

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 BHWS D, 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.

BHWS D 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.

BHWS D 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

1121 West Side Highway — Kelso, WA 98626

Phone: (360) 636-3860

Email: info@bhwsd.org

www.bhwsd.org

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. BHWS D 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>."

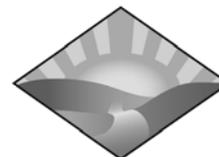
SOURCE OF BHWS D WATER

BHWS D 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 BHWS D 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.

BHWS D's Board of Commissioners

Customers are welcome to comment on the quality of BHWS D 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 Longview 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 15 of those contaminants and are reported below.

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

**BHWS D water
meets or surpasses
federal and state
drinking water standards.**

Definitions in Table

Contaminant	Test Date	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Results	Major Sources	Violations
Alpha Emitters	May 2010	ppb	15	0	-.87	Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit forms of radiation known as alpha radiation. Some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.	No
Asbestos*	April 2008	mfl	7	7	<0.195	Decay of asbestos cement in water mains; erosion of natural deposits	No
Beta Emitters	May 2010	ppb	4	0	.21	Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit forms of radiation known as photons and beta radiation. Some people who drink water containing beta and photon emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.	No
Chlorine	2011	ppm	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	0.23-1.3	Water additive used to control microbes	No
Copper**	Oct. 2011	ppm	AL=1.3	1.3	.182	Corrosion of household plumbing and erosion of natural deposits	No
Fluoride	April 2011	ppm	4	4	1.11	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.	No
Haloacetic Acids (HAAs)	July 2010	ppb	60	n/a	51.4	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection	No
Iron	Aug. 2008	ppb	300	n/a	280	Naturally occurring; corrosion of cast iron pipes. Leaching from natural deposits, industrial wastes	No
Lead**	Oct. 2011	ppb	AL=15	0	.002	Corrosion of household plumbing, erosion of natural deposits	No
Manganese	Aug. 2008	ppb	50	n/a	15	Erosion of naturally occurring substances that are found in soil, air, water and food at low levels	No
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	April 2011	ppm	10	n/a	.24	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits	No
Radium 228	May 2010	pCi/l	30	0	.12	Some people who drink water containing radium 226 or 228 in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.	No
TOC	Dec. 2011	ppb	TT	TT	690	By-product of chlorination used for drinking water disinfection	
Total Trihalomethanes	July 2010	ppb	80	n/a	65.3	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection	No
Turbidity	Continuous monitoring			1 NTU	.2 NTU	Soil runoff	No

* 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 2014.

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.