Nooksack Tribe 5 Cedars

2019 Water Quality Report

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

Is my water safe?

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).

Where does my water come from?

The Water System is supplied by two groundwater sources, Wells #1 and #2. Well #1 was drilled in 1978, and Well #2 in 1983. In 2006, Well #2 was taken off-line due to low water production and may be deactivated and abandoned in the future. Well #1 provides the community’s drinking water supply at a rate of 55 gpm.

Source water assessment and its availability

None.

Why are there 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 Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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 from human activity: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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 stormwater 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 stormwater 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 stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and radioactive contaminants, which 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 sets regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

How can I get involved?

Contact your water system.

Water Conservation Tips

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference - try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- 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!
- Visit www.epa.gov/watersense for more information.

Cross Connection Control Survey

The purpose of this survey is to determine whether a cross-connection may exist at your home or business. A cross connection is an unprotected or improper connection to a public water distribution system that may cause contamination or pollution to enter the system. We are responsible for enforcing cross-connection control regulations and insuring that no contaminants can, under any flow conditions, enter the distribution system. If you have any of the devices listed below please contact us so that we can discuss the issue, and if needed, survey your connection and assist you in isolating it if that is necessary.

- Boiler/ Radiant heater (water heaters not included)
- Underground lawn sprinkler system
- Pool or hot tub (whirlpool tubs not included)
- Additional source(s) of water on the property
- Decorative pond
- Watering trough

Source Water Protection Tips

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides - they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community, or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with your local government or water supplier. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste - Drains to

River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

Significant Deficiencies

Sources:

- Well #2 does not extend 18 inches above the final ground surface. (If Well #2 will not be used, it should be properly decommissioned).
- There is no raw water treatment tap prior to treatment
- Well #1 and Well #2 are less than 100 ft. from either a septic tank or drain field.

Storage Tank:

- Vents appear to be covered with 4-mesh; all tank vent and pipe openings must be covered with 24-mesh.
- Water storage tank must be inspected and/or cleaned.

Additional Information for Lead

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. 5 Cedars 2018 Water System is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

For more information please contact:

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Water Quality Data Table

In order to ensure tap water is safe to drink, EPA sets regulations to limit contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists drinking water contaminants that were detected during 2019. Although many more contaminants were tested, only the substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels.

The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. To help you better understand terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you, below are definitions.

Unit Descriptions	
Term	**Definition**
mg/L	milligrams per liter (mg/L)

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	**Definition**
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	Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

2019 Regulated Contaminants Detected

CONTAMINANT	SAMPLE DATE	RESULT or RANGE	AL	UNITS	DESCRIPTION
LEAD	7/31/2019	0.002	0.015	MG/L	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
COPPER	7/31/2019	0.023 - 0.159	1.3	MG/L	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.

CONTAMINANT	SAMPLE DATE	RESULT or RANGE	MCL	UNITS	CONTAMINANT DESCRIPTION
NITRATE	7/31/2019	0.39-6.75	10	MG/L	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
TRIHALOMETHANES	11/27/2019	5-7.2	80	UG/L	By-product of drinking water disinfection

2019 Violations Table

Drinking Water Regulation	Compliance Period	Violation Status Description
Lead Consumer Notice	1/1/2019	We failed to provide timely lead tap water results to consumers where it was tested. Violation was corrected 10/5/2018.
Nitrates Rule Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate above the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue-baby syndrome.		
Nitrates Monitoring	4/1/2019 - 6/30/2019	We failed to test our drinking water for this contaminant and are unsure of your drinking water quality during that time. Violation was corrected 8/9/2019.
Nitrates Monitoring	1/1/2019 - 3/31/2019	We failed to test our drinking water for this contaminant and are unsure of your drinking water quality during that time. Violation was corrected 4/17/2019.
Chemical Contaminants Rules These regulations protect public health by reducing the levels of over 65 contaminants that cause chronic, or long-term risks, such as organ damage, cancer, circulatory, nervous and reproductive system disorders.		
Arsenic Monitoring	1/1/2017-12/31/2019	We failed to test your drinking water for this contaminant and are unsure of water quality at that time.
Inorganic Chemicals (IOCs) Monitoring	1/1/2017-12/31/2019	We failed to test your drinking water for these contaminants and are unsure of water quality at that time.
Synthetic Organic Chemicals (SOC) Monitoring	1/1/2017-12/31/2019	We failed to test our drinking water for these contaminants and are unsure of your drinking water quality during that time.
Volatile Organic Chemicals (VOC) Monitoring	1/1/2017-12/31/2019	We failed to test our drinking water for these contaminants and are unsure of your drinking water quality during that time.

Groundwater Rule The Ground Water Rule (GWR) improves drinking water quality and protects from disease-causing microorganisms and fecal contamination at water systems. The GWR requires water systems at risk of contamination to take corrective action to reduce potential illness.		
Groundwater Rule Treatment Technique: Failure to Correct Deficiencies	1/28/2015-	Extend casing height on Well 1. This issue has been resolved.
		Decommission Well 2 . **What is being done?** We anticipate resolving these issues by December 2020. **What should I do?** • There is nothing you need to do. You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor. • If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. **What does this mean?** This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified within 24 hours. **Inadequately treated or inadequately protected water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.** These symptoms, however, are not caused only by organisms in drinking water, but also by other factors. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice.