DEAR WATER CUSTOMER,

The 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act requires that water utilities provide information to their customers with respect to the quality of their water. The City of Idaho Falls is proud of its water quality and views this requirement as an opportunity to share that pride with its water customers. To insure water quality and safety, the water is routinely sampled and tested. This test data is supplied to and monitored on a regular basis by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Idaho Falls water consistently meets or exceeds water quality standards and the results of these tests are maintained on file at the City’s Water Division, the DEQ and the EPA.

Idaho Falls receives its water from nineteen (19) deep wells located throughout the City. Water supplied by these wells comes from the East Snake River Plain Aquifer and is of high quality. A small amount of chlorine is added to the water as a precautionary measure to protect against microbial contaminants that might enter the water system.

The source of any drinking water (either tap water or bottled water) includes rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, springs, 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. Contaminants that may be present in source water before we treat it include:

- **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural and 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 and farming.
- **Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture and residential uses.

**Radioactive contaminants**, which are naturally occurring.

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

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. We treat our water according to DEQ and EPA regulations. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide similar protection for public health.

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. The EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) contains more information about contaminants and potential health effects.

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/DEQ guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Learn more...

Check out the City website, including the Water Division’s web page with answers to frequently asked questions along with public education brochures and activities. The Water Division webpage can be found at: http://www.idahofallsidaho.gov/402/Water

WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY IS IT?

A water service line is the smaller line that transmits water from the larger water main in the street to your home. When they leak or rupture, it can be manifest by a noise or by water seeping up through the ground. As leaks are noticed, the typical question asked is, “Who’s responsible for repairing the leak?” If a leak is noticed, the Water Division can help determine the answer to this question.

Ownership and maintenance responsibility of service lines is separated at a valve known as a curb stop, which is located at or near the property line. When shut off, the curb stop will terminate any leak on the homeowner’s side. However, if the leak persists when the curb stop is off, it is the City’s responsibility to repair the leak. If a leak is found on the homeowner’s side of the service line, it becomes their responsibility to contact a plumber or contractor to have it repaired.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. How much does it cost to have someone come turn off my water at the street? This service is free of charge. Call 208-612-8471 to have someone come out.

2. Where/how do I pay my bill? Bills can be paid online with your account number through the City website at https://www.idahofallsidaho.gov/467/Idaho-Falls-Utilities. Or pay by phone with your account number by calling 844-235-2019.

3. I’m setting up my water softener, what is the water hardness? Water hardness is 14 grains per gallon.

4. Why is there an irrigation charge and a water charge? The City has made the decision to split the cost of irrigation charges. Instead of charging more in the summer time for watering lawing, the charge is spread throughout the year.

5. Where can I find the more information on the City’s elevated water tower project? The plan can be found on our website https://www.idahofallsidaho.gov/1378/Water-Tower

WE ARE HERE TO ASSIST YOU

If you have any questions or comments regarding the content of this report, please contact:

**City of Idaho Falls Water Division**
PO Box 50220, Idaho Falls, ID 83405
564 Hemmert Ave., Idaho Falls, ID 83401
Phone: 208-612-8471 Fax: 208-612-8385
Email: drichards@idahofallsidaho.gov

Water Quality Report for water testing during the 2021 Calendar Year
(Distributed June 2022)
### REGULATED SUBSTANCES DETECTED BY SAMPLING CITY WELL SITES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contaminant Sampled</th>
<th>MCL or AL</th>
<th>MCLG</th>
<th>Well Site Average</th>
<th>Range Detected</th>
<th># Well Sites Sampled</th>
<th>When Last Sampled</th>
<th>Is there a Violation?</th>
<th>Typical Sources of Contaminant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nitrate</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>1.6-2.6</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Runoff from fertilizer use; leaking from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arsenic</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td>0.0-0.002</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards, runoff from glass and electronics production wastes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barium</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.09</td>
<td>0.06-0.13</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fluoride</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.2-0.4</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Water additive which promotes strong teeth; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alpha Particles</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>0-2.6 pCi/L</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Erosion of natural deposits of certain minerals that are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uranium</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.0-2.0 ppb</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Erosion of natural deposits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### REGULATED SUBSTANCES DETECTED BY SAMPLING SELECTED SITES WITHIN THE SERVICE AREA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contaminant Sampled</th>
<th>MCL or AL</th>
<th>MCLG</th>
<th>Location Average</th>
<th>Range Detected</th>
<th># Locations Sampled</th>
<th>When Last Sampled</th>
<th>Is there a Violation?</th>
<th>Typical Sources of Contaminant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Trichloroethane (TCE)</td>
<td>80 ppb</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>4.4 ppb</td>
<td>2.8-8.2 ppb</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Twice/yr 2021</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>By-product of drinking water disinfection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Halogenated Acids (HAA5)</td>
<td>60 ppb</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>0.59 ppb</td>
<td>0.64-1.6 ppb</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Twice/yr 2021</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>By-product of drinking water disinfection</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### REGULATED SUBSTANCES DETECTED BY SAMPLING AT TAPS FROM BUILDINGS IN THE SERVICE AREA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contaminant Sampled</th>
<th>MCL or AL</th>
<th>MCLG</th>
<th>Annual # or %Positive</th>
<th>Range Detected</th>
<th>Total Samples</th>
<th>When Sampled</th>
<th>Is there a Violation?</th>
<th>Typical Sources of Contaminant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Coliform Bacteria</td>
<td>&lt;5%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0.12% (1 of 850)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>Twice Monthly</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Naturally present in the environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lead (90% Value)</td>
<td>15 ppb</td>
<td>0 ppb</td>
<td>3.1 ppb</td>
<td>0.33 ppb</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Erosion of pipes within the water system, erosion of natural mineral deposits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copper (90% Value)</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>0.251</td>
<td>0.016-0.516</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Erosion of pipes within the water system, erosion of natural mineral deposits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Answers to Some Frequently Asked Questions

- **What are typical sources of contaminants that can be found in drinking water?**
  - **Public Health Goal (PHG):** This is a standard established by the EPA for contaminants that are known or expected to be hazardous to health.
  - **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** This is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set to protect public health.
  - **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** This is a non-enforceable standard that the EPA recommends for the protection of public health.

- **Regulated Substances:**
  - **Nitrate:** This contaminant can come from septic systems, sewage, and irrigation activities.
  - **Arsenic:** This contaminant can come from natural geothermal activity and mining operations.
  - **Barium:** This contaminant can come from natural geothermal activity and mining operations.
  - **Fluoride:** This contaminant can come from natural geothermal activity and mining operations.
  - **Alpha Particles:** This contaminant can come from uranium in water or soil.
  - **Uranium:** This contaminant can come from natural geothermal activity and mining operations.

- **Why are MCLs set lower than MCLGs?**
  - MCLGs are non-enforceable standards that the EPA recommends for the protection of public health. MCLs are set to protect public health despite the additional costs.

- **How do MCLs affect daily life?**
  - MCLs do not affect daily life. They are established to protect public health and are not related to the taste or smell of water.