

Jefferson County PUD#1

2002 Port Hadlock / Irondale / Chimacum Drinking Water Report

Reporting

To comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act amendments, Jefferson County PUD #1 is issuing this annual report on water quality monitoring performed during the past year. In previous years, this report came from the City of Port Townsend, but due to the exchange in system management and ownership in 2002, the PUD is now responsible for the distribution of this report. The purpose of the report is to educate consumers about their drinking water and the need to protect this precious resource.

Water Sources

The Sparling Well, at the corner of Rhody Dr. and Kennedy St. in Port Hadlock, provides ground water for the communities of Port Hadlock, Chimacum and Irondale. It includes a treatment plant to remove the natural dissolved iron and manganese. Kivley Well, located east of Chimacum Rd., is a backup source of water that requires no treatment.

Potential Contaminants

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 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 (1-800-426-4791).

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 the source water include:

- \$ **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses, protozoans, and bacteria, which may come from septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- \$ **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, or farming.
- \$ **Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- \$ **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- \$ **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Tri-Area Annual Water Quality Analysis (2001)

The EPA regulates monitoring of over 80 contaminants. Nitrate was the only contaminant detected in your drinking water during the 2001 calendar year, and it was far below any action level. Presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Data presented in this table is from testing done January 1- December 31, 2001. 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.

EPA Regulated Primary Contaminants

Kivley Well	MCL	MCLG	Tri-Area Water	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Nitrate (ppm)	10	1	0.64	4/17/01	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching of septic tanks, sewage

EPA Regulated Secondary Contaminants

Kivley Well	MCL	MCLG	Tri-Area Water	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Hardness (ppm)	na	na	164	5/8/02	na	Natural deposits

Tri-Area water is naturally "hard". Water dissolves minerals as it moves underground to a well. As a rule, groundwater is generally harder than most surface water. The dissolved minerals responsible for hardness are typically calcium and magnesium, neither of which poses a health risk. Hardness is considered a secondary contaminant by the EPA and is not regulated, but it can cause aesthetic problems. Hard water causes scale in pipes and water heaters, spots on dishes, windows and cars after washing. The Kivley well has harder water than the Sparling well so customers on the eastern portion of the service area may experience more problems than individuals served by the Sparling well.

Other Sampling in 2001

City of Port Townsend tested for radionuclides in 2001, none were detected.

City of Port Townsend tested for inorganic compounds (IOC) in 2001, no EPA-regulated water contaminants were detected.

City of Port Townsend tested for volatile organic compounds (VOC) in 2001. No EPA regulated contaminants were detected.

Current Operations

There were no treatment or distribution violations this past year. A two million gallon storage reservoir completed this year will enable the Sparling Well water system to continue to meet peak demands in the Tri-Area for the foreseeable future.

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 the 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 microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Specific Health Concerns

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.

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.

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 doctor.

Some people who drink water-containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Definitions:

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

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 a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety. **ppm:** Parts per million or grams per liter.

n/a: Not applicable

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Public Comment

The public is invited to participate in decisions that affect drinking water through the Jefferson County PUD #1 Board of Commissioners (BOC). The BOC meets on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 5:00 PM at the office in Port Hadlock. The address is 230 Chimacum Road. Our phone number is 385-5800.

More Information

The water provided to Port Hadlock, Irondale, and Chimacum by the City of Port Townsend meets or exceeds all EPA and State drinking water health standards. We are happy to answer any questions you may have about our drinking water and have available complete list of compounds we test for.