2016 Water Quality Report
Sugarloaf Water System
PWS ID# 463168

Safe And Reliable Drinking Water

Covington Water District is committed to providing our consumers with safe, reliable drinking water.

Our goal is to continue improving our product by implementing cost effective measures such as source and distribution system improvements that enhance reliability and produce a level of water quality that exceeds federal and state drinking water standards.

This commitment to safe and reliable drinking water combined with the investments into source and infrastructure improvements will have lasting benefits for current and future generations.

Please take time to review this report and join us in appreciating the vital role water plays in all of our lives.

Reliable Service and Commitment to You

Covington Water District (CWD) is proud to present your annual Water Quality Report. This edition summarizes the results of the water quality testing completed from January through December of 2016. The results contained in this report show that Covington Water District is providing safe potable water that meets or exceeds federal and state regulatory agency requirements. We hope that the contents of this report are useful and informative.

Sugarloaf Water System's drinking water comes from one ground water source owned and operated by Covington Water District. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the information contained in this report, please contact Glenn Stockman, Water Quality Lead, at 253-867-0944 or glenn.stockman@covingtonwater.com.

Sugarloaf Well #3 Treatment Facility

Important Information For Your Health

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, (1-800-426-4791).

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/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 (1-800-426-4791).

Minerals - Lead & Copper

Studies cited by the EPA, show that ingesting lead or copper can cause health problems, especially in pregnant women and young children. Lead and copper found in drinking water usually come from home plumbing. Some homes have higher levels than other homes. Water with a low pH can cause copper from the pipes and lead from the solder (used to join the pipes), to dissolve directly into the drinking water. Lead-based solder was banned in 1986, but small amounts of lead can still be found in many brass-plumbing fixtures and can slowly dissolve into water that has been left standing in pipes for longer periods of time.

Federal and state drinking water rules establish "action levels" allowable for lead and copper in water samples collected from homes. At least 90 percent of samples may have no more than 0.015 milligrams of lead in one liter of water and no more than 1.3 milligrams of copper per liter. Once every three years, we sample 5 (five) homes for lead and copper. The most recent sampling was completed in 2014 (see the lead and copper results for 2014 in the Water Quality Analytical Results chart on page 7). Results show our system below the action levels for both lead and copper. The next required scheduled monitoring will be completed in 2017.

Pregnant women and young children can be more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. If you have concerns about lead levels in the water at your home, have your water tested. Running water between 30 seconds and two minutes after it sits stagnant in the pipe for a few hours can help clean the tap and reduce the amount of lead and or copper in your water. A change in the temperature of water will also tell you when fresh water arrives. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

How Do We Treat Your Water?

Chlorine (Sodium Hypochlorite)

The District treats our ground water source with the addition of chlorine (sodium hypochlorite) to protect against microorganisms which can cause illnesses, such as typhoid, cholera, hepatitis and giardiasis.

This chlorination process is completed at the source where chlorine levels are monitored daily. Free chlorine residuals are also monitored in the water system daily to make sure the water system is protected at all locations (up to the service connection). While chlorine does an excellent job of killing the microorganisms that may be harmful to you, chlorine also reacts with natural organic material in the source water. This reaction forms compounds called disinfection byproducts (DBPs). The District meets drinking water standards for two groups of disinfection byproduct compounds. Byproduct levels found in water depend primarily on:

- *The amount of natural organic material in the water.*
- *The amount of chlorine used to treat the water.*
- *The amount of time it takes water to reach the customer*.
- *The temperature of the water.*

To learn more about chlorine and drinking water standards, please visit http://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/DrinkingWater/Disinfection/ChlorinationofDrinkingWater.

Protecting Public Health is our #1 Priority

Water Quality Monitoring

Covington Water District's Operations staff strives to protect public health through extensive water quality testing. Twice a month, Chris Guest, CWD's Water Treatment Operator, collects a water sample in the water distribution system looking for coliform bacteria. If there is a presence of coliform bacteria in drinking water, this indicates that disease-causing organisms (pathogens) could be in the water system. Samples are submitted to a certified laboratory for analysis and those results are submitted to the Washington State Department of Health Office of Drinking Water.

Chris Guest, CWD's Water Treatment Operator, taking a sample.

What's In Your Water

The results in this table show the substances we identified at the water source, and in the distribution system in 2016. The table does not include the other volatile organic chemicals and synthetic organic chemicals we tested for but did not detect in our drinking water, including many industrial chemicals, herbicides and pesticides.

Acronyms

NA: Not Applicable
ND: Not Detected
NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units, measure of the clarity, or turbidity, of water.
ppm: Parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb: Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (μg/L)

Water Quality Analytical Results

Covington Water District Water Quality Table 2016							
Regulated Substances	**Unit**	**Year Sampled**	**MCL (Maximum amount allowed)**	**MCLG (Ideal amount or less)**	**Range or level Detected or # exceed AL**	**Regulation Met?**	**Potential sources of contaminant**
Regulated at the Source							
Nitrate	ppm	2016	10 ppm	10 ppm	2.1 ppm	YES	Natural erosion
Regulated in the Distribution System							
Chlorine	ppm	2016	MRDL = 4 ppm	NA	0.41-1.16 ppm	YES	Treatment additive
Total Coliforms	1 Sample	2016	5.0% of samples per month	0	0	YES	Coliforms are naturally present in the environment
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM's)	ppb	2014	60 ppb	NA	2.3 ppb	YES	Disinfection interaction
Regulated at the Customer's Tap							
Lead	ppb	2014	AL = 15 ppb	0	1.0 ppb	YES	Household Plumbling
Copper	ppm	2014	AL = 1.3 ppm	1.3 ppm	.83 ppm	YES	Household Plumbing

Definitions

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or 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.*
Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL: *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.*
Action Level: *The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.*
Treatment Technique (TT): *A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.*
Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): *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.*
Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): *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.*

Drinking Water Contaminants Information

The sources for tap water and bottled water include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over land or percolates through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and in some cases radioactive material. The water can also pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals and/or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

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 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 byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production and can also, come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
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, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Where You Can Get Additional Information

Water Quality Lead
(253) 867-0944
glenn.stockman@covingtonwater.com

Cross Connection Control - Backflow Prevention
(253) 867-0947
chris.guest@covingtonwater.com

Customer Service Division
(253) 631-0565
frontdesk@covingtonwater.com

Washington State
Department of Health
(253) 395-6750
www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw

United States
Environmental Protection Agency
www.epa.gov/safewater
Safe Drinking Water Hotline
(800) 426-4791

Covington Water District Board Meetings

Covington Water District Board meetings are regularly scheduled open public meetings held on the first and the third Wednesday of every month at the District Headquarters, beginning at 5:30 PM. Customers are invited and encouraged to attend.

COMMISSIONERS:
Jeff Clark
Alan Eades
Kevin Fuhrer
David B. Roselle
Tal Weberg

GENERAL MANAGER:
Thomas Keown, P.E.

www.covingtonwater.com

The hotline and EPA website offers information about drinking water contaminants and their potential health affects as well as guidelines from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control about appropriate ways to reduce the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants. Both sources also offer information about lead in drinking water, testing methods and steps you can take to minimize exposure.