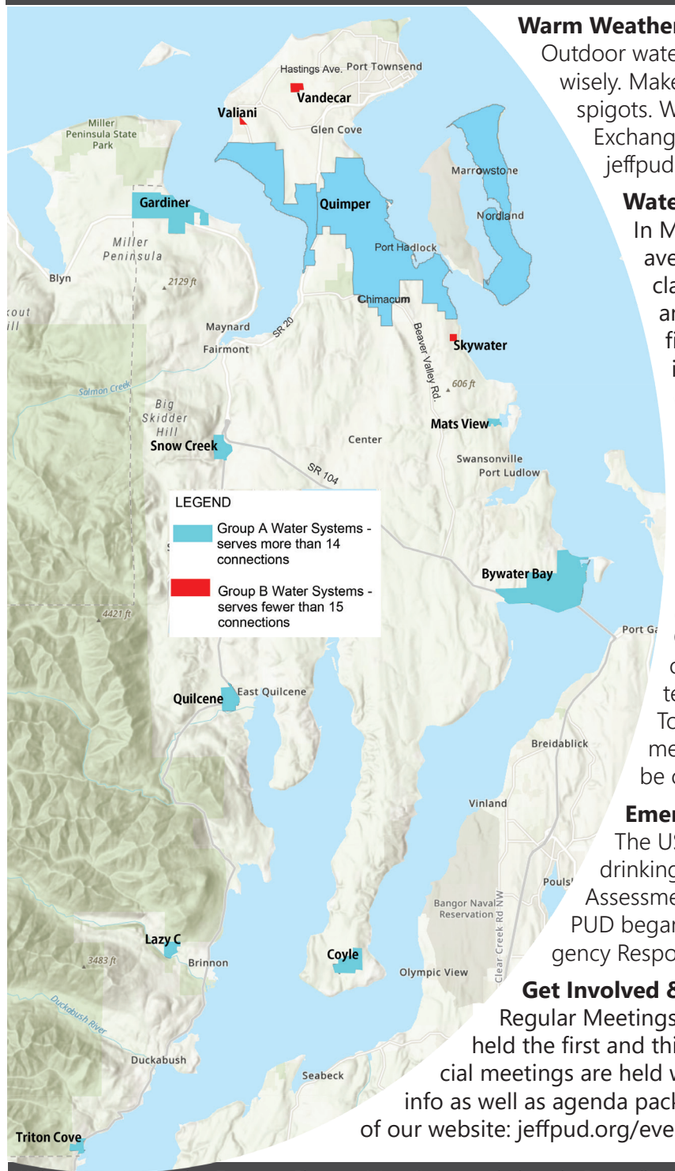
PUD Water Department News



Warm Weather is Here. Water Wisely

Outdoor watering can get expensive if steps aren't taken to water wisely. Make sure all leaks are repaired, from hose connections to spigots. Water in the early morning, not in the heat of the day. Exchange sprinklers for soaker hose or drip tape. More info: jeffpud.org/water-wisely.

Water Rate Increases Start in June

In May, the PUD's Board of Commissioners approved an average increase of 16% for all water customers and classes. The increases are intended to cover current and projected operations and capital shortfalls. The first increase goes effect in June, with subsequent increases planned for January in successive years.

Water System Plan

This spring, the PUD received approval of Volumes 1 & 2 (Bywater Bay) of the 2021 Water System Plan from the Board of Commissioners and the Department of Health. Other sections of Volumes 2 and 3 are still pending. To review approved and draft sections go to: jeffpud.org/water-system-planning.

2021 Water Capital Projects

Construction work to begin replacement of the deteriorating wellhouse in the PUD's Snow Creek Water System has been awarded to Seton Construction of Port Townsend. Internal piping and water treatment equipment will also be refurbished or replaced. The project will be completed in Fall of 2021.

Emergency Response and Risk Resilience Planning

The US Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) requires drinking water utilities to complete a Risk and Resilience Assessment (RRA) and an Emergency Response Plan (ERP). The PUD began its Risk and Resiliency Assessment in April and Emergency Response Planning begins in June.

Get Involved & Stay Informed at PUD Public Meetings

Regular Meetings of PUD Commissioners are open to the public and held the first and third Tuesday of every month at 5pm. Additional special meetings are held with a minimum of 24 hours notice given. For more info as well as agenda packets and links to recordings visit the calendar section of our website: jeffpud.org/events.

Well repair work at Sparling Treatment Plant

Water Storage tank along the Dosewallips River Rd in Brinnon.

New pumps and piping and controls at Lazy C

customerservice@jeffpud.org jeffpud.org (360) 385-5800 310 Four Corners Road Port Townsend WA 98368

Pictured: The pool at Rocky Brook Falls in Brinnon, ~2 miles north of the PUD's Lazy C water system

Jefferson County PUD has provided public water to community clusters across East Jefferson County since 1981. The PUD currently operates 9 separate Group A water systems and multiple Group B systems across its service territory. PUD water is sourced from multiple underground wells. The PUD does not pull water from surface aquifers. Water quality tests are performed regularly to ensure every system meets state and federal regulations. The PUD does not use fluoride.

The PUD supplies water to communities in or near:

Woodland Hills	Chimacum	Quilcene
Kala Point	Port Hadlock	Coyle
Gardiner	Marrowstone Island	Brinnon
Irondale	Mats Mats	Shine

NOTE: the PUD does not supply water to residents of the City of Port Townsend.

