

Triton Cove Water Quality Report - 2011

To comply with Safe Drinking Water Act amendments and the Washington State Department of Health 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 our water resources. If you have specific water system questions, please feel free to contact your 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; please feel free to attend these meetings. Your district is District 3 and your commissioner is Wayne G King. **While we have received abundant precipitation this spring, please use water wisely. FREE conservation kits are available upon request at the PUD office in Port Hadlock.**

Is my water safe? In 2010, your tap water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards with one exception. One sample came out with a high concentration of zinc in the less frequently used Williams well. Zinc can give a metallic taste to water, however it has no known health effects and is not regulated by EPA. We are monitoring the Williams well and would appreciate any and all feedback from our customers regarding this matter. The PUD also installed sensors and a datalogger in the Marshall well to monitor water levels and select water quality parameters to ensure seawater intrusion does not compromise water quality.

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, in some cases, radio-active material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

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).

Your water comes from two wells, the Marshall well, located near the BPA power lines, and the Williams well, located near the creek on the northern edge of the water system. The Marshall well is over 400 feet deep. The Williams addition is shallower (165 feet) and is a flowing well. The Williams well is high in iron and is used less frequently, mostly during high demand periods. Each has a wellhead protection zone that restricts activities that could contaminate it. The wells are in basalt bedrock and are developed below sea-level. The Triton Cove system has had periodic leaks since the 2001 earthquake. Please be on the alert and report leaks to your system manager.

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, the EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations.

Water Quality Data Table

Unless otherwise noted, the table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that were 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. 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)

EPA Regulated Primary Inorganic	MCL	MCLG	Well#1 (Marshall well)	Well#2 (Williams well)	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
Nitrate	10 mg/l	10 mg/l	Nd	Nd	6/8/2010	No	Septic discharge, animal waste

Samples from Distribution Lines and Homes

Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Results	Location	Sample Date	Violation	
Lead	0.015		Not detected in ALL 5 samples	Distribution	8/31/2010	NO	Corrosion of pipes, erosion of natural deposits.
Copper			Not detected in 4 of 5, a sample measured 0.04 mg/l	Distribution	8/31/2010	NO	Corrosion of pipes, erosion of natural deposits.
Total Coliform	NA	NA	Present	Distribution	12/8/2010	Yes	Human and animal waste, soil

A coliform bacteria sample tested positive or “present” in distribution in December. Six subsequent tests taken two days later came back “Absent”. Sample was not related to water source. Williams well was tested for gross alpha (radioactivity), pesticides and volatile organic compounds. In all cases, nothing was detected. You can search all our water quality test results at Washington Department of Health’s Sentry Database at www4.doh.wa.gov/SentryInternet/. Search for “Triton Cove”.