

Williams Addition Water Quality Report - 1999

To comply with Safe Drinking Water Act amendments and the Washington State Department of Health mandates, Jefferson County Public Utility District #1 will be annually issuing 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 Williams Addition water system manager, Mike McClure, at 385-5800. **Additionally, the PUD Board meets** on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 4:00 p.m. at the PUD office; please feel free to attend. We also maintain a web site at <http://www.olyphen.com/jeffpud/pud.htm>.

Is my water safe? Last year we sampled and tested all the required U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards and found very little contamination. We also sampled total coliform bacteria, which tests for the presence of potentially harmful bacteria. The table on the back page lists all the contaminants that we detected during the 1998 calendar year. Your water is safe to drink, and will continue to be so with the completion of the system improvements.

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 mineral 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 a single well, Your well is located approximately 150 feet west of end of Williams Court. The well is now part of a well head protection plan that restricts any activity that could contaminate them. By the end of this year we hope to have Williams Addition fully integrated with the Triton Cove Water System. Their well is located near the BPA power lines. We had hoped to have the system completely combined earlier, however, between the permitting, trying to do the work in- house, and the necessary contracting, we are behind schedule.

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 treat our water according to EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminant in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Your water rates will not be raised in 2000.

Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 1998 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, 1998. 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)

Inorganic Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Well#1 Triton Cove	Well#2 Williams	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
Fluoride (mg/L)	4	4	.1		9/6/96	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer & aluminum factories.
	4	4		.1	8/19/98	NO	
Lead (mg/L)	.015	.015	nd		9/6/96	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; corrosion of household plumbing systems.
	.015	.015		.002	8/19/98	NO	
Copper (mg/L) 1.3	1.3	nd			9/6/96	NO	Corrosion of house hold plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
	1.3	1.3		.2	8/19/98	NO	

Lead and Copper Testing	AL	MCLG	test results	Range of	Water System # sites found above AL
Lead (mg/L)	.015	0.0	n/d - .017		All 10 sites tested below the AL
Copper(mg/L)	1.3	1.3	n/d - .001		All 10 sites tested below the AL

Total Coliform Bacteria - Naturally present in the environment - typically the cause of contamination is a leak in the system
Triton Cove had no coliform bacteria violations in 1998

In 1998 the Williams Addition had 3 separate months where total coliform was detected in the water system. Retesting the system resulted in one actual non-acute MCL violation. In no case was fecal coliform nor E. coli detected. Coliform are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially-harmful bacteria may be present. Coliform bacteria found in two or more samples is a warning of potential problems and usually triggers a precautionary notice. You received such a notice during September 1998. At that time we added chlorine and flushed our main water lines to remove the problem.

Note: The EPA requires monitoring of over 80 drinking water contaminants. Those listed above are the only contaminants detected in your drinking water.