plants both utilize the same treatment process. The treatment process utilizes a conventional treatment process: coagulation, sedimentation, and filtration. Coagulation involves the addition of a polymer and alum to encourage the clumping of contaminants in the water. We also add soda ash, as needed, to adjust for proper pH. The coagulant settles out of the water and the water is then filtered through a mixed media of progressively smaller sand. Next we add a minimal amount of chlorine to the water and pump the finished water to an enclosed storage reservoir before distribution to our customers.

Does SWLCWPUD add fluoride to the water?

No. Fluoride naturally occurs in water at very low levels. You may want to ask your dentist or doctor about supplemental fluoride for preventing tooth decay. This is especially important for young children.

Watershed protection plan

A Watershed Protection Plan has been performed for the system. The PUD is dedicated to the protection of the drinking water. The PUD will perform an update to source water assessment and developing a source water protection plan in the coming years.

Why could there be contaminants in my 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 water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). 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.

How Can I Get Involved?

The Southwest Lincoln County Water PUD Board of Directors holds a monthly meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 10:00 A.M. in our office located at: 7740 Hwy 101 N., Yachats, OR 97394 Please feel free to participate in these meetings. Your input is important to us!

Monitoring and Reporting of Compliance Data Violations

We are pleased to inform you we had no monitoring or reporting violations.

Additional Information for Lead

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead can enter drinking water when plumbing materials that contain lead corrode, especially where the water has high acidity or low mineral content that corrodes pipes and fixtures. The most common sources of lead in drinking water are lead pipes, faucets, and fixtures. In homes with lead pipes that connect the home to the water main, also known as lead services lines, these pipes are typically the most significant source of lead in the water. Lead pipes are more likely to be found in older cities and homes built before 1986. Among homes without lead service lines, the most common problem is with brass or chrome-plated brass faucets and plumbing with lead solder.

SWLCWPUD 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 www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Additional information for Nitrate

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.

Typical sources for nitrate are runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tank sewage and erosion of natural deposits.

Data Table Key: Unit Definitions

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.

N/A: not applicable
Some contaminants do not have a health-based level or goal defined by the EPA.

NTU: nephelometric turbidity unit
A unit for measuring the turbidity, or cloudiness, of a water sample.

ppm: parts per million
Water providers use ppm to describe a small amount of a substance within the water. In terms of time, one part per million is about 32 seconds out of one year.

ppb: parts per billion
Water providers use ppb to describe a very small amount of a substance within the water. In terms of time, one part per billion is about 3 seconds out of 100 years.

pCi/L: picocuries per liter
Picocurie is a measurement of radioactivity.

TT: treatment technique
A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water

For More Information Please Contact:

Tui Anderson *– District Manager*
(541) 547-3315
tanderson@swlcwpud.org

Regulated Contaminant	Level Detected		EPA Standard		Sources of Contamination
	Minimum	Maxium	MCL or TT	MCLG	
Untreated Raw Water					
Turbidity (NTU)	0.450	8.101	TT	NA	Soil runoff
Treated Drinking Water					
Total Coliform Bacteria (% >20 colonies/100 mL in 6 months)	ND	ND	0	0	Naturally present in the environment
Radioactive Contaminats					
Alpha emitters pCi/L Last test 2017 Next test 2026	N	ND	15	0	Erosion of natural deposits
Beta/photon emitters pCi/L Last test 2017 Next test 2026	N	ND	4	0	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Combined radium pCi/L Last test 2017 Next test 2026	N	ND	5	0	Erosion of natural deposits
Inorganic Contaminants					
Asbestos (MFL) Last test 2017 Next test 2026	N	ND	7	7	Decay of asbestos cement water mains; erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic (ppm) Last test 2017 Next test 2026			0.010	0.005	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Blodgett TP	N	ND			
Dicks Fork TP	N	ND			
Sodium (ppm) Last test 2017 Next test 2026			NA	NA	Rain water; Chemicals used in treatment process
Blodgett TP	N	10.7			
Dicks Fork TP	N	10.3			
Sulfate (ppm) Last test 2017 Next test 2026			250	NA	Chemicals used in treatment process
Blodgett TP	N	5.54			
Dicks Fork TP	N	6			
Nitrate (ppm) Last test 2017 Next test 2026			10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Blodgett TP	N	0.27			
Dicks Fork TP	N	ND			

Regulated Contaminant	Level Detected		EPA Standard		Sources of Contamination
	Minimum	Maxium	MCL or TT	MCLG	
Synthetic Organic Contaminants including Pesticides and Herbicides					
All SOC's (ppb) Last test 2019 Next test 2025	N	ND	70	70	
Volitle Organic Contaminants					
All regulated VOC's Last test 2018 Next test 2024	N	ND			
Unregulated VOC Chloroform (ppm) Last test 2018 Next test 2024					Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Blodgett TP	N	0.0052			
Dicks Fork TP	N	0.0036			
Unregulated VOC Dibromochloro-methane (ppm) Last test 2018 Next test 2024					Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Blodgett TP	N	0.0036			
Dicks Fork TP	N	0.0021			
Unregulated VOC Bromodichloro-methane (ppm) Last test 2018 Next test 2024					Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Blodgett TP	N	0.0057			
Dicks Fork TP	N	0.0031			
TTHM (ppm)	N	0.0019	0.080	0	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (Haa5) (ppm)	N	0.0071	0.060	0	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination