

## South Hastings Loop Water Quality Report - 2004

**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 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 South Hastings Loop water system manager, Doug Reeder, 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; please feel free to attend. See our web site at [jeffpud.org](http://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 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 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 is purchased from the City of Port Townsend.** The purchased water comes from the Big and Little Quilcene Rivers in the northeast corner of the Olympic National Forest. The water is stored in Lords Lake and City Lake. The City disinfects the surface water with chlorine. Chlorination, the standard disinfectant for water systems around the world, is the treatment that eliminated waterborne diseases such as cholera and typhoid fever from this country in the early part of this century. However, chlorine does react with naturally occurring organic material in water to produce chemicals called trihalomethanes (THMs). Chloroform is one such compound. Scientific research today concludes these byproducts may, in the long-run, increase a person's risk of cancer. Due to this potential risk, THMs are regulated.

**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).

**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.

**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).

## Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that were 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 over 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)

| Organic Contaminant                 | MCL | MCLG    | Port Townsend Water | Violation | Typical Source                            |
|-------------------------------------|-----|---------|---------------------|-----------|---|
| Total Trihalomehtanes (TTHMs) (ppb) |     | 100 n/a | 31.7                | NO        | By-product of drinking water chlorination |

  

| Contaminant     | MCL   | Port Townsend Water (highest daily average) | Rage of Detections | Violation | Typical Source |
|-----------------|-------|---|--------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Turbidity (NTU) | 5 NTU | 0.38  | 0.15-1.42          | NO        | Soil runoff    |

Port Townsend's highest daily water turbidity varied from 0.15 to 1.42 NTUs. The maximum contaminant level for turbidity is 5 NTUs. 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 disinfectants.

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