

Snow Creek Water Quality Report - 2004

To comply with Safe Drinking Water Act amendments and the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) 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 consumer's 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 Snow Creek water system manager, Mike McClure, at 385-5800. **Additionally, the PUD Board meets** on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. at the PUD office; feel free to attend. We also maintain a web site at jeffpud.org.

Is my water safe? Your tap water meets all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Washington State drinking water health standards.

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 mineral and, in some cases, radio-active material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Your water comes from a single well located on community property in the field to your right as you drive into the Snow Creek Ranch. Because of its close proximity to Snow Creek and being fairly shallow DOH will not consider it completely safe to drink without treatment. The well also exceeds the DOH set levels for secondary contaminants of iron and manganese. Although not harmful, DOH has ordered that we treat the water to bring the iron and manganese levels below State allowable levels. We are currently using a treatment we employ on other PUD systems to remove iron and manganese.

Examples of contaminants that may affect 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 will treat your 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.

Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2003 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, 2003. 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)

Inorganic Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Well#1	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
Nitrate (mg/l)	10	10	0.2	4/30/03	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage, Erosion of natural deposits.

PUD sampled for volatile organic compounds in 2003; none were detected.

Note: The EPA requires monitoring of over 80 drinking water contaminants.