2012 WATER QUALITY REPORT

Kelso Area

BEACON HILL WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

Is Your Water Safe…

What the EPA Says About Contaminants

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) or at www.epa.gov/safewater.

Should I 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 people, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health-care providers. Guidelines from the Environmental Protection Agency and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

We are pleased to present you with this report based on water quality data for the year 2012.

Safe, reliable drinking water is a basic life necessity. Beacon Hill Water and Sewer District (BHWSD) is proud to deliver water to nearly 10,000 people every day. We think it is important for our customers to understand where their water comes from, how safe it is, and what actions we take to ensure its continuing quality. In accordance with federal guidelines, this report provides the information you need to know about the water you drink.

Commissioner Meetings

Commissioner meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month and the public is always welcome to voice comments or concerns.

Meetings are held at 4:00 pm in the upstairs meeting room, 1121 West Side Highway, Kelso, Washington

For more information, or accessibility concerns please contact the office at 636-3860

CONTACT US:

If you have any questions about your water or sewer service, please feel free to contact us. We are here to serve you. BHWSD prides itself on being local government that "works WITHOUT taxes".

BHWSD Office

1121 West Side Highway
Kelso, WA 98626
(360) 636-3860
(360) 575-9375 Fax
www.bhwsd.org
Info@bhwsd.org

District Manager

Kim Adamson
kadamson@bhwsd.org

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BHWSD took 124 coliform samples of distribution water and had those samples analyzed by ALS Environmental in Kelso, Washington. There was a single positive result from all of these samples during the year. The District followed Washington Drinking Water Program protocols and re-sampled the original site, upstream and downstream of the original site. All of these samples were negative. The cause of this single positive sample could have been sampling error, a contaminated sample bottle from the vendor or a combination. Chlorine residuals in the system were at normal levels at the time of the positive sample insuring disinfection of the water in the system.

All other mandated sampling results for the year were satisfactory.

Water Source...

BHWSD 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 well is located on the banks of the Cowlitz River and is determined by the Department of Health to be groundwater under the influence of surface water. This means we must treat our water to the higher surface water standards.

The City of Kelso also receives a small amount of water (less than one percent of annual usage) from the Regional Water Treatment Plant located in W. Kelso.

Reduce Lead Exposure

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. BHWSD 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.

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BEACON HILL
WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

Terms & abbreviations used below:

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 which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. For lead and copper, the AL is at the 90th percentile, thus 90% of the samples must be below the AL.

ppm= parts per million, ppb= parts per billion, TT= Treatment Technique, NTU= Nephelometric Turbidity Unit, MFL= Million Fibers per Liter, pCi/l= picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation), NA= Not applicable, <1= indicates the compound was not detected in the sample at or above the concentration indicated. WTP=Water Treatment Plant.

WATER QUALITY MONITORING RESULTS

Contaminant	Date Tested	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Detected		Violation
						Major Sources for these Contaminants	
Antimony	8/11/06	ppb	6	6	<1	Discharge from petroleum refineries, fire retardants, ceramics, electronics, solder.	No
Arsenic	8/11/06	ppb	10	NA	<2	Erosion of natural deposits, runoff from orchards, runoff from glass and electronics	No
Asbestos	04/2008	MFL	7	7	<0..195	Decay of asbestos cement water mains, erosion of natural deposits.	No
Barium	8/11/06	ppm	2	2	<.005	Discharge of drilling wastes, discharge from metal refineries, erosion of natural	No
Beryllium	8/11/06	ppb	4	4	<1	Discharge from metal refineries and coal-burning factories, discharge from electri-	No
Cadmium	8/11/06	ppb	5	5	<1	Corrosion of galvanized pipes, erosion of natural deposits, discharge from metal refineries, runoff from waste batteries and paints.	No
Chlorine	2012	ppm			0.27-1.1	(Range during Coliform sampling) Water additive used to control microbes.	No
Chromium	8/11/06	ppb	100	100	<1	Discharge from steel and pulp mills, erosion of natural deposits.	No
Copper/	8/11/06	ppm	NA	NA	<0.01	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits, leaching	No
Copper/ Homes	10/2011	ppm	AL=1.3	NA	.182	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits, leaching from wood preservatives.	No
Fluoride	2012 Ave.	ppm	4	4	0.81	(daily average) Water additive which promotes strong teeth, Erosion of natural deposits, discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.	No
Lead / WTP	8/11/06	ppm	NA	0	<0.001	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits.	No
Lead / Homes Homes	10/2011	ppm	AL=.015 At 90%	0	.002	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits.	No
Nitrate	4/12/12	ppm	10	10	0.23	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits.	No
Nitrite	8/11/06	ppm	1	1	<0.2	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits.	No
Beta	4/8/10	pCi/l	50	NA	1.8	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.	No
Radium 228	4/8/10	pCi/l	5	NA	0.14	Erosion of natural deposits.	No
Selenium	8/11/06	ppb	50	50	<5	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries, erosion of natural deposits, discharge from mines.	No
Sulfate	8/11/06	ppm	250	250	12.5	Natural occurring.	No
Turbidity	"continuous monitoring"				TT	Soil Runoff.	No
Thallium	8/11/06	ppb	2	.5	<1	Leaching from ore-processing sites, discharge from electronics, glass, drug facto-	No
TOC	2012Ave.	ppm	TT		0.58	Naturally present in the environment.	No
TTHMs	07/2010	ppb	80	NA	65.3	By-product of drinking water chlorination. (sampled in distribution system quarterly)	No
HAA(5)	07/2010	ppb	60	NA	51.4	By-product of drinking water chlorination. (sampled in distribution system quarterly)	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.

2012 Water Quality Report
Conservation Tips

Beacon Hill Water and Sewer District

Water Use: Drop It When It's Hot

When the mercury rises on your thermometer, so does your water use. "Peak" water use describes the time of year when residential water use is at its highest, **usually in late July or early August**, depending on where you live. From lawn watering to car washing to filling backyard pools to even washing beach towels more frequently—it all adds up to about four times as much water or more than you use the rest of the year!

We can all reduce our peak water use by watering only as needed, washing full loads of laundry, and using more efficient plumbing fixtures. In fact, WaterSense labeled toilets and faucets helped consumers save more than 9.3 billion gallons of water and more than $55 million in water and sewer bills in 2008 alone. The WaterSense label is an easy way to identify plumbing fixtures that use at least 20 percent less water, even during peak water use season. Here are some more facts and tactics to try:

- The average American home uses about 260 gallons of water per day; however, during peak season the average household can use about 1,000 gallons of water in a day. Some homes use as much as 3,000 gallons on a peak day! That's equivalent to the water a garden hose left running for nearly 8 hours would waste.
- Water landscapes only when needed; very early morning or evening is best. Peak hourly use usually occurs between 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m., with a secondary peak between 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.
- Wash only full loads of laundry and dishes, and scrape dishes off instead of rinsing when loading the dishwasher.
- For a summer refreshment, keep a pitcher of water in the fridge instead of running the tap until it's cold.
- Put your favorite handy person to work fixing leaks around the home, which can waste about 200 gallons per week.

REMEMBER...conservation not only saves water, it saves you money as well.

Water Leaks

Checking for a leaky toilet:

1. **Remove the tank lid.** Don't worry, this water is clean until it enters the bowl.
2. **Add some food coloring** to turn the water a different color. Put the tank lid back on.
3. **After about 30 minutes, look in the bowl.** If you see colored water, you have a leak.

If you do have a leak, there are a number of possible causes. If you remove the tank lid and can easily identify the cause, correct the problem and try your leak test again. Consider that "fixes" such as bending the float back to shape, or adjusting how the rubber flapper falls, often end up failing soon afterward. In most cases, you will simply want to replace the toilet flapper (the rubber device at the bottom of the tank that keeps water in the tank) and/or the filling mechanism. These are available at hardware stores and home centers for about $8 each.

How to Conserve Water

- Install a 1.6 gallon toilet
- Buy a water-efficient washing machine
- Repair leaks
- Reduce water use in yard and garden
- Wash full loads
- Minimize shower time
- Install low flow shower head
- Reduce faucet water use