

## WHY DID YOU RECEIVE THIS REPORT?

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has rules that require drinking water systems to provide water quality information to their customers annually. This report provides the water quality testing results and explanation of these results for the year 2014. Aside from the requirements of the EPA, It is important to us that our customers are made aware of, and understand these results. This report is presented while following set guidelines, and might seem technical in nature, but if you have questions that are not answered please see the section of this report that lists contacts of those who could provide additional information to you. This report is being provided by The City of Talent, and will reference information from the two sources of our Drinking Water, Medford Water Commission, & City of Ashland.

## WHAT CONTAMINANTS MIGHT BE PRESENT

The source 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 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 human activity.

The contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic tanks, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharge, oil and gas production, 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, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water 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, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.



**City of Talent**  
PO Box 445  
Talent, OR 97540



Issued June 2015  
Based on 2014 water quality data

# the water we drink

ANNUAL QUALITY WATER REPORT  
FOR THE CITY OF TALENT



This Report contains important information about your water supply.

Este document contiene informacion muy importante sobre la calidad del agua en su comunidad. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

## WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

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 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.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant woman and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The City of Talent 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 <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

## WHERE OUR WATER COMES FROM

The City of Talent purchases water through agreement from the Medford Water Commission. The majority of this water comes from Big Butte Springs, just outside the town of Butte Falls. It is considered a ground-water source and has exceptional quality that requires only disinfection, with no other treatment necessary. When water demand is at its greatest, usually the summer months, The Water commission supplements by using water from the Rogue River. This source is surface water and requires full treatment. This is done by utilizing ozonation, flocculation/sedimentation, filtration and disinfection.

The City of Talent also receives a small amount of its drinking water from The City of Ashland. This due to the recent T.A.P project that tied Ashland to Talents water system as an Emergency water source during low water years. The return water from Ashland is necessary to keep the water in the transmission main flowing at a rate that will not allow water to just sit in this pipeline and degrade. The City of Ashland water comes from surface run off that collects in their Reter resevier, as well as surface water that they receive from Talent Irrigation District. This water is directed thorough Ashland's water treatment facility where particulates and harmful microorganisms are removed before entering into the distribution system.

Historically these sources have proved to be of exceptional quality, which provide drinking water to several water systems in our region.

### DEFINITIONS

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

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

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

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Goal (MRDLG):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

**Non Detect (ND):** Not detected at an established minimum reporting level.

**PICOCURIES Per Liter (pCi-L):** A measure of radioactivity in a one liter volume.

**Parts Per Million-Parts Per Billion (ppm/ppb):** One part per million or per billion means that one part of a particular substance is present for every million or billion parts of water.

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

**Total Organic Carbon (TOC):** The amount of carbon bound in an organic compound and is often used as a non-specific indicator of water quality.

### CONTACTS

#### **City of Talent (PWID: 41-00857)**

Bret Marshall, Public Works Superintendent: 541-535-3828  
Email: [BMarshall@cityoftalent.org](mailto:BMarshall@cityoftalent.org) • [www.cityoftalent.org](http://www.cityoftalent.org)  
City Council Meetings 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 6:30pm  
Town Hall, 206 E. Main St

#### **Medford Water Commission (PWID: 41-00513)**

Rosie Pindilli, Water Quality Administrator: 541-774-2728  
Email: [wtrcom@ci.medford.or.us](mailto:wtrcom@ci.medford.or.us) • [www.medfordwater.org](http://www.medfordwater.org)  
Board Meetings 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 12:30pm  
Lausmann Annex, 200 S. Ivy St. Room 151

#### **City of Ashland (PWID: 41-00047)**

Greg Hunter, Water Treatment Plant Supervisor  
541-488-5345  
Email: [Huntermg@ashland.or.us](mailto:Huntermg@ashland.or.us)  
City Council Meetings 1st and 3rd Tuesda at 7:00 pm  
1175 E. Main St.

