SANDPOINT ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR 2006

This report covers the operation of Sandpoint's water treatment plants for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2005. The report summarizes results of tests that reflect the quality of water produced during that period. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards established by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Idaho Division of Environmental Quality (IDEQ).

The report covers results from tests conducted during 2005 for over 35 potential drinking water contaminants. Only 8 of those potential contaminants were present in the drinking water this year in concentrations that could be detected using current methods of analysis. None of the detected contaminants occurred at levels that represented a violation of any regulatory standards.

SUSCEPTIBILITY TO CONTAMINANTS

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 people, and some infants can be particularly at risk from infection. 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).

WATER SOURCES

The City of Sandpoint produces potable water at two facilities: The Sand Creek Plant (water source is Little Sand Creek) and the Lake Plant (water source is Lake Pend O'reille). The water from these sources is treated (coagulated and filtered) to remove contaminants and is then disinfected (chlorinated) to protect against microbial agents. Powdered activated carbon is also used at the Lake Plant for taste and odor control. Approximately 95% of the water produced annually comes from the Sand Creek Plant under normal operating conditions. The Lake Plant is used primarily to satisfy increased demands for water during the summer months. During 2005, 674.0 million gallons of water were produced by both plants, 95% of which came from the Sand Creek Plant. The plants are operated by, or under the supervision of, government-certified water treatment plant operators.

A Source Water Assessment study has been conducted by the IDEQ to establish potential sources of contamination in the watersheds for both plants. Copies of reports describing the results of this study are available for review at the office of the Public Works Department. In general, the study found that potential sources of contamination in the Creek Plant watershed are minimal and primarily natural in origin. Because the Clark Fork River is the major source of water for Lake Pend O'reille, the entire Clark Fork River basin must be taken into consideration when assessing potential contaminants for the Lake Plant. Because of the large size of this basin and its proximity to transportation corridors and various industrial and agricultural operations, the potential sources of contaminants for the Lake Plant are numerous and quite diverse.

Should the proposed Rock Creek Mine become reality, that facility could represent an additional source of contamination for the Lake Plant.

POTENTIAL CONTAMINANTS

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 on 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 source water before treatment include:

* Microbial Contaminants - such as viruses, protozoans, and bacteria which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

* Inorganic Contaminants (IOCs) - such as salts and metals which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

* Pesticides and Herbicides (SOCs) - synthetic organic contaminants which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture and residential uses.

* Radioactive Contaminants - which are naturally occurring.

* Organic Chemical Contaminants (SOCs and VOCs) - including synthetic (SOCs) and volatile (VOCs) 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.

* Disinfection By-products (DBPs) - including halogenated and oxidized by-products formed by reaction of disinfectants with natural constituents. These by-products are commonly classified as THMs (trihalomethane derivatives) and HAAs (haloacetic acid derivatives).

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Sandpoint water treatment plants are operated under the jurisdiction of the EPA and IDEQ in accordance with these regulations. Contaminant limits for bottled waters are established by the Food and Drug Administration to provide protection for consumers of these products.

WATER QUALITY DATA

There were no violations of treatment standards that necessitated regulatory actions during the 2005 testing period.

The accompanying tables show the results of monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2005. Separate tables are provided for water produced by the Sand Creek Plant and the Lake Plant. Most analyses were conducted on samples of finished water collected at the water treatment plants immediately

prior to introduction into the distribution system. Samples for volatile organic contaminant (VOC) analyses are routinely collected at one site, a hydrant in the Edelweiss Village area. Samples for assessing the concentration of disinfection byproducts (trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids) at the periphery of the system were taken at the Idaho Department of Lands and the Kootenai-Ponderay Sewer Plant. Results from these tests are shown in the Sand Creek table.

Of the 108 samples taken for coliform bacteria analysis in 2005, none showed the presence of these organisms.

All tests required by the regulatory agencies were conducted on schedule. Tests for a number of potential contaminants were not conducted during 2005 either because of regulatory waivers or because testing for certain contaminants is not required on an annual basis. In accordance with the regulations that govern the content of this report, only results from the most recent tests (conducted within the last five years) in which contaminants were actually detected are included in the tables. The Appendix to this report lists the other contaminants for which analyses were conducted (within the last five years) but for which no residues were detected.

Terms and abbreviations used in the Tables:

* 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.

* Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) - 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.

* Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) - 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 contamination.

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

* Action Level (AL) - The concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers additional treatment requirements or other corrective measures which a system must follow.

* Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) - A measure of the clarity of the water. Turbidity (which below 5 NTU is barely noticeable to the average person) is a good indicator of the effectiveness of a filtration system in removing particulate matter such as microbial agents.

n/a = not applicable; ppb = parts per billion or micrograms per liter (equivalent to 1 pound in 500,000 tons); ppm = parts per million or milligrams per liter (equivalent to 1 pound in 500 tons); pCi/L = picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation.

MORE INFORMATION

The purpose of this report is to provide you with information that describes the quality of water that is produced by the Sandpoint Water Treatment Department. We hope that it might help alleviate any concerns you may have about the safety of your drinking water. We also hope that it gives you a better understanding of the effort that is directed toward ensuring that the water delivered to you is of consistently high quality. The Sandpoint Water Treatment Department is committed to maintaining, and where feasible, improving upon these high standards.

Chlorine taste and odor - Chlorine is added to drinking water at levels required by the regulatory agencies to deactivate potential disease causing organisms, e.g., those that cause typhoid, dysentery, cholera, etc. Untold numbers of lives have been saved since chlorine was introduced as a disinfectant in drinking water in the early 1900's. (More than 25,000 people died in the U.S from typhoid alone in 1900.) Despite its unmistakable benefits, many people object to the odor/taste of chlorine in their water. By holding water in an open wide-mouthed container for 12 hours at room temperature, most of the chlorine will evaporate. The water can then be placed in a closed container in the refrigerator for drinking purposes. Most people find that this simple technique eliminates objectionable tastes and odors due to chlorine in the water.

What's that pink stuff? - People sometimes discover that a pink-colored residue has appeared on moist surfaces (toilet bowels, sinks, pet dishes, etc.) in their homes. In most cases, this is caused by the growth of widely distributed bacteria known as *Serratia marcescens.* Since they are deactivated by chlorine, these airborne bacteria are not present in the water delivered to the home. Instead, these water-loving organisms are commonly transported to the site through the air on dust particles. Although the bacteria do not normally pose a serious health risk, they can cause the formation of rather unsightly residues. Keeping susceptible surfaces dry and/or treating them with diluted bleach can help minimize the problem.

For more information about your water, please contact Dave Pafundi (Supervisor of the Water Treatment Department: 263-3440) or Kody VanDyk (Director of Public Works: 263-3407). You are also invited to attend our regularly scheduled meetings to learn more about matters pertaining to your drinking water. The Sandpoint Public Works Committee meets on the first Wednesday of each month and the Sandpoint City Council meets on the third Wednesday of each month. Additional information pertaining to various aspects of water treatment can be obtained at the Internet Home Page of the American Water Works Association (www.awwa.org).

COMMUNITY AWARENESS

In keeping with the recommendations of the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism and Response Act of 2002, citizens are urged to report any suspicious activities involving water treatment and distribution facilities to local law enforcement authorities.

Test Results from the Sand Creek Plant

Substance	Violation	Level Detected	Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely source of contamination
Microbial Contaminants						
Turbidity[1]	no	0.151	NTU	n/a	TT	Soil Runoff
Radioactive Contaminants						
Beta/Photon emitters[2]	no	1.1	pCi/L	0	50	Decay of natural deposits
Alpha emitters[2]	no	0.4	pCi/L	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Inorganic Contaminants						
Copper[3]	no	0.5	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing
Lead[3]	no	7.0	ppb	0	AL=15	systems; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride[4]	no	1.4 max 0.3 min	ppm	4	4	Water additive
Sodium[5]	no	3.88	ppm	n/a	n/a	Natural constituent; treatment additive
Chlorine[6]	no	1.7 max 0.3 min	ppm	MRDL= 4	MRDLG= 4	Water additive used to control microbes.
Volatile Organic Contaminants						
Total Trihalomethanes[7]	no	21.0	ppb	n/a	80	By-products of chlorination
Total Trihalomethanes[8]	no	3.0	ppb	n/a	80	By-products of chlorination
Disinfection By-products						
Total Trihalomethanes[9]	no	13.1 (17.2 max 9.0 min)	ppb	80	80	By-products of chlorination
Total Haloacetic acids[9]	no	19.0 (22.0 max 16.0 min)	ppb	60	60	
Nonvolatile Organic Contaminants						
Total Organic Carbon[10]	no	0.3 (1.1max 0.0 min)	ppm	n/a	TT	Naturally present in environment

