

Gardiner Water Quality Report - 2006

To comply with Safe Drinking Water Act amendments and the Washington State Department of Health mandates, Jefferson County Public Utility District #1 annually issues a report on monitoring performed on each of its water systems. The purpose of this report is to advance consumers understanding of drinking water and heighten awareness of the need to protect precious water resources. If you have any specific water system questions please feel free to contact the Gardiner water system manager, Doug Reeder, at 385-5800 ext 305 or 301-0708 (cell). Additionally, the PUD Board meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. at the PUD office; please feel free to attend. Your district is District 3 and your commissioner is Wayne G King. **The area has received below average precipitation 5 out of the last 6 years. Please conserve and use water wisely. You can find conservation tips on our web site at jeffpud.org.**

Is my water safe? Last year, as in years past, your tap water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards. The PUD safeguards its water supplies and once again we are proud to report that your system has never violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard.

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 elements, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Your water comes from a single municipal well located across Gardiner Beach road from the Olympic Northern Forrest Products Lumber Company. The well is over 300 feet deep and is pumped at a rate of 305 gpm. Unlike many of our systems, the high quality of your deep well water does not require disinfectant or treatment. The well is part of a well head protection plan that restricts activities that could contaminate it. **The PUD has served water from your well at the Jefferson County Fair for the last six years and in our office. It remains our finest product and the pride of the PUD water systems.**

Typical examples of 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 metal, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic waste water 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, and **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

Do I need to take special precautions? 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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amount 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's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791), or Donna Freier at the State DOH (360-236-3162).

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 EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminant in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Regarding Arsenic detected in your water in 2003: While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems. Traces of arsenic showed up in Gardiner samples from 2001 and 2003 (see other side for results).

Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we tested for during the 2005 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 - December 31, 2005. 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.

Terms & abbreviations used below: **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is not 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 (AL):** the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. **N/a:** not applicable; **nd:** not detectable at testing limit **ppb:** parts per billion or micrograms per liter **ppm:** parts per million or milligrams per liter **pCi/l:** picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation); **mg/L:** milligrams per liter (same as ppm).

EPA Regulated Inorganic Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Well#1	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
Arsenic (mg/L)	0.01	0	0.005	6/25/03	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards, runoff from glass & electronics production wastes
			0.006	5/2/01	NO	
Nitrate (mg/L)	10	10	<0.5	12/14/05	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

The PUD tested for lead and copper in five randomly selected homes in December 2005. No lead or copper were detected in any home.

Gardiner was tested for the full spectrum of volatile organic compounds on 2/26/2003; none were detected.

The only required chemical test for the well in 2005 was for nitrate.

Note: The EPA requires monitoring of over 80 drinking water contaminants. Those listed above are the only contaminants detected in your drinking water.