



**BEACON HILL**  
WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

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

## 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. 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!



- Use the garbage disposal sparingly. Compost vegetable food waste instead and save gallons every time.
- Monitor your water bill for unusually high use. Your bill and water meter are tools that can help you discover leaks.
- For a summer refreshment, keep a pitcher of water in the fridge instead of running the tap until it's cold.
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway and sidewalk.
- We're more likely to notice leaks indoors, but don't forget to check outdoor faucets, sprinklers and hoses for leaks.
- Adjust your lawn mower to a higher setting. A taller lawn shades roots and holds soil moisture better than if it is closely clipped.
- Put food coloring in your toilet tank. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.

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



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# 2016 WATER QUALITY REPORT

Water System ID: 15650 D

## 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](http://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 2016.*

Safe, reliable drinking water is a basic life necessity. Beacon Hill Water and Sewer District (BHWS D) 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 5:15 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.

#### BHWS D Office

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# 2016 Water Quality Report



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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 includes the most recent round of testing done in accordance with the regulations. Detectable levels for 14 of these contaminants are reported below.

## WATER QUALITY MONITORING RESULTS

Contaminant	Test Date	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Results	Major Sources	Violations
Arsenic	July 2016	ppb	10	0	3	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
Chlorine	2016	ppm	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	0.0-0.95	Water additive used to control microbes	No
Combined Radium	September 2013	ppb	5	N/A	.42	Erosion of natural deposits.	No
Copper**	Oct. 2014	ppb	AL=1300	1300	277	Corrosion of household plumbing and erosion of natural deposits	No
Fluoride	March 2016	ppb	4000	4000	910	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.	No
Gross Alpha	September 2013	ppb	15	0	2.79	Erosion of natural deposits.	No
Haloacetic**** Acids (HAAs)	Q1-Q4 2016	ppb	60	n/a	26.31	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection	No
Lead**	Oct. 2014	ppb	AL=15	0	6	Corrosion of household plumbing, erosion of natural deposits	No
Nitrate	July 2016	ppb	10,000	n/a	≤100	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits	No
Total **** Trihalomethanes	Q1-Q4 2016	ppb	80	n/a	41.31	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection	No
<b>Unregulated Volatile Organic Compounds</b>							
Chloroform	May 2016	ppb	—	—	3.8	Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to help EPA determine their occurrence in drinking water and potential need for future regulation.	
Bromodichloromethane	May 2016	ppb	—	—	1.6		
Dibromochloromethane	May 2016	ppb	—	—	ND		

\*Federal law requires **asbestos** testing in a nine year compliance period. BHWSD will next test for the presence of asbestos in 2017.  
 \*\* Federal law requires **copper and lead** testing every three years. BHWSD will next test for the presence of copper and lead in 2017.  
 \*\*\* Nitrate testing was omitted on 2014 Consumer Confidence Report.  
 \*\*\*\*Results are Running Annual Average (RAA)

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

### 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.

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## Water Source...

BHWSD and the City of Longview are partners in the Longview Regional Water Treatment Plant (RWTP). The RWTP produces the water used by most BHWSD customers, including those in the Columbia Heights, Beacon Hill, Lexington, and Ostrander areas.

Longview's water source (Water System ID No. 48100) is situated on an approximately 10-acre site in the south-central portion of the Mint Farm Industrial Park in Longview, Washington. Geochemical data indicate the primary source of Longview's groundwater is a gravel aquifer that is recharged from the Columbia River. The total depth of the four production wells range from 352 to 385 feet. The wells are screened in the coarse sand and gravel deposits of the deep confined aquifer. The treatment process design includes six greensand filters operating at a flow rate of 5.5 gallons per minute per square foot.



BHWSD took 121 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.



## 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 your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on 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>.