

## City of Rigby 2003 Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report

We are pleased to present our 2003 water quality report. Distribution of this annual report is a requirement by law under the 1996 amendments of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The purpose of this Consumer Confidence Report is to notify the public of the previous year's drinking water quality. In order to ensure your safety, the City follows a drinking water sampling schedule overseen by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality which monitors for over 80 constituents that may be present in public water systems.

### Where Does Your Water Come From?

The City of Rigby obtains its drinking water from the Snake River Plain aquifer through three wells located throughout the City. Water is provided to the residents of Rigby through approximately 1100 residential service connections and 300 business service connections. The water pumped from the Snake River Plain aquifer is of high quality, and minimal treatment is needed because of the high level of natural filtration the water receives as it flows through the ground.

### How Do Contaminants Get Into the Water?

Contaminants are anything other than pure water. Both tap water and bottled water originate as surface water from rivers and lakes or as ground water from springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material. Water also picks up wastes from both human and animal activities. Filtration becomes important for removing many of these potential contaminants. Because of the potential for groundwater to contain high levels of contaminants, monitoring of the drinking water is important to ensure it is safe to drink. It is reasonable to expect drinking water to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the City's Public Works Department at 745-8111 or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

#### **Contaminants that may be present include:**

*Microbial contaminants* such as bacteria, viruses, and protozoa are very small living creatures that may be natural and harmless or harmful if originating from septic systems, agricultural livestock operations or wildlife.

*Inorganic contaminants* such as salts and heavy metals can be naturally occurring or can result from urban storm water runoff, farming, mining, or industrial or domestic wastewater discharges.

*Pesticides and herbicides* may come from a variety of sources such as agricultural, stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

*Radioactive contaminants* are naturally occurring or can result from oil and gas production and mining activities.

*Organic chemical contaminants* include synthetic and volatile organic chemicals which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

### *Your Drinking Water Quality*

The attached table shows some of the constituents that are monitored in public drinking water systems. During the 2003 sampling year, your drinking water was tested for nitrate, total coliform bacteria, lead, copper, and radioactive contaminants. We are pleased to report that your water met all regulatory health standards for each of these contaminants.

### *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 microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791). EPA ensures that tap water is safe to drink by writing regulations that limits both natural and man made contaminants. We strive to ensure our water meets both state and federal regulations.

### *Community Participation*

The City of Rigby encourages public participation in decisions regarding drinking water. If you have comments or concerns, please let us know by calling the City Hall at 745-8111 or attending our monthly City Council meetings at the City Hall building on the first and third Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m..

**Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua beber. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.**

Regulated Water	MCLG	MCL	Sample Date	Violations	Typical Source of Contaminant	Comments
Total coliform bacteria	0	1	Monthly	No	Naturally occurring	Tested monthly
Nitrate as N (ppm)	0.77	10	1/31/2003	No	Run off from fertilizer	Tested annually
Lead (ppb)	0.003	0.015 AL	12/1997	Yes <sup>1</sup>	Corrosive water & home plumbing	Tested once every three years
Copper (ppm)	0.1	1.3 AL	12/1997	Yes <sup>1</sup>	Corrosive water & home plumbing	Tested once every three years
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	5.5	0	6/25/2003	No	Erosion of natural deposits	Tested once every four years
Beta/Photon emitters (pCi/L)	5.5	0	6/25/2003	No	Decay of natural man-made products	Tested once every four years
Radium-combined 226/228 (pCi/L)	ND	0	6/25/2003	No	Erosion of natural deposits	Tested once every four years

ppm: parts per million or milligrams per liter ppb: parts per billion or micrograms per liter pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** 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 Contaminant Level (MCL):** 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.

**Action Level (AL):** the concentration of a contaminant, which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements a water system must follow.  
 ND: not detected

**Total Coliform:** Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially-harmful bacteria may be present. Coliform bacteria found in two or more samples are a warning of potential problems and usually triggers a precautionary boil notice.  
**Nitrate:** Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants less than six months of age. When levels approach 10 ppm, ask for advice from your care provider about blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of well construction, usage, rainfall, and local contamination.  
**Lead:** Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.  
**Copper:** Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor.

**Alpha emitters:** Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation. Some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

**Beta/Photon emitters:** Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit forms of radiation known as photons and beta radiation. Some people who drink water containing beta and photon emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

**Radium 226/228:** Some people who drink water containing radium 226 or 228 in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

**Violations:**

<sup>1</sup>The City of Rigby failed to monitor for Lead and Copper during the 2001-2003 monitoring period. Samples were analyzed in January 2004 to begin the process of becoming compliant once again.