1. Value shown is the highest detected during the entire year. All of the measurements fell below the turbidity limits during each month. The yearly average of all average daily turbidity values was 0.030 NTU. Regulations require that 95% of all measurements must be below 0.3 NTU for each month and must never exceed 1 NTU.
2. Data are from the 2001 analysis period.
3. Samples for lead and copper analyses were collected at twenty residences throughout the distribution system. Numbers are 90th percentile values obtained during the 2004 testing period.
4. Average fluoride concentration for the 9-month treatment period was 0.9 ppm. Fluoride, which is not added at the Lake Plant, is added only from October through June at the Sand Creek Plant.
5. Sample was collected at the Creek Plant in 2003.
6. Average chlorine residual for the year was 0.83 ppm.
7. Chloroform (20.4 ppm) and bromodichloromethane (0.6 ppm) were the only trihalomethanes detected. Sample was collected at the Edelweiss hydrant during 2005.
8. Sample was collected at the Creek Plant in 2000.
9. Values are averages of two samples taken during the 2005 testing period. Samples were taken at two sites at the periphery of the distribution system.
10. Value is the average of four samples taken during 2005.

Test Results from the Lake Plant

Substance	Violation	Level Detected	Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely source of contamination
Microbial Contaminants						
Turbidity[1]	no	0.212	NTU	n/a	TT	Soil Runoff
Radioactive Contaminants						
Beta/Photon emitters[2]	no	1.3	pCi/L	0	50	Decay of natural deposits
Alpha emitters[2]	no	1.0	pCi/L	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Inorganic Contaminants						
Sodium[3]	no	2.4	ppm	n/a	n/a	Natural constituent, treatment additive
Barium[2]	no	0.08	ppm	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium[2]	no	10	ppb	100	100	Erosion of natural deposits. Discharge from pulp mills.
Sulfate[2]	no	18.4	ppm	n/a	n/a	Natural constituent
Fluoride[2]	no	0.4	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine[4]	no	0.942 max 0.20 min	ppm	MRDL= 4	MRDLG= 4	Water additive used to control microbes.
Volatile Organic Contaminants						
Total Trihalomethanes[5]	no	16	ppb	n/a	80	By-products of chlorination

1. Value shown is the highest detected during the entire year. All of the measurements fell below the turbidity limits during each month. The yearly average of all average daily turbidity values was 0.059 NTU. Regulations require that 95% of all measurements must be below 0.3 NTU for each month and must never exceed 1 NTU.
2. Data are from the 2001 analysis period.
3. Value was obtained from the 2003 testing period.
4. Average chlorine residual for the year was 0.53 ppm.
5. Chloroform (14.0 ppb) and bromodichloromethane (2.0 ppb) were detected. Sample was collected at the Lake Plant during 2000.

Appendix

* Radioactive Contaminants - The finished water at both plants was tested for the presence of Radium 226 and Radium 228 in 2002. Neither of these contaminants was detected.

* Synthetic Organic Contaminants (SOCs) - The finished water at both plants was tested for Dalapon, Dinoseb, Pentachorophenol, Picloram, 2,4-D, 2,4,5-TP, and Dicamba in 2000.
None of these contaminants was detected. Based on previous results, a waiver has been granted to our system for reduced testing of SOCs.

* Inorganic Contaminants (IOCs) - The finished water from both plants was analyzed for Barium, Cadmium, Chromium, Mercury, Nitrate, Selenium, Cyanide, Nickel, Antimony, Beryllium, Thallium, Arsenic, Fluoride, Sodium, Sulfate, and Aluminum (Lake Plant only) in 2001. Except as indicated in the tables, none of these contaminants was detected.
The finished water from both plants was analyzed for arsenic and nitrate in 2005. Neither was detected.

* Volatile Organic Contaminants (VOCs) - In addition to the THMs listed in the Creek Plant Table, samples from the Edelweiss Village hydrant and two sites at the periphery of the system were tested for the following VOCs in 2005. None of these contaminants was detected.

1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene	o-Dichlorbenzene	Carbon Tetrachloride
cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene	p-Dichlorobenzene	1,2-Dichloropropane
Bromoform	Vinyl Chloride	Trichloroethylene
Dibromochloromethane	1,1-Dichloroethylene	1,1,2-Trichloroethane
Xylenes-Total	trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene	Tetrachloroethylene
Dichloromethane	1,2-Dichloroethane	Monochlorobenzene
Toluene	1,1,1-Trichloroethane	Benzene
	Ethylbenzene	Styrene