



City of Pacific

2012

Water Consumer Confidence Report

Published May 2013

We are pleased to present to our Annual Water Quality Report for the reporting year of 2012. This report is designed to inform you about the water quality and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

Chemical Spill at the Boeing Fabrication Auburn Site

A cleanup study, called a remedial investigation (RI), is evaluating the extent of contaminated groundwater that originates on Boeing property. Groundwater in the area flows to the north and northwest of the Boeing Site. The area where contaminated groundwater is found, the “plume,” extends in this direction approximately one mile beyond the property boundary. Data from groundwater samples continue to show that site contamination does not affect Pacific drinking water sources, nor does it appear likely to do so.

For more information, please go to the Washington State Department of Ecology at www.ecy.wa.gov

City of Pacific Water Information & Water Service Area

The City of Pacific currently utilizes groundwater from three wells for its public water supply and may receive water from the City of Auburn and or Sumner in emergencies. The City’s three water supply wells are located to the north of Ellingson Road and west of Pacific Avenue in the City of Algona.

Pacific disinfects its groundwater using a chlorination system and maintains a 75,000-gallon storage reservoir.

Lakehaven Utility District services residents in the West Hill area.

General Health Effects Information

With groundwater-sourced drinking water, water travels through the ground dissolving naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity. Contaminants that may be present include microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, pesticides and herbicides, and radioactive materials. 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. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must only provide the same protection as public drinking water systems.

Lead and Copper

Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water-containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's disease should consult their personal doctor. The City will be testing for Lead and Copper in August of 2013 to determine if the City’s Corrosion Control system is maintaining the proper pH levels. If you wish to take part in the next lead and copper testing cycle please contact Jim Schunke at 929-1116 or e-mail, jschunke@ci.pacific.wa.us.

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).

Water Quality Monitoring Requirements

State law requires municipal water systems to monitor for numerous contaminants on a regular basis. The City is pleased to report compliance with all water quality monitoring requirements. The state allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once a year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. The following table summarizes the City's water quality monitoring requirements on a four-year cycle.

Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. The presence of 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 in the calendar year of the report. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

For more information about drinking water

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Jim Schunke at 253-929-1116 or go to www.cityofpacific.com/water. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. You may also find more information at the Environmental Protection Agency at 1-800-426-4791 (www.epa.gov/safewater), and the Washington State Department of Health at 206-464-7059 (www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw).

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Contaminant Type	Monitoring Requirement
Bacteriological Contaminants	7 samples per month in the distribution system
Inorganic Chemicals	1 sample every three years at each well
Lead and Copper	Randomly tested per DOH requirements
Volatile Organic Chemicals	sampled every three years at the Well field
Synthetic Organic Chemicals	The City currently has a monitoring waiver for synthetic organic chemicals, because previous sample had no detectable levels
Radionuclides	1 sample every 4 years at each well
Trihalomethanes	sampled every three years

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Microbiological Contaminants							
Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Your Water	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source	
Nitrate – N (mg/L)	0.05	5	0.6	6/12/2012	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits	
Inorganic Contaminants							
Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Average Water	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.13	8/22/2012	0 Sites above AL out of 34 sites sampled	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	0	0.015	0.0004	8/22/2012	0 Sites above AL out of 34 sites sampled	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Drinking Water Definitions							
Term	Definition						
ppm	parts per million						
mg/L	milligrams per liter						
NA	NA: not applicable						
ND	ND: Not detected						
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.						
MCLG	MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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.						
MCL	MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: 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.						
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.						
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection level goal. 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.						
MRDL	MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level. 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.						

Frequently Asked Questions

How can I get more involved in decisions affecting my drinking water?

The Pacific City Council holds regular meetings at 6:30 p.m. at the Pacific City Hall on the second and fourth Mondays of each month.

Is bottled water cleaner and safer than tap water? Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contamination does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Who regulates bottled water? The Federal Food and Drug Administration regulate contaminants in bottled water and is responsible for providing the same levels of public health protection.

Why is chlorine added to my water? *Pursuant to state and federal laws, very small amounts of chlorine are added to your water as a disinfecting agent to protect you from disease-causing micro-organisms. If you are bothered by the chlorine taste, keep a pitcher of tap water in the refrigerator. The chlorine will dissipate rapidly if the water is allowed to sit for a time.*

Is fluoride added to our drinking water? *Neither the City of Pacific nor the City of Auburn adds fluoride to its drinking water supply.*

Water Conservation

Water is essential to our health, our communities, our environment, and our economy. As our state population grows, the demand for water will continue to rise. Not only must water systems ensure a safe and clean supply of water, but they also must ensure that there is enough water available to supply their customers every day of the year. Water is a shared resource. Other uses include agriculture, fish habitat, industry, hydropower, and recreation. All of these uses add up and can put enormous pressure on local water supplies, especially during summer when the demand is highest. Depleting reservoirs and groundwater can put water supplies, human health, and the environment at serious risk. Lower water levels can contribute to higher concentrations of natural or human pollutants. Using water more efficiently helps maintain supplies at safe levels, protecting human health and the environment.

Public water systems are the second largest water user in the state. They use about 18% annually of the total amount of freshwater withdrawn from surface and groundwater sources. By comparison, agriculture uses about 60% of the state's water every year, while industry and hydropower use about 8%.

A lot of hard work goes into providing the water that comes out of your tap every day. When the Department of Health adopted new water efficiency regulations in 2007, many water systems took notice and began to re-think just how efficient they can be.

Now more than ever, they are taking action to find and fix leaks in their water distribution system, thereby eliminating waste.

- Take short showers - a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill