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2015 Drinking Water Report

The Board of Directors and Staff are proud to provide you with this report about the Heceta Water People's Utility District's drinking water. This report is for the period of January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015. This report will inform you about your water and the possible contaminants in the water. If, after reading this newsletter you need more information, please do not hesitate to call the District office.

Is my water safe?

During the calendar year of 2015, your tap water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the state of Oregon drinking water health standards. HWPUD employees work vigilantly to provide you with safe drinking water and once again we are proud to report that our system has not violated any maximum contaminant levels.

Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised individuals such as people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy or those 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 Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Where does my water come from?

Your drinking water comes from Clear Lake. For more information on Clear Lake and its protection zone, please visit the District's website at www.hwpud.com. The water is pumped from the lake to the District's treatment plant where it is treated and then delivered throughout the distribution system and into our four finished water reservoirs. The treatment facility is located next to the District office. If you would like a tour of the treatment facility, please call the office and schedule a tour.

Source water assessment and its availability

In 2001, the District, in conjunction with Oregon State Department of Environmental Quality and Department of Human Services (now called Oregon Health Authority) completed a source water assessment. The purpose of the report is to provide information so that the public system's staff, consumers, and community citizens can develop strategies to protect our drinking water source. You may review a copy of the assessment at the HWPUD's office.

Why are there 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 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) 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: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, 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 discharges, 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 by-products of industrial processes and

petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems; and 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 that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

How can I get involved?

The District has monthly Board of Directors’ meetings. They are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 4pm. You may also call the District office for other information.

Conservation Tips

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost or no-cost ways to conserve water. Fix toilet and faucet leaks. Take short showers – a 5-minute shower uses four to five gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath. Turn the faucet off while brushing your teeth and shaving; three to five gallons go down the drain per minute. Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. The District has low use shower heads and other conservation tools available at the office. Make it a family effort to reduce next month’s water bill. Please visit www.epa.gov/watersense for more water conservation ideas.

Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of this report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG</u> or <u>MRDLG</u>	<u>MCL,</u> TT, or <u>MRDL</u>	<u>Your</u> <u>Water</u>	<u>Range</u> <u>Low</u> <u>High</u>	<u>Sample</u> <u>Date</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products							
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.)							
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	8.34	NA	2015	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	NA	TT	0.704	NA	2015	No	Naturally present in the environment
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	33.4	NA	2015	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Inorganic Contaminants							
Sodium (optional) (ppm)		MPL	9.9	NA	2011	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching
Microbiological Contaminants							
Turbidity (NTU)	100% of the samples were below the TT value of 0.3.				2015	No	Soil runoff

A value less than 95% constitutes a TT violation.

The highest single measurement was 0.25 NTU. Any measurement in excess of 1 NTU is a violation.

<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>AL</u>	<u>Your</u>	<u>Sample</u>	<u># Samples</u>	<u>Exceeds</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
			<u>Water</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Exceeding AL</u>	<u>AL</u>	
Inorganic Contaminants							
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0	2013	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	0	2013	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Unit Descriptions	
<u>Term</u>	<u>Definition</u>
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
NTU	NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
<u>Term</u>	<u>Definition</u>
MCLG	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.
MCL	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.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection 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.
MRDL	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.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

PLEASE READ THIS REPORT – INSIDE IS INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua beber. Traduscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

The Board of Directors and Staff at Heceta Water People’s Utility District are proud to provide you with this report. Your district is governed by a five member Board of Directors. Below are the current Directors and staff members.

Board of Directors

Wendy Rohner, President

Chuck Gesik

Bob Hursh

Jim Sievers

Debby Todd

District Staff

Carl Neville, General Manager

Cindy Estes, Billing Clerk

Matt Hiatt, Operator in Training

Vickie Kennedy, Office Manager

Jeremy Moore, Lead Operator

Cam Ward, Operator in Training