

# BEACON HILL SEWER DISTRICT

## 2008 WATER QUALITY REPORT

Beacon Hill Sewer District is pleased to present its annual Water Quality Report.

In 2008 BHSD began operating the water system previously operated by Cowlitz PUD. This report, reflects the water quality during the first full year of BHSD operation of the system.

This report describes the quality and sources of drinking water delivered to you by BHSD in 2008, and the programs undertaken to protect water quality.

This publication complies with a federal law which requires water utilities to provide water quality information to customers every year and is being provided in addition to other notices required by law.

BHSD is committed to ensuring the continuing quality of



your water. Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water.

BHSD water is tested regularly through a certified laboratory and meets or exceeds state and federal standards. State and federal regulators routinely monitor our compliance and testing protocols to assure that we deliver safe drinking water to you.

If you have any questions about this report or about our water service, please contact Kim Adamson at:

### BEACON HILL SEWER DISTRICT

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## WATER QUALITY INFORMATION

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) and Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Washington Department of Agriculture regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

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 materials. It can also pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water are microbes, pesticides, herbicides, organic or inorganic chemicals, and radioactive materials.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some con-

taminants. 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.

### EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline:

Toll free: 1 (800) 426-4791

**Important notice:** 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/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).

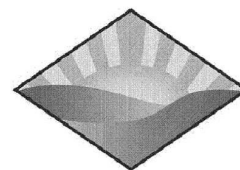
## SOURCE OF BHSD WATER

BHSD and the City of Longview are partners in the Longview Regional Water Treatment Plant (RWTP), located near the Longview-Kelso border. The RWTP provides the water used by most BHSD customers, including all those in your area.

Water is pumped to the RWTP from the Cowlitz River, at a point located approximately five miles north (upstream) of its confluence with the Columbia River. The Cowlitz River watershed is fed by glacial melt from Mt. Rainier and several tributaries, including the Toutle River.

### BHSD's Board of Commissioners

Customers are welcome to comment on the quality of BHSD water and water service at our Board of Commissioners meetings. These are open, public meetings and are held at the District office (1121 West Side Highway, Kelso) on the second Wednesday of each month at 5:00 p.m.



BEACON HILL  
SEWER DISTRICT  
ESTABLISHED 1959

# WATER QUALITY MONITORING RESULTS

EPA requires annual reporting on contaminants that have been detected in our water supply. We do this by collecting samples at the source, reservoirs, the distribution system and customer taps.

The City of Longview and Beacon Hill Sewer District monitor over 170 contaminants, including pesticides. Water quality information presented in the table is from the most recent round of testing done in accordance with the regulations. Detectable levels were found for 26 of those contaminants and are reported below.

BHSD performs monthly water system tests for the presence of coliform. All coliform test samples taken in 2008 were within federal and state standards.

**BHSD water  
meets or surpasses  
federal and state  
drinking water standards.**

Contaminant	Test Date	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Results	Major Sources	Violations
Antimony	July 2005	ppb	6	6	<1	Petroleum refinery discharge, fire retardants, ceramics, electronics, solder	No
Arsenic	July 2005	ppb	10	0	<2	Erosion of natural deposits, runoff from orchards, runoff from glass and electronics production wastes	No
Asbestos*	April 2008	mfl	7	7	<0.195	Decay of asbestos cement in water mains; erosion of natural deposits	No
Barium	July 2005	ppm	2	2	<0.005	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits	No
Beryllium	July 2005	ppb	4	4	<1	Discharge from metal refineries and coal-burning factories; discharge from electrical, aerospace and defense industries	No
Cadmium	July 2005	ppb	5	5	<1	Corrosion from galvanized pipes, erosion of natural deposits, discharge from metal refineries, runoff from waste batteries	No
Chloride	July 2005	ppm	250	250	9.0	Abundant naturally occurring element; used in water purification	No
Chromium	July 2005	ppb	100	100	<1	Discharge from steel and pulp mills, erosion of natural deposits	No
Copper**	Oct. 2008	ppm	AL=1.3	1.3	<0.01	Corrosion of household plumbing and erosion of natural deposits	No
Cyanide	July 2005	ppb	200	200	<10	Discharge from steel/metal factories, plastic factories and fertilizer factories	No
Fluoride	July 2005	ppm	4	4	1.0	Erosion of natural deposits. <b>Water additive which promotes stronger teeth</b>	No
Haloacetic Acids (HAAs)	Feb. 2007	ppb	60	n/a	34	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection	No
Iron	July 2005	ppm	3	0.3	<0.02	Naturally occurring; corrosion of cast iron pipes. Leaching from natural deposits, industrial wastes	No
Lead**	Oct. 2008	ppb	AL=15	0	<.002	Corrosion of household plumbing, erosion of natural deposits	No
Manganese	July 2005	ppb	50	50	<5	Erosion of naturally occurring substances that are found in soil, air, water and food at low levels	No
Mercury (inorganic)	July 2005	ppb	2	2	<0.5	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from refineries and factories; runoff from landfills and croplands	No
Nickel	July 2005	ppb	100	100	1.0	Erosion of natural deposits	No
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	July 2005	ppm	10	10	<0.1	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits	No
Nitrite (as Nitrogen)	July 2005	ppm	1	1	<0.1	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits	No
Selenium	July 2005	ppb	50	50	<5	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries, erosion of natural deposits, discharge from mines	No
Silver	July 2005	ppb	100	100	<1.0	Erosion of natural deposits	No
Sulfate	July 2005	ppb	250	250	18.7	Erosion of naturally occurring substances that are found in minerals, soil, and rocks	No
Thallium	July 2005	ppb	2	0.5	<1	Leaching from ore-processing sites; discharge from electronics, glass and drug factories	No
Total Trihalomethanes	Feb. 2007	ppb	80	n/a	47.3	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection	No
Turbidity	Continuous monitoring			1 NTU	.2 NTU	Soil runoff	No
Zinc	July 2005	ppm	5	5	<0.01	Naturally occurring element; used in the metal industry	No

## Definitions in Table

**Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers a treatment or other requirements that 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.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants (e.g. chlorine, chloramines, chlorine dioxide).

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

**Million Fibers per Liter (MFL):** A measurement of the presence in water of asbestos fibers longer than 10 micrometers in length.

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU):** A unit of measurement for light refraction.

**Picocuries per liter (pCi/l):** A measurement of radiation.

**Parts per million (ppm); Parts per billion (ppb):** These units describe the levels of detected contaminants. One ppm is about 1/2 of a dissolved aspirin tablet (162.5 mg) in a full bathtub of water (about 50 gallons). One ppb is about one dissolved aspirin tablet (325 mg) in a typical 25-meter length swimming pool (about 100,000 gallons).

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

**Turbidity:** A unit of measurement for water clarity and may indicate the presence of contaminants.

\* Federal law requires **asbestos** testing every nine years. BHSD will next test for the presence of asbestos in 2017.

\*\* Federal law requires **copper and lead** testing every three years. BHSD will next test for the presence of copper and lead in 2011.