

# Consumer Confidence Report

## *Annual report on water quality*

As part of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act of 1996, the United States Environmental Protection Agency requires water utilities to provide their customers with a water quality report annually.

### **Where Does Your Water Come From?**

Our water is pumped from several aquifer levels of the Clover/Chambers Creek Basin as it flows to Puget Sound.

The company owns 12 wells, which range from 30 to 630 feet deep. Stored water is kept in five above-ground water storage tanks. Two are ground-level tanks, one is an elevated tank and two are standpipes. These tanks can store 5.6 million gallons of water.

The water system is operated by gravity distribution and supplies ample fire protection throughout the PL&WCo. service area, as well as provides the daily domestic and commercial needs of the community.

### **What is Added to My Water and Why?**

As water is pumped from wells, chlorine is added as a disinfectant to protect you from possible disease-causing microorganisms. The amount of chlorine used is the minimum necessary to maintain detectable levels of the disinfectant throughout the water distribution system.

Some wells produce slightly acidic water. Where this occurs, sodium hydroxide is added to the water to raise the pH level and reduce the slightly corrosive nature of the water before it gets to you, the consumer.

### **Where Do Contaminants Come From?**

As water travels over the surface of the land and filters down through the ground, it may pick up substances in the earth. These may be there naturally, as the result of the presence of animals or from human activity.

Untreated drinking water could contain biological contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria; inorganic constituents, such as salts and metals; pesticides and herbicides; organic chemicals from industrial or petroleum use; or naturally occurring radioactive materials or minerals.

Some of these contaminants are harmless, but make the water unappealing. Others could make consumers ill.

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or PL&WCo. at (253) 531-5666.

PL&WCo. has a source water protection plan that provides more information, such as potential sources of contamination, available at our office. The co-op is pleased to report our drinking water is safe, and meets federal and state requirements. If you have any questions or want to learn more, please visit us at [www.plw.coop](http://www.plw.coop), or contact Dale Budzinski, water superintendent, at (253) 531-5666 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. Members may attend any of our monthly board meetings. Please call the number above for the schedule. ■

### **How to Read Test Results on Page 28**

In the table on page 28, you will find many unfamiliar terms and abbreviations. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the following definitions:

- ▶ **MFL: Million fibers per liter of asbestos fibers longer than 10 micrometers.**
- ▶ **Non-Detects (ND): Laboratory analysis indicates the contaminant is not present.**
- ▶ **Parts per million (ppm) or milligrams per liter (mg/l): One part per million. Parts per billion (ppb) or micrograms per liter: One part per billion.**
- ▶ **Picocuries per liter (pCi/L): A measure of radioactivity in water.**
- ▶ **Action level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements for a water system.**
- ▶ **Maximum contaminant level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to MCLGs (see below) as feasible, using the best available treatment technology. MCLs are set at stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.**
- ▶ **Maximum contaminant level goal (MCLG): 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.**

## Consumer Confidence Water Report

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PL&WCo. has a source water protection plan available from our office that provides more information, such as potential sources of contamination. I am pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets federal and state requirements.

If you have any questions or want to learn more about this report, visit us at [www.plw.coop](http://www.plw.coop) or contact Water Superintendent Dale Budzinski at (253) 531-5666, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. Members also may attend any of our monthly board meetings. Please call the number above for date and time.

PL&WCo. routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to federal and state laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1, 2011, to December 31, 2015. UCMR 3 sampling was done in 2014. Please go to [www.plw.coop](http://www.plw.coop) to view test results.

Test Results								
Contaminant and range found	Violation Yes/No	Level Detected	Unit of Measure	MCLG	MCL	Likely source of contamination		
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>								
Total coliform bacteria	No	0	15 samples biweekly	0	0	Naturally present in environment		
Fecal coliform and E. Coli	No	0	15 samples biweekly	0	0	Human and animal feces		
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Arsenic ND .005 2012	No	.005	ppm	.01	.01	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production		
Asbestos ND 2010	No	ND	MFL	7	7	Decay of asbestos cement water mains; erosion of natural deposits		
Chlorine .36-1.16 2012	No	1.16	ppm	1.2	4	Water additive to control microbes		
Copper <.02-0.79 2014	No	.04	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits		
Fluoride .6-1.5 2013	No	1.5	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive to promote strong teeth		
Lead <.001-.004 2014	No	<.002	ppm	.015	AL=.015	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits		
Nitrate <.2-2.3 2015	No	2.6	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits		
<b>Volatile Organic Contaminants</b>								
HAAs ND 2015	No	5.2	ppb	60	60	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection		
TTHM ND - 4 2015	No	7.1	ppb	80	80	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination		

**Notice:** PL&WCo. did not collect Nitrate samples for Sources # 9 and 13 in 2015. Once these well sites are back in operation, Nitrate samples will be collected at the earliest opportunity.

# Tests Find No Violations

As you can see by the table, PL&WCo's system had no violations. We are proud your drinking water meets or exceeds all federal and state requirements.

We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some contaminants have been detected. The Environmental Protection Agency has determined your water is safe at these levels.

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable than the general population to lead in drinking water. Lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community because of materials used in your home's plumbing.

If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested. Flushing your tap for 30 seconds to two minutes before using the tap water greatly reduces the intake of lead.

Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

In our continuing effort to maintain a safe and dependable water supply, it may be necessary to improve the water system. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments may be necessary to address some improvements.

We at PL&WCo. work around the clock to provide top-quality water to every tap. We ask that all of our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

## **PL&WCo. Delivers**

As your water provider, we are constantly monitoring your water to make sure it is safe and available 24 hours a day, seven

days a week. We make sure there is an adequate supply of water to meet community needs.

We carefully treat water to remove any potentially harmful contaminants. We disinfect water to make sure it is safe when it reaches your faucet. We maintain an elaborate underground network of mains and pipes to get it there.

We deliver more than water. We deliver public health, fire protection, support for the economy and the overall quality of life we enjoy. Our job is to ensure your water keeps flowing not only today, but also well into the future. It is all part of our commitment to serve you and everyone in our community.

Please call our office if you have questions.

## **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.

Get more information about contaminants and potential health effects by calling the EPA's safe drinking water hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population.

Immuno-compromised persons—such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people 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 guidelines on ways to decrease risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the safe drinking water hotline. ■

## **Faucet Water Use by the Numbers**

### **Standard Home**

- ▶ Typical faucet flow rates (gallons per minute): 1.2
- ▶ Average faucet gallons per person per day: 9.2
- ▶ Average minutes of faucet use per person per day: 8.4

### **Conserving Home**

- ▶ Typical faucet flow rates: 1.0
- ▶ Average faucet gallons per person per day: 8.0
- ▶ Average minutes of faucet use per person per day: 8.9

*PL&WCo. routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water, according to federal and state laws.*

*The table on page 28 shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1, 2011, to December 31, 2015. For UCMR 3 sampling in 2014, go to our website.*

