



## **Consumer Confidence Report Riverbend 2017 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report**

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water source is from the Pend Oreille River.

Pend Oreille County PUD #1 routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. All 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 at 1-800-426-4791.

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, persons 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/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the 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.

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 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 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, and can, also, come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

## WATER QUALITY DATA:

The following table lists all the drinking water contaminants that we tested for during the 2017 calendar year. The presence of these 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 January 1 through December 31, 2017. The state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old.

In this table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

- **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 Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.
- **SRL:** Minimum reporting level for Washington (Department of Health)
- **ND:** Not detectable at testing limit
- **pCi/l:** picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)
- **ppb:** Parts per billion or micrograms per liter
- **ppm:** Parts per million or milligrams per liter
- **Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU):** A means of measuring turbidity by passing light through it. The higher number, the higher the cloudiness.
- **AL:** (Federal Action Level) EPA maximum contaminant level. If exceeded, call Dept. of Health.
- **MFL:** Million fiber per liter.

<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>	<b>Results</b>	<b>SR L</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>MC L</b>	<b>Source</b>
Lead 2011	ND	.002	mg/l	AL=.015	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Copper 2011	ND	0.2	mg/l	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate 2017	ND	0.5	mg/l	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits
Turbidity – Avg. Finished 2017	.04	.3	NTU	1.0	Surface runoff carrying silt and organic matter.
Chlorine Free 2017 Avg	.94	4	mg/l	4	Water additive used to control microbes
Arsenic 2014	.00103	.001	mg/l	.01	Surface water run off encountering natural rock formations

<b>Radionuclides</b>					
Gross Alpha 2015	<1+_0.682		pCi/L	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta 2007	ND		pCi/L	50	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228-2015	0.840+_0.380		pCi/L	5	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Volatile Organic Contaminants</b>					
TTHM 2017(Total Trihalomethanes)	34.8		ug/l	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA 2017 (Haloacetic Acids Total)	24.1		ug/l	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Asbestos 2017	<0.111	7	MFL> 10um	7	Asbestos is a fibrous mineral occurring in natural deposits.

**Lead** – Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

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 service lines and home plumbing. Pend Oreille County PUD #1 is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in 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 testing. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

**Copper** – Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson’s Disease should consult their personal physician.

**Nitrate** – Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue-baby syndrome.

**Turbidity** – Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectant.

**Arsenic** - Arsenic in your drinking water has been reported at less than .01 mg/l. This means that your drinking water currently meets EPA’s newly revised drinking water standard for arsenic. In the future, your Consumer Confidence Report will reflect improved laboratory methods that will more accurately detect the level of arsenic (if any) in your drinking water. EPA believes that consumers should be aware of the uncertain health risks presented by very low levels of arsenic. EPA’s standard balances the current understanding of arsenic’s health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water.

The EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Mark “Bubba” Scott, at (509) 447-6375. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of each month at 10:00 a.m.

**Your representative to the Citizens Water Committee is Gene Stone.**

Here is your water usage efficiency information for 2017:

	Customers	Gallons Produced	Gallons Sold	Unaccounted for water
Riverbend	78	3,486,246	3,283,178	5.8%
Sunvale	67	3,559,400	3,710,000	4.23%
Sandy Shores	71	4,131,700	4,199,943	1.65%
Metaline Falls	185	22,685,067	19,636,114	13%