2006 Water Quality Report

Safe drinking water is an essential resource for our residents. The City of Lebanon is committed to supplying safe water that meets or surpasses state and federal standards.

A MESSAGE FROM JOHN & JIM

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.

Sincerely,

John Hitt
City Administrator

James P. Ruef, P.E.
Director of Public Works

DID YOU KNOW?

The Lebanon Water Treatment Plant produced nearly 700,000,000 (million) gallons of **high-quality, contaminant free** drinking water in 2006. This is an average of nearly **2,000,000 gallons per day** to serve our customer's needs. During some very hot days in July and August, the Lebanon Water Treatment Plant had to produce nearly 4,000,000 gallons each day to meet our customer's demands. Use water wisely, it is a limited resource. Remember to use only the water you need and keep looking for new ways to **conserve water** in and around your home.

HISTORY OF THE CANAL

In 1860 the Santiam Ditch and Canal Company was formed under the direction of Thomas Monteith. Monteith, who was from New York originally, had the idea of constructing a barge canal from the South Santiam River. The purpose was to bring timber products down the canal and manufactured goods up the canal, connecting commerce in eastern Linn County with transportation facilities on the Willamette River. The canal was started in mid 1873. Chinese laborers were responsible for a majority of the work but they were helped by locals with horse-drawn scrapers. By the end of 1874, the canal was completed, at a total cost of $62,000. When the water was released into the canal, the current was immediately too swift. The barges could pass downstream but they could not be pulled back upstream. For a short period of time, the canal was used to float timber products downstream. With the transportation scheme a failure the canal's potential for waterpower was developed. A hydraulic turbine electric plant and water pumping station was built along the Lebanon part of the canal. This plant was constructed in the 1890's and it provided the first electricity for the town of Lebanon. The winter of 1922 produced a flood which ripped away most of the Albany canal's timber dam, and its headgates. The Lebanon Canal then became the only tap on the south Santiam River. The upper portion of the Albany Canal was then taken out of use. In 1968, the Lebanon water treatment plant was built, and the generating facilities were taken out.

KEEPING OUR CANAL CLEAN – WHAT YOU CAN DO!

The Santiam Canal is the **only** source of drinking water for the City of Lebanon. Because it is an open waterway, it is vulnerable to pollution. It is everyone's responsibility to protect the Canal from contamination. Some direct sources of contamination come from the dumping of **trash, lawn clippings, leaves**, and **animal wastes** into the Canal. Other sources of contamination, such as **fertilizers, pesticides,** and **herbicides,** arrive indirectly from runoff during rainstorms. You can protect our drinking water by being conscientious and watchful.

TOUR INFORMATION

Anyone wishing to tour the Water or Wastewater Treatment Plants can make arrangements by calling the Public Works Department at (541) 258-4918.

HOW DOES THE REPORT WORK?

Each year the City conducts over **8,000 tests** for 80 possible contaminants in our drinking water according to Federal and State laws. An essential part of the Annual Drinking Water Quality Report is the table showing the results of our testing for January 1st to December 31st, 2006. Only the contaminants **detected** in our drinking water are shown in this table.

There are three columns in the table that should be given special attention; the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), level actually detected, and whether or not a violation occurred. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets MCL's a number of substances that may be found in drinking water.

MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated substances, person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance having the described health effect.

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:

Non-Detects (ND): laboratory analysis indicates that the substance is not present.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l): A unit of concentration used to measure levels of substances water. 1 part per million equals four drops of ink in a barrel of water, one inch in 16 miles, or one minute in two years.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (µg/l): one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, a single penny in $10,000,000.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU): nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

Action Level (AL): the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The MCL is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.

Other than the air we breathe, water is the single most important element in our lives and the **security and protection** of drinking water is of top concern to every member of the Lebanon Water Plant staff! Local drinking water systems may targets for terrorist and other would-be criminals wishing to disrupt and cause harm to our community water supply or water facility.

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT OUR WATER PLANT SECURITY

Because utilities are often located in isolated areas, drinking water sources may cover large areas that are difficult to secure and patrol. Residents can help by noticing and reporting any suspicious activity in and around local water utilities. Residents interested in protecting their water resources and community can join together with law enforcement, neighborhood watch groups, water suppliers, and other local public health officials. If you witness suspicious activities, report them to local law enforcement authorities.

Examples of suspicious activity might include:

- People dumping or discharging material to a water reservoir.
- People climbing over or cutting a utility fence.
- Unidentified truck or car parked or loitering near waterway or facility for no apparent reason.
- Suspicious opening or tampering with fire hydrants, buildings, or equipment.
- People climbing on top of water reservoir.
- People photographing or videotaping utility facilities, structures or equipment.
- Strangers hanging around locks or gates. Remember, **do not** confront strangers. Instead, report suspicious activities to local authorities.

When reporting an incident, dial 911 or other local emergency numbers

- State the nature of the incident. Identify yourself and your location. Identify location of activity. Describe any vehicle involved (color, make/model, plate #). Describe the participants (how many, sex, race, hair color, height, weight, clothing).

The City conducts over 8000 tests for 80 possible contaminants in our drinking water.				
Regulated in our Water Distribution System				
Substance	**MCL**	**Our Water**	**Complies Y/N**	**Sources of Contamination**
THMs (Trihalomethanes)	80 ppb	19 ppb	**Y**	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 (Haloacetic Acids)	30 ppb	20 ppb	**Y**	
Fluoride	4 ntu	0.8 ppm	**Y**	Water additive that promotes strong teeth
Lead and Copper Treatment				
Substance	**Action level**	**90th Percentile**	**Complies Y/N**	**Sources of Contamination**
Lead	15 ppb	9.1 ppb	**Y**	Corrosion of household plumbing
Copper	1.3 mg/l	ND	**Y**	Corrosion of household plumbing
Last year the Lebanon Water Plant staff made nearly 2000 tests throughout the water distribution system to insure that your drinking water was free of bacteria.				
Since 1978, the Lebanon Water Plant staff has voluntarily tested for Giardia and Cryptosporidium Cysts. This year, as in past years, all tests showed your drinking water is free of Giardia and Cryptosporidium.				

SOME SPECIAL INFORMATION

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community because of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. 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.

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.

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 or visiting their website at *http:www.epa.gov/safewater*.

The *City of Lebanon Water System* staff work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

For questions about the quality of our drinking water or this report, call us at; 541.258.4921 or 541.258.4918. The Lebanon

City Council meets at the Santiam Travel Station at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. A special thanks to all that helped produce this Annual Drinking Water Quality Report.

This report can be found on our website at http//www/ci.lebanon.or.us

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