Installing water pipe on Marrowstone Is.

The PUD has a dedicated and experienced crew of trained water distribution and treatment managers who monitor and maintain each and every PUD water system. They are led by Engineering Director Samantha Harper, P.E. (second from right) and Resource Manager Bill Graham (not pictured).

PUD WATER CREW at the Sparling Treatment plant in 2021. Left to Right: Jose Escalera, Tom Brooke, Jerry Rubert, Eric Storey, Randy Calkins, Doug Reeder, Far right: Samantha Harper and Kara Rogers (Engineering Assistant).

WATER USE EFFICIENCY REPORT
Jefferson County PUD is required create a Water Use Efficiency Report on an annual basis. To comply with this State law, Jefferson County PUD has approved a new water use efficiency goal program for the period of 2020-2025 for your water system. Our water use efficiency goals are as follows:

Supply Side - Maintain distribution systems leak (DSL) percentage at or below 10 percent of system production as calculated on a 3-year average.

Supply Side - Water systems not at or below DSL of 10 percent, reduce DSL by 10 percent in the next 3 years (Note: Baseline 3-year average from 2019, 2018 & 2017).

Supply Side - Maintain water production at or below the 3-year mean average in non-expanding systems.

Demand Side - Maintain gallons per day per connection at 3 year mean average.

Our entire 2020-2025 Water Use Efficiency program is on our website, as is the copy of the report filed with the State. To receive a copy by mail, call customer service at (360) 385-5800 M-F, 9-4:30pm.

ABOUT THE CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT INCLUDED WITH THIS NEWSLETTER

The two page black and white report included with this newsletter is provided to educate consumers about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards. Our staff routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water in accordance with Federal, State or local laws. In 2020, overall drinking water quality met all drinking water standards.

We would like you to share our confidence in your drinking water. We take pride in keeping you informed about the quality of your water and the service we provide. We encourage you to take a few moments and review the enclosed table showing the results of water quality monitoring from January 1 to December 31, 2020. We welcome your questions, concerns, and observations.

HOW OUR CREW KEEPS YOUR DRINKING WATER SAFE

The PUD employs 6 water distribution managers, 2 of which are also treatment plant operators (1 also manages wastewater). Together they have over 150 years of experience. They arrive most days before sunrise to begin system monitoring and maintenance, and in the event of a service interruption or equipment failure, are available round the clock to respond and repair.

Eric Storey (pictured left) is a Water Distribution Manager III and Water Treatment Manager III, and serves as crew lead. He came to the PUD in 2001 along with the purchase of the Quimper Water System from the City of Port Townsend. Eric continues to shepherd the Quimper system, reporting to work everyday at the Sparling Treatment Plant. The Sparling well and treatment plant is the most productive of the PUD's 9 Group A wells, serving over 3,700 of the PUD's nearly 5000 water customers.

Doug Reeder (pictured right) is a Water Distribution Manager III and has been at the PUD for over 20 years, one of our two longest serving employees (the other is Bill Graham). Through Doug works on all systems, he tends to specialize in process controls, pumps and motors, wiring, and internal piping in systems in the southern part of Jefferson County.

CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL *Protecting the Water You Drink In Your Home or Business through Backflow Prevention*

A cross connection is a point in a plumbing system where the potable water supply is connected to a non-potable source. The Washington State Department of Health requires backflow prevention assemblies on all commercial and some residential properties that are connected to the public water system. Common potential cross connection found include: Hose bibs, Irrigation sprinkler systems, Livestock watering and/or animal water troughs, Swimming pools, Hot tubs, Fire Sprinkler systems, Wash basins or service sinks.

Annual backflow assembly testing is required by state Department of Health rules (WAC 246-290-490) to ensure the assembly is in good working condition. We rely on approved backflow prevention assemblies to protect the public water supply. The PUD is committed to ensuring your water remains clean and safe. For more information about cross connection and backflow please visit our website: jeffpud.org.

***For more information** about your water, please contact our Resource Manager, Bill Graham, email bgraham@jeffpud.org or call (360) 385-5800, 9am to 4:30pm, Monday - Friday.*

ERIC STOREY


FILTER TANKS AT THE SPARLING TREATMENT PLANT IN CHIMACUM

CONTAMINANTS WHICH MAY REASONABLY BE EXPECTED TO BE FOUND IN DRINKING WATER

All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground it dissolves naturally occurring minerals (and in some cases, radioactive material) and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Note: the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk. To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Department of Health and EPA prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Washington Department of Agriculture regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health. For more info, call EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

LEAD In WA State, lead in drinking water comes primarily from materials and components used in household plumbing. The more time water has been sitting in pipes, the more dissolved metals, such as lead, it may contain. Elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, esp. in pregnant women and young children. To help reduce potential exposure to lead, for any drinking water tap that has not been used for 6 hours or more, flush water through the tap until the water is noticeably colder before using for drinking or cooking. You can use the flushed water for watering plants, washing dishes, or general cleaning. Only use water from the cold-water tap for drinking, cooking, and especially for making baby formula. Hot water is likely to contain higher levels of lead. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water is available form EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or online at epa.gov/safewater/lead.

NITRATE Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.

ARSENIC Your drinking water currently meets EPA's revised drinking water standard for arsenic. However, it does contain a low level 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 for drinking water.

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS Some people may be more vulnerable to contamination in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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 metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

Pesticides and Herbicides: which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.

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.

Radioactive Contaminants: which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.


DOUG REEDER