



City of Port Angeles Water Quality Report – 2003

Dear Water Customer:

The City of Port Angeles is pleased to provide this annual Water Quality Report. Its purpose is to tell you about the high quality of the City's water and water system. This report is a summary of the quality of water provided in 2003. It is a record reflecting the hard work by City employees to bring you water that satisfies all of the requirements of the national Safe Drinking Water Act.

Is my water safe?

Last year, as in years past, your tap water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards. The City of Port Angeles vigilantly safeguards its water supply and once again we are proud to report that our system has provided you, the customer, with safe, reliable, and high quality drinking water. This report includes details about where your water comes from, its quality and how it compares to stringent standards set by regulatory agencies. We believe that customers who are well informed are able to make better decisions about their drinking water supply.

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 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 Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Where does my water come from?

The source for the City of Port Angeles Water System is a Ranney Collector (well) located on the east bank of the Elwha River near river mile 2.8, in Section 3, T 30 N, R 7 W. The system identification number is 68550M. The Ranney Collector has been classified as groundwater under the influence (GWI) of surface water. This designation requires the City to meet requirements of the Surface Water Treatment Rule (SWTR). Regulatory compliance options available under the SWTR include filtration and complying with criteria to avoid filtration.

The City and the Washington State Department of Health have negotiated an agreement that will effectively meet the filtration avoidance requirements by the construction of a federally-funded municipal water treatment facility under the Elwha River Ecosystem and Fisheries Restoration Act. In the agreement, the water treatment facility will be in place before dam removal begins. This is referenced in the Bilateral Compliance Agreement, (BCA), Docket # 00-02-014.

Source water assessment and its availability:

Water from the Ranney Collector is tested following the guidelines established by the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) to detect potential contaminants that could reasonably be expected to be found in drinking water.

Because most of the land through which the Elwha River flows is inside the Olympic National Park, there is limited opportunity for human contamination of the water. Contaminants that might be expected in untreated water include; biological contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, pesticides, and herbicides, organic chemicals, from industrial or petroleum use, and radioactive materials.

Why are these contaminants in my drinking water?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts 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). This information can also be accessed at the EPA's website, www.epa.gov/safewater/ccr1.html. 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, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity.

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

Pesticides and herbicides, may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants, can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water and must provide the same protection for public health. For some constituents, DOH prescribes lower maximum contaminant levels than EPA does.

How can I get involved?

Water Conservation Tips

Water conservation measures are an important first step in protecting our water supply. Such measures not only save the supply of our water, but can also cut the cost of water treatment. Here are a few suggestions.

CONSERVATION MEASURES YOU CAN USE INSIDE YOUR HOME:

- 1.) Fix leaking faucets, pipes, toilets, etc.
- 2.) Install water saving devices in faucets, toilets, and appliances.
- 3.) Replace old fixtures with new ones. This will reduce water consumption by nearly one-half.
- 4.) Wash only full loads of laundry.
- 5.) Do not use the toilet for a trash disposal.
- 6.) Take shorter showers. Do not let the water run while shaving, washing, brushing teeth, or cleaning fruits or vegetables.
- 7.) Soak dishes before washing. Run the dishwasher only when full.

YOU CAN CONSERVE OUTDOORS AS WELL:

- 1.) Water the lawn and garden in the early morning or evening.
- 2.) Use mulch around plants and shrubs.
- 3.) Repair leaks in faucets and hoses. Use water-saving nozzles.
- 4.) Use water from a bucket to wash your vehicle. Save the hose for rinsing.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

The City of Port Angeles Council meets at 6:00p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at City Hall, 321 E. 5th Street. Information about the City's utilities may be found on the web site: www.ci.port-angeles.wa.us. If you have questions, the City of Port Angeles Water System Superintendent may be reached at (360) 417-4855 or by email at bbeverford@cityofpa.us.

Variance and Exemptions

In 2003 the City of Port Angeles requested and was approved to reduce monitoring of Disinfection/Disinfectants by Products by the DOH. Having met the sampling requirements agreed to and those sampling results to be below the Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL's) of Trihalomethanes, Halo-Acetic Acids (HAA(5)'s) and Total Organic Carbon (TOC's).

The City's water system operates under two Bilateral Compliance Agreements (BCA's) with the DOH: Docket # 7207 – Covering of Uncovered Finished Water Supply Reservoirs and Installation of Corrosion Control, (All five reservoirs are now covered and will proceed with required sample testing to determine if Corrosion Control measures will be necessary), Docket # 00-02-014 – Groundwater Under the Influence of surface Water. Details for both of the BCA's are available upon request from the City of Port Angeles Water Superintendent at (360) 417-4855 or by email at bbeverford@cityofpa.us.

<u>Term</u>	<u>Definition</u>
ug/L	ug/L : Number of micrograms of substance in one liter of water
mg/L	mg/L: Number of milligrams of substance in one liter of water
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
ppt	ppt: parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter
ppq	ppq: parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter
pCi/L	pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
mrem/yr	mrem/yr: millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)
MFL	MFL: million fibers per liter, used to measure asbestos concentration
NTU	NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.
positive samples/month	positive samples/month: Number of samples taken monthly that were found to be positive
positive samples/yr	positive samples/yr: The number of positive samples taken that year
positive samples	positive samples/yr: The number of positive samples taken that year
% positive samples/month	% positive samples/month: Percent of samples taken monthly that were positive
% killed or inactivated	% killed or inactivated: Percentage of viruses/bacteria killed or inactivated by treatment method
CFU / mL	CFU/ml: Colony Forming Units per milliliter
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

Important Drinking Water Definitions

<u>Term</u>	<u>Definition</u>
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.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
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.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

