

# 2010 Consumer Confidence Report for the City of Pullman Drinking Water System

**Dear Water Customers:**

The Pullman Water Department is pleased to present a summary on the quality of the water provided to you during the past year. The federal Environmental Protection Agency Safe Drinking Water Act requires that utilities issue an annual “Consumer Confidence” report to customers in addition to other notices that may also be required by law. This report details where our water comes from, what it contains, and the risks that water testing and water treatment are designed to prevent. The city of Pullman is committed to providing you with a safe and reliable water supply. Informed customers are our best allies in maintaining safe drinking water.

The city of Pullman’s drinking water meets or surpasses most federal and state drinking water standards.

Call us for more information about the next opportunity for public participation in decisions about our drinking water, or find out more on the Internet at [www.pullman-wa.gov](http://www.pullman-wa.gov).

**Overview**

In 2010, the city of Pullman water department pumped, treated, and distributed over 877 million gallons of water. The average daily use per capita for the year was 107 gallons per person. The city also distributed free water conservation devices to the public. Over 25 miles of the city’s water mains were inspected for water leaks; 2 leaks on city piping were identified and promptly repaired. The city of Pullman is an active member of the Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee (PBAC) and, with the support of Pullman citizens, has made great strides in maintaining, protecting, and conserving the City’s water supply. For more information on the mission of

PBAC visit the PBAC Web site at [www.webs.uidaho.edu/pbac/](http://www.webs.uidaho.edu/pbac/).

**Water Source**

The city of Pullman is supplied by ground-water pumped from six wells located throughout the city. The wells range in depth from 167 to 932 feet.

**An Explanation of the Water Quality Data Table**

The table displays the results of our water quality analyses. Every regulated contaminant that was detected in the water—even in the minutest traces, is listed here. The table contains the name of each substance, the highest level allowed by regulation (MCL); the ideal goals for public health, the amount detected, the usual sources of such contamination, footnotes explaining the findings, and a key to units of

measurement. The following definitions of MCL and MCLG are important:

- **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a 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.
- **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.

**Required Additional Health Information**

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes limits on the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Our drinking water is groundwater supplied by five underground wells. As water travels over the surface of or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and radioactive materials, and can pick up many substances produced by the presence of animals or human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- A. Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can occur naturally or result from storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- B. Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- C. Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organics, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, storm water runoff and septic systems.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy, those who have had organ transplants, those 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 healthcare providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

**National Primary Drinking Water Regulation Compliance Other Monitoring**

The city of Pullman also tests for other substances and microscopic organisms that are sometimes found in water for which no standards have been set. The city has taken the initiative to monitor issues that concern the people in this area, even though the city is not required by law to do so. As part of the city’s water quality report, it is important to point out that tests have been performed to detect the presence of herbicides and pesticides and no evidence of either has been found.

The city of Pullman is active in protecting the community and will notify consumers immediately of any waterborne health threat.

The Pullman Water Department is available to answer any questions regarding water quality and supply. Please contact Maintenance and Operations Superintendent **Art Garro** at 338-3238 for more information. Water Quality Data for community water systems throughout the United States is available at [www.waterdata.com](http://www.waterdata.com).

Contaminant <sup>1</sup>	Date <sup>2</sup> Sampled	Range of <sup>3</sup> Detections	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Major Sources in Drinking Water	Violation
Arsenic	8/29/2007	0.0021	mg/l	0.01	0	By-product of some agricultural and industrial activities	No
Barium	8/26/2010	0.0596 - 0.075	mg/l	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.	No
Chlorine	12/27/2010	0 - 1.08	ppm	MRDL=4.0	MRDLG=4.0	Water additive to control microbes	No
Chromium (Total)	8/26/2010	0.0014 - 0.0022	mg/l	0.1	0.1	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits.	No
Fluoride	8/26/2010	0.512 - 1.21	ppm	4.0	4.0	Water additive which promotes strong teeth; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories	No
Gross Alpha Radiation	5/19/2009	0.065 - 2.31	pCi/l	15	0	Erosion of natural deposits of certain mineral that are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as “alpha radiation.”	No
Lead <sup>3</sup>	6/1/2010	0.0011 - 0.0273	mg/l	AL=0.015	AL=0.0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits	No
Nitrate as Nitrogen	12/7/2010	3.35 - 4.07	mg/l	10	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage	No
Total Trihalomethane	12/24/2009	0.5 - 10.9	ug/l	80	n/a	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection	No
Turbidity	8/26/2010	0.38 - 9.24	NTU	5	n/a	Soil runoff	Yes
Chloride	8/26/2010	2.45 - 4.08	mg/l	250		Erosion of natural deposits	No
Color	4/12/2007	10	color unit	15		Erosion of natural deposits	No
Copper <sup>3</sup>	6/2/2010	0.0099 - 0.851	mg/l	AL=1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits	No
Iron	8/26/2010	0.292 - 0.94	mg/l	0.3		Erosion of natural deposits	Yes <sup>5</sup>
Manganese	8/26/2010	0.0225 - 0.0464	mg/l	0.05		Erosion of natural deposits	No <sup>5</sup>
Sulfate	8/26/2010	4.7 - 6.77	mg/l	250		Erosion of natural deposits	No
Total Dissolved Solids	8/26/2010	183 - 234	mg/l	500		Erosion of natural deposits	No
Zinc	8/26/2010	0.0014 - 0.0016	mg/l	5		Erosion of natural deposits	No

**Footnotes:**

- 1 Only regulated contaminants that were found in the drinking water are listed.
- 2 Some contaminates are not required to be sampled annually. Only the most recent sample date is listed.
- 3 The highest detection is reported as the 90th percentile sample. A total of 30 samples were analyzed, with three above the MCL.
- 4 Sodium is not regulated and there is no MCL established, however, the EPA has established a recommended level of 20 ppm for dietary purposes.
- 5 Iron and manganese are not regulated by the EPA, however, the Washington State Department of Health has established a Secondary MCL for iron and manganese. Secondary MCL's are based on factors other than health effects. For these contaminants, aesthetic quality is the basis for the Secondary MCL. There are no requirements to treat or remove these contaminants from the drinking water.
- 6 The lowest to highest detected contaminant levels for any contaminant for samples taken between 1/1/2006 and 12/31/2010. ND means None Detected.
- 7 The violation for turbidity occurred from a sample drawn from Well 6 on April 12, 2007. While technically a violation, none of the water that exceeded the MCL of 1 NTU was introduced into the water distribution system.

**Key:**

- AL = Action Level, the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level
- MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal
- ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/L)
- ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
- umhos/cm = micromhos per centimeter