

**Consumer Confidence Report**  
**City of Banks Water Utility**  
*Circulated in June of 2013 for the year 2012*

The City of Banks Water Utility is operated under the direction of Interim City Manager, Jolynn Becker; with Direct Responsible in Charge Water Operator, Tom Tuski; Operator-in-training, Ryan Lewis; and Administrative Assistant, Angie Lanter. The Department phone number is 503-324-5112 and the fax number is 503-324-6674. Email addresses are [publicworks@cityofbanks.org](mailto:publicworks@cityofbanks.org) and [water-info@cityofbanks.org](mailto:water-info@cityofbanks.org). Public participation is welcome during “open mike” (Appearance of Interested Citizens) at monthly City Council meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Please see our website [www.cityofbanks.org](http://www.cityofbanks.org) for additional information and contacts.

**Sources**

The City of Banks receives water from springs above the West Fork of Dairy Creek, and also pumps water from deep wells near Banks Road as the demand increases during the drier months of summer. Our wells are sealed and protected from surface contamination. This water is found in a deep layer of volcanic rock called Columbia Basalt. Water from our springs is from a basalt layer which surfaces above mountain streams. An assessment of these sources has been completed by the Oregon Health Department, Drinking Water Division and is on file at City Hall.

**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. 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.

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

**PCi/L:** Picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity).

**ppb:** parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/L) = number of micrograms of substance in one liter of water.

**ppm:** parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L) = number of milligrams in one liter of water.

**Small Amounts of Some Contaminants**

“Drinking water, including bottled water, may be reasonably 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).”

**Some People May Be More Vulnerable**

“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 from their health care providers about drinking water. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by

cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).”

**Lead in drinking water, and its effects on children**

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with individual customer service lines and home plumbing. The City of Banks is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in individual customer 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 privately. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

**Concentrations of Detected Regulated Contaminants**

Routine testing is done to detect the presence of potentially harmful contaminants. The information in the table below represents the contaminants that have been detected during testing, **though not in violation**, within the last five years.

Contaminants	MCLG	MCL	Your Water	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
Haloacetic acids (HAA5) (ppb)	N/A	60	1.0 ppb min/ 4.9 ppb max	08/30/12	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Trihalomethanes TTHM (ppb)	N/A	80	5.0 ppb min/ 7.5 ppb max	08/30/12	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Lead (ppb)	0	15.0	0.0 ppb	09/2/2011	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood; Corrosion of household plumbing
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	.2740 ppm	09/2/2011	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood; Corrosion of household plumbing
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	N/A	15	1.200 pCi/L	01/06/2009	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood; Corrosion of household plumbing
Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB) (ppt)	N/A	500	200ppt	4/21/2008	No	Run off from Landfill(s)
Gross Beta Particle Activity(pCi/L)	N/A	50	2.800 pCi/L	01/06/09	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood; Corrosion of household plumbing
Gross Alpha Exc. Radon and Uranium (pCi/L)	N/A	15.0	2.700 pCi/L	09/17/2008	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood; Corrosion of household plumbing
Sodium (ppm)	N/A	20.0*	12.8 ppm	11/18/2010	No	Erosion of natural deposits

\* EPA Advisory Level Only

### New Well

The new well is up and running and is doing great, The new well pumps more gallons per minute than the old well and is more cost effective to run. The old well is still being used as a back-up for our water system and is exercised on a regular basis.

### Questions?

What tests are routine? What about THMs and Cryptosporidium, or Nitrate, Arsenic and Lead? Call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or online at [www.epa.gov-safewater](http://www.epa.gov-safewater).

### Delivery

Consumer Confidence Reports are mailed to all Banks water customers each June. Our effort to reach consumers who do not get water bills could include your passing it along. Thank you, for assisting us.

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.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which 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 stormwater 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 stormwater 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 stormwater 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.

**CERTIFICATION: A “good faith” attempt was made in June 2012 to distribute this report to all Banks water users. The information is correct and consistent with data submitted to the State.**

Sincerely,

**Tom Tuski; Direct Responsible in Charge Water Operator #T-08847 for system OR41-00076.**