Covington WATER DISTRICT

ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

2019 RESULTS

SUGARLOAF WATER SYSTEM

PWS ID: 463168

VISION OF TOMORROW, ACTION TODAY

Dear Customer,

The Covington Water District was established in 1960 and this year we celebrated our 60th Anniversary in January 2020. The District's history has had its noted "ups and downs", but like all utilities there is a resilience and resolve by every team member to provide our customers with safe, reliable water.

This past year the District has maintained its efforts to continue getting from "good to great" while locally responding to the King County Franchise Decision, facing water industry challenges related to educating our customers on the potential impacts of PFOS/PFOA; and of course the global threat of COVID-19 which we are still in the midst of learning and adjusting our workflows. The productivity, positivity and ingenuity of District employees and the past/current investments by the Board, have allowed the District the ability to effectively and efficiently weather and endure these circumstances.

We look forward to the daily challenge of providing our customers safe, reliable water 24/7/365 and are happy to provide the recap below of our accomplishments in this review period below:

Water Supply: There was a lack of precipitation in November that caused a brief loss of "run of river" conditions in the Green River. The timing of snow in January/February/early March and cool temperatures should allow the Regional Water Supply System (RWSS) to have "run of the river" conditions like normal this coming summer. The District will continue to use the results Firm Yield Supply Study to support/promote the completion of the Additional Water Storage (AWS) project at Howard Hanson Dam. It will be an on-going point of emphasis for the District to work with our RWSS partners and local/federal elected to get AWS funded.

Security and Emergency Response: CWD has completed significant emergency response planning and preparation activities to date. We continued to follow-up on the J100 Risk and Resiliency Study and completed the initial list of prioritized security improvements at the District's headquarters. Other Administration Building security improvements will be combined in the Tank 1 project. These past efforts will also place the District in a good position to complete the federally required risk and resilience assessment work as part of the American Water Investment Act (AWIA) in 2020 and Emergency Management Plan update in 2021.

Financial Sustainability: The District did not raise residential rates for the 4th year in a row. The impact has been that winter rates are $12.55/month less in 2020 than what was projected back in 2014. At the end of 2014, the District's undesignated/cash on hand was $9.5M and a debt ratio of 51%, but now it stands at $29.3M and our debt ratio has fallen to 29.9% respectively. One significant benefit of keeping operation and capital expenses in check the past 4+ years is less pressure on possible rate increases.

For more information on our accomplishments, our rates and budget, please visit our website at www.covingtonwater.com.

Sincerely,

Thomas Keown, P.E.
General Manager
Covington Water District

Because doing the right thing is crucial when it comes to our future's water quality.

SAFE & 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 2019. 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.

Protecting Public Health is our Number One Priority

Covington Water District's Operations staff strives to protect public health through extensive water quality testing. Twice a month, Dale Benson, 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.

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.

We work to provide clean water so you don't have to worry about it.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR YOUR HEALTH

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 comes from home plumbing. Some homes have higher levels than other homes. Water with a low pH can cause copper from copper pipes and lead from the solder (used to connect the pipes), to dissolve directly from pipes 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 2017 (see the lead and copper results for 2017 in the Water Quality Analytical Results chart on page 8). Results show our system at or below the action levels for both lead and copper. The next required scheduled monitoring will be completed in 2020.

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 2 minutes after it sits stagnant in the pipes 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.

Water Quality Improvements

Active mixing devices have been installed in some of the District's storage facilities to improve water quality, eliminate stratification, reduce water age, and provide equalization of free chlorine. Proper mixing will minimize taste and odor issues and help reduce the formation of DBPs. The need for additional mixing devices is being evaluated via the District's capital improvement program.

DRINKING WATER CONTAMINANTS INFORMATION

All sources of water contain some amount of contaminants, including bottled water. In general, the sources for both tap 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.

HOW DO WE TREAT YOUR WATER?

Chlorine (Sodium Hypochlorite)

The District treats all ground water sources 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 24/7. Free chlorine residuals are also monitored throughout the water system 24/7. While chlorine does an excellent job of killing the microorganisms that may be harmful to you, chlorine also reacts with natural organic material commonly found in surface water sources such as the Regional Water Supply System (RWSS). 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.

WHAT'S IN YOUR WATER?

The results in the following table show the substances identified at the water source, at the treatment plant, and in the distribution system in 2019. The table does not include other volatile organic chemicals and synthetic organic chemicals that were tested for but not detected in our drinking water, including many industrial chemicals, herbicides and pesticides.

WATER QUALITY ANALYTICAL RESULTS

CWD Sugarloaf System Water Quality Table 2018							
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	2019	10 ppm	10 ppm	1.74 ppm	YES	Natural erosion
Regulated in the Distribution System							
Chlorine	ppm	2019	MRDL = 4 ppm	NA	0.53-1.03 ppm	YES	Treatment additive
Total Coliforms	%	2019	5.0% of samples per month	0	0	YES	Coliforms are naturally present in the environment
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM's)	ppb	2017	60 ppb	NA	2.2 ppb	YES	Disinfection interaction
Regulated at the Customer's Tap							
Lead	ppb	2017	AL = 15 ppb	0	2.0 ppb	YES	Household plumbing
Copper	ppm	2017	AL = 1.3 ppm	1.3 ppm	1.3 ppm	YES	Household plumbing

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)

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(AL): 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.

WHERE YOU CAN GET ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Covington Water District
18631 SE 300th Place
Covington, WA 98042
www.covingtonwater.com
(253) 631-0565

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

Cross Connection Control - Backflow Prevention
(253) 261-8453
chris.wilson@covingtonwater.com

Customer Service Department
(253) 631-0565
notify.customerservice@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

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.

Covington Water District Board Meetings

Covington Water District Board meetings are regularly scheduled open public meetings held at 4:30pm, on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at Covington Water District, 18631 SE 300th Place, Covington, WA 98042.

COMMISSIONERS:
Alan Eades
Kevin Fuhrer
Brad Lake
David B. Roselle
Tal Weberg

GENERAL MANAGER:
Thomas Keown, P.E.