#### **Jackson County Health Department**

Environmental Health 541-774-8206

#### **Oregon Health Authority**

Drinking Water Program 1-917-673-0405  
<http://public.health.oregon.gov/HealthyEnvironments/DrinkingWater>

**EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791**

### Ashland Water Microbiological Contaminant Analysis

Substance	MCL (Maximum Allowed)	MCLG (Ideal Goal)	Detected Level	Complies?	Typical Source
Coliform Bacteria	Detected	0% Presence	ND	Yes	Naturally Present in the Environment

### Ashland Water Radioactive Contaminants

Substance	MCL (Maximum Allowed)	MCLG (Ideal Goal)	Amount Detected	Typical Source
Gross Alpha	15 pCi/L	0	ND	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Radium Combined	5 pCi/L	0	ND	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Uranium Combined	0.03 mg/L	0	ND	Erosion of Natural Deposits

### Ashland Water Inorganic Contaminant Analysis

Substance	MCL (Maximum Allowed)	MCLG (Ideal Goal)	Amount Detected	Typical Source
Asbestos	7 MFL	7MFL	ND	Erosion of Natural Geologic Deposits, Decay of Asbestos-Cement Pipe
Nitrate	10 mg/L	0%	ND	Runoff From Fertilizer Use, Leaching From Septic Tank/Drainfields, Erosion of Natural Deposits
Sodium From Ashland Water	No Limit	N/A	10.5 (mg/L)	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Sodium From T.I.D.	No Limit	N/A	11.4 (mg/L)	Erosion of Natural Deposits

### Ashland Water Total Organic Carbon (TOC)

Substance	MCL (Maximum Allowed)	MCLG (Ideal Goal)	Range of Detected (mg/L)	Average Detected (mg/L)	Typical Source
TOC Ashland Raw Water	No Limit	N/A	1.67-4.70	2.66	Water Treatment Process, and Natural Decaying Organic Matter
TOC T.I.D. Raw Water	No Limit	N/A	2.30-2.53	2.42	Water Treatment Process, and Natural Decaying Organic Matter
TOC Ashland Finished Water	No Limit	N/A	0.86-1.69	1.33	Water Treatment Process, and Natural Decaying Organic Matter

### Medford Water Commission Regulated Contaminants Analysis

Substance	MCL (Maximum Allowed)	MCLG (Ideal Goal)	Source	Average Amount Detected	Range	Complies?	Typical Source
Barium (ppm)	2	2	Big Butte Springs	0.004	N/A	Yes	Erosion of natural Deposits
			Rogue River	0.004			

### Medford Water Commission Microbiological Contaminants

Substance	MCL (Maximum Allowed)	MCLG (Ideal Goal)	Detected Level	Complies?	Typical Source
Coliform Bacteria	Present in ≤ 5% of Monthly Samples	0% Presence	Present in 1% of September Samples	Yes	Naturally Present in the Environment
E. coli	0	0	0	Yes	Human and Animal Fecal Waste

### Medford Water Commission Radioactive Contaminants

Substance	MCL (Maximum Allowed)	MCLG (Ideal Goal)	Amount Detected	Typical Source
Radon 222	Proposed 4000 pCi/L	Proposed 0 pCi/l	Big Butte Springs - 155 pCi/L	Erosion of Natural Deposits

### Medford Water Commission Other Analysis

Substance	TT (Maximum Allowed)	% of Samples Meeting Standard	Complies?	Typical Source
Turbidity	Rogue River: 95% < 0.3 NTU Big Butte Springs: N/A	100%	Yes	Soil Erosion and Stream Sediments

### UNDERSTANDING THE RESULTS

There are literally hundreds of tests that are run on our drinking water each year to ensure that there is no harmful levels of any substance present. Due to continuously improving testing technique, contaminants can now be detected at minuscule levels. All contaminants that were detected are at levels well below health standards, as shown on the included tables. Our testing is required according to specific schedules. During 2014 Talent received a violation for failure to submit monthly routine coliform samples for March. This was due to an oversight, when the samples were collected on the last day of February, and were logged for the month of February. Given that the test results taken on the last day of February were all absent for coliform, it is unlikely that there were any adverse health effects that went undetected due to this lapse, and we returned to compliance in April. If you wish to view additional monitoring results, a Water Quality Analysis can be obtained from The City of Talent.

### TESTING FOR MICROBES:

Unlike most contaminants microscopic organisms can appear suddenly and cause immediate illness. Testing for bacteria is therefore done on a frequent basis by Talent, Ashland, and Medford. This includes looking for coliform bacteria, as well as confirming that adequate chlorine is present in our drinking water to provide ongoing disinfection. While most coliforms do not pose a health threat, they are a good indicator of other bacteria that might be present. If a sample shows the presence of coliform, further testing is conducted for the presence of harmful forms of bacteria.

### CHLORINE RESIDUAL:

Chlorine is the only disinfectant that remains in water to provide continuous disinfection throughout the water system. Therefore, some chlorine is typically utilized even if another primary disinfectant is also used. Samples taken throughout the distribution system confirm that the amount of chlorine present is neither too low nor too high. Our water is disinfected with much less chlorine than is allowed, and residual testing is similarly low.

### DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS:

Disinfection to inactivate harmful microbes is extremely important to protect public health. During the disinfection process by-products can form, some of which can be harmful if they occur at sufficient levels over a long period of time. Various measures are taken to keep these by-products to a minimum, while insuring that adequate disinfection is achieved.

### LEAD AND COPPER:

Lead and copper can enter drinking water through contact with household plumbing or water system piping. Because of this, additional testing is conducted at private residences that are considered to be at greatest risk for elevated amounts of lead and copper. Our water is not prone to high levels of these metals, but if present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems. Refer to the "What you should know" section of this report, or go to <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead> for more information on the possible health risk.

### TURBIDITY:

Turbidity is a measure of how clear water is. Turbidity in itself does not necessarily indicate that water is unhealthy, but can interfere with the disinfection process and can be an indicator of microorganisms.

### RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS:

These contaminants can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. Of all that were tested for, only Radon-222 had detectable levels. The most common source of this colorless, odorless gas is from soil, but a small amount of exposure can come from tap water. Regular testing is conducted, but radon is not currently regulated. Radon is considered to be a cause of cancer.

### Disinfection and Disinfection By-Product Analysis

Substance	Entity	Average for Highest Location	Range	MCL (Maximum Allowed)	MCLG (Ideal Goal)	Complies	Typical Source
Total Trhalomethanes (ppb)	Talent	0.00465	ND-0.0113	80	0	Yes	By-Product of Chlorination used in Water Treatment
	Ashland	0.0287	0.0169-0.0536				
	Medford	8.63	ND-17.5				
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	Talent	0.00118	ND-0.00473	60	0	Yes	By-Product of Chlorination used in Water Treatment
	Ashland	0.0224	ND-0.0387				
	Medford	6.23	ND-19.5				
Chlorine Residual (ppm)	Talent	0.48	0.21-0.66	4.0 (MRDL)	4.0 (MRDLG)	Yes	Treatment additive for disinfection
	Ashland	0.61	0.11-0.98				
	Medford	0.55	0.33-0.73				

### Unregulated Contaminant Analysis

Substance	Water Source	Average Amount Detected	Range	Complies	Typical Source
Chromium 6 (ppb)	Big Butte Springs (MWC)	0.2	0.19-0.20	Not Regulated	Erosion of natural deposits
	Rogue River (MWC)	0.12	0.11-0.13		
	Ashland	0.00044	ND-0.000091		
Chlorate (ppb)	Big Butte Springs (MWC)	37	20-56	Not Regulated	By-Product of Disinfection
	Rogue River (MWC)	378	150-610		
	Ashland	0.123	0.079-0.190		
Strontium (ppb)	Big Butte Springs (MWC)	71	68-73	Not Regulated	Erosion of natural deposits
	Rogue River (MWC)	54	52-55		
	Ashland	0.096	0.080-0.110		
Vanadium (ppb)	Big Butte Springs (MWC)	13	12.0-13	Not Regulated	Erosion of natural deposits
	Rogue River (MWC)	2.3	2.0-2.5		
	Ashland	0.00056	0.00049-0.00066		

### Lead and Copper Sampling from Residential Water Sources

Substance	Entity	Amount Detected	Date of most recent test	Action Level	MCLG	Complies	Typical Source
Lead (ppb)	Talent	1.5	2013	90% of homes tested must have Lead levels less than 15 ppb	0	Yes	Corrosion of household Plumbing
	Ashland	0.0013	2014				
	Medford	1.4	2013				
Copper (ppm)	Talent	0.523	2013	90% of homes tested must have Copper levels less than 1.3 ppm	1.3	Yes	Corrosion of household Plumbing
	Ashland	0.138	2014				
	Medford	0.783	2013				

