

BEACON HILL WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

2011 WATER QUALITY REPORT

Beacon Hill Water and Sewer District is pleased to present its annual Water Quality Report for 2011.

This report describes the quality and sources of drinking water delivered to you by BHWSO, 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.

BHWSO 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.

BHWSO 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 WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

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WATER QUALITY INFORMATION

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 radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in water sources include microbes, pesticides, herbicides, organic or inorganic chemicals and radioactive materials. To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) and/or the Washington State Board of Health prescribes regulations that limits the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and/or the Washington State Department of Agriculture regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water.

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) **Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791)**.

Tips to Reduce Copper And Lead Levels that may leach from household plumbing!

"If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. BHWSO is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>."

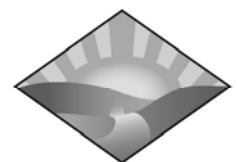
SOURCE OF BHWSO WATER

BHWSO water customers living in the Cowlitz Gardens and Williams-Finney areas of Kelso receive water from the City of Kelso's groundwater well that was constructed in 1978. The City of Kelso also receives a small amount of water (less than two percent of annual usage) from the Regional Water Treatment Plant located in W. Kelso.

In 1998 the City of Kelso received notice from the Washington State Department of Health that its water system is classified as groundwater, under the direct influence of surface water.

BHWSO's Board of Commissioners

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



BEACON HILL
WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

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 Kelso and Beacon Hill Water and 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 22 of those contaminants and are reported below.

BHWSO performs monthly water system tests for the presence of coliform. All coliform test samples taken in 2011 were within federal and state standards.

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

Contaminant	Test Date	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Results	Major Sources	Violations
Antimony	Aug. 2006	ppb	6	6	<1	Petroleum refinery discharge, fire retardants, ceramics, electronics, solder	No
Arsenic	Aug. 2006	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	Aug. 2006	ppm	2	2	<0.005	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits	No
Beryllium	Aug. 2006	ppb	4	4	<1	Discharge from metal refineries and coal-burning factories; discharge from electrical, aerospace and defense industries	No
Cadmium	Aug. 2006	ppb	5	5	<1	Corrosion from galvanized pipes, erosion of natural deposits, discharge from metal refineries, runoff from waste batteries	No
Chlorine	2011	ppm	MRDL =4	MRDLG = 4	0.23-1.3	Water additive used to control microbes	No
Chromium	Aug. 2006	ppb	100	100	<1	Discharge from steel and pulp mills, erosion of natural deposits	No
Copper**	Oct. 2011	ppm	AL=1.3	1.3	.182	Corrosion of household plumbing and erosion of natural deposits	No
Fluoride	2011	ppm	4	4	.81	Erosion of natural deposits. Water additive which promotes stronger teeth	No
Gross Beta	April. 2010	pCi/l	50	n/a	1.8	Decay of natural and man-made deposits	No
Haloacetic Acids (HAAs)	July 2010	ppb	60	n/a	51.4	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection	No
Lead**	Oct. 2011	ppb	AL=15	0	.002	Corrosion of household plumbing, erosion of natural deposits	No
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	April 2011	ppm	10	10	0.3	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits	No
Nitrite (as Nitrogen)	Aug. 2006	ppm	1	1	<0.2	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits	No
Radium 228	April 2010	pCi/l	5	n/a	0.14	Erosion of natural deposits	No
Selenium	Aug. 2006	ppb	50	50	<5	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries, erosion of natural deposits, discharge from mines	No
Sulfate	Aug. 2006	ppb	250	250	12.5	Erosion of naturally occurring substances that are found in minerals, soil, and rocks	No
Thallium	Aug. 2006	ppb	2	0.5	<1	Leaching from ore-processing sites; discharge from electronics, glass and drug factories	No
TOC	2011 (avg.)	ppm	TT	TT	0.65	Naturally present in the environment	No
Total Trihalomethanes	July 2010	ppb	80	n/a	65.3	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection	No
Turbidity	Continuous monitoring				TT	Soil runoff	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. BHWSO will next test for the presence of asbestos in 2017.

** Federal law requires **copper and lead** testing every three years. BHWSO will next test for the presence of copper and lead in 2014.