

Quilcene Water Quality Report - 2011

To comply with Safe Drinking Water Act amendments and the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) mandates, Jefferson County Public Utility District #1 annually issues a report on monitoring performed on each of its water systems. The purpose of this report is to advance consumer's understanding of drinking water and heighten awareness of the need to protect precious water resources. If you have any specific water system questions please feel free to contact the Quilcene water system manager, Doug Reeder, at 385-5800 ext 305 or 301-0708 (cell). The PUD Board meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. at the PUD office; feel free to attend. Your district is District 3 and your commissioner is Wayne G King. **Please conserve and use water wisely. You can find conservation tips on our web site at jeffpud.org and free conservation kits at the PUD office.**

Your water comes from a single well located on the grounds of the US Forest Service Ranger Station in Quilcene. The water system was transferred to the PUD late in 2005 and construction of the residential system completed in early 2007.

Is my water safe? The water we distribute to the Quilcene system meets all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Washington State drinking water health standards.

Examples of contaminants that may affect source water include: **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife, **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metal, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic waste water discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming, **Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture and residential uses, **Radioactive contaminants**, which are naturally occurring, and **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

Do I need to 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, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amount 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's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791), or Donna Freier at the State DOH (360-236-3162).

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. We will treat your water according to EPA and State DOH regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminant in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

About the arsenic detected in your well water: Your drinking water currently meets EPA's revised drinking water standard for arsenic. However, it does contain low levels of arsenic. There is a small chance that some people who drink water containing low levels of arsenic for many years could develop circulatory disease, cancer, or other health problems. Most types of cancer and circulatory diseases are due to factors other than exposure to arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water.

Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2010 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1 - December 31, 2010. The state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old.

Terms & abbreviations used below: **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is not known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety. **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. **Action Level (AL):** the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. **N/a:** not applicable; **nd:** not detectable at testing limit **ppb:** parts per billion or micrograms per liter **ppm:** parts per million or milligrams per liter **pCi/l:** picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation); **mg/L:** milligrams per liter (same as ppm). All our water test results can be found at www4.doh.wa.gov/SentryInternet/.

EPA - State Regulated (Primary Contaminant)	MCL	MCLG	Well	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
Nitrate	10 mg/l	10 mg/l	<0.5 mg/l	11/3/2010	No	Septic tanks and animal waste.
Gross alpha	15	NA	4.9 pCi/l	6/8/2010	NO	Radioactive decay of naturally occurring minerals
			0.45 pCi/l	7/14/2010	NO	