

Who Regulates Water Quality?

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Washington State Department of Health (DOH) prescribe regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems such as Skagit View Village.

Other standards for water protection include: assessing drinking water sources, protecting wells, making sure water is treated by qualified operators, ensuring the integrity of water distribution systems, conducting water quality monitoring, and making information available to the public on the quality of their drinking water.

Source of Your Drinking Water

The District obtains water for Skagit View Village from a well located within Skagit View Village. This well draws water from an aquifer approximately 70 feet below the ground surface. This well was turned over to the District as part of the Skagit View Village Local Utility District

Skagit PUD reconstructed much of the water system in 2005. A facility automatically pumps water out of the aquifer to a water tank located south of Skagit View Village. The water is then treated by an aeration process to adjust the pH, as described on the next page. A booster pump helps deliver the water to a storage tank. From here, water flows by gravity to the community, based on water demands from the homes in Skagit View Village.

Safe Drinking Water: Understanding Potential Sources of Contaminants

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of some 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or at www.epa.gov/safewater/.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include lakes, rivers, 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.

Contaminants in drinking water sources may include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from septic systems, wildlife, and farm animals.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, and farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water 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 storm water 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, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Questions?

For more information about your drinking water, please call Skagit PUD at (360) 424-7104. We welcome your comments and suggestions. We also invite you to attend Skagit PUD commission meetings.

The commissioners hold open meetings every Tuesday of the month at 4:30 p.m. in our Aqua Room located at 1415 Freeway Drive, Mount Vernon. You may also visit our Web site at www.SkagitPUD.org.



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Important Information Inside About Your Drinking Water

Skagit View Village Drinking Water Quality Report

Public Water System ID No. 96879 5



Skagit Public Utility District proudly presents its annual water quality report for the Skagit View Village community for your review. In this publication, you will learn where your water comes from, how it is treated, and the results of water quality monitoring conducted in 2008.

We are pleased to inform you that Skagit View Village's drinking water met or exceeded all state and federal drinking water standards in 2008.

What's in your drinking water ...

The water quality information presented in the table below is from the most recent round of testing done in accordance with the regulations. All data shown were collected during the last calendar year unless otherwise noted in the table.

Water Quality Monitoring Results In 2008 For Skagit View Village Water System					
		EPA Allowable Limits		Skagit View Village System	
Detected Compounds	Source	Ideal Level/Goal MCLG	Maximum Allowable MCL	Range	Violation
Regulated Substances					
Total Chlorine	Added as a drinking water disinfectant	4 ppm (MRDLG)	4 ppm (MRDL)	0.01 - 1.10 ppm	No
Total Coliform Bacteria	Naturally present in environment	0.0%	Can be present in 5% of samples	None Detected (0.0% of 12 Samples)	No
Total Trihalomethanes	By-product of drinking water chlorination	n/a	80 ppb Average	4.4 ppb	No
Haloacetic Acids	By-product of drinking water chlorination	n/a	60 ppb Average	1.1 ppb	No
Nitrate	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks; Soil erosion	10 ppm	10 ppm	0.48 ppm	No
System-Wide Distribution Samples					
Lead (2007)	Corrosion of household and commercial plumbing	0.0 ppb	Allowable highest 90th percentile lead level is 15 ppb	The 90th percentile value from five sites was 2 ppb	No
Copper (2007)	Corrosion of household and commercial plumbing	0.0 ppm	Allowable highest 90th percentile copper level is 1.30 ppm	The 90th percentile value from five sites was 1.68 ppm	Action Level Exceeded
Secondary Regulated Compounds (Substances that cause changes in water's cosmetic or aesthetic qualities: taste, color and odor.)					
Manganese	Naturally present in environment	n/a	0.05 ppm	0.003 ppm	No

Water Quality Definitions

Total Coliforms: A group of non-pathogenic bacteria used in testing water to indicate the presence of pathogenic bacteria. They are naturally present in the environment. If coliforms were found in more samples than allowed, it would be a warning of potential problems.

MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level. The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLG as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

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.

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.

MRDLG: Maximum Residual Disinfectant 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 health benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

ppm: Part per million. One part per million corresponds to one penny in \$10,000 or one minute in two years.

ppb: Part per billion. One part per billion corresponds to one penny in \$10,000,000 or one minute in 2000 years.

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 a treatment or other requirement a water system must follow.

Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as people 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 from their health care providers about drinking water.

EPA and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Drinking Water Improvement Project: Copper in Your Water

You have been notified in past water quality reports that the Action Level for copper, as determined by the EPA, in the Skagit View Village water system has been exceeded. As a result, the Skagit PUD undertook actions to help reduce the levels of copper at the taps of customers.

Copper is naturally present in your water at a low level of 0.02 ppm. It is the pH (acidity), of your water that causes elevated levels that exceed the Action Level, which is 1.30 ppm, when the water reaches your tap. As a result, Skagit PUD undertook a Corrosion Control Process in the Skagit View Village system that adjusts the pH of the water by stripping carbon dioxide from the water.

When carbon dioxide is dissolved in water, it reacts with the water to form a weak acid and lower the pH. The acidity causes copper in your household plumbing to dissolve into the water, hence elevated levels of copper at your tap.

Skagit PUD installed a non-chemical corrosion control process in Skagit View Village in the spring of 2005. A Venturi-aeration process reduces the corrosivity of the potable water by stripping carbon dioxide from the water, thus reducing the levels of copper that occur at your taps.

We are monitoring the effectiveness of this corrosion control strategy, thanks to our volunteer water testers in your community. Please contact Skagit PUD for the results of ongoing copper monitoring in Skagit View Village.

Health Effects of Copper

Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor.

You Can Reduce Your Copper Exposure By Flushing ...

While the District is working to further reduce the amount of copper that dissolves into your water, it is recommended that you let the water run before using it for cooking or drinking whenever the household water remains unused for more than six (6) hours. This would include the times when you first get up in the morning or when you come home from work. The longer the water sits in your household pipes, the more copper it may contain.

Flushing the faucet means running the cold-water faucet until the water feels a cold as it can get, or for a period of about one minute. Also, avoid cooking with or consuming water from hot water taps as hot water dissolves copper more readily than cold water does.

Take note of this example to explain the effectiveness of flushing your faucets. Skagit PUD wanted to know how much copper decreases by flushing a faucet in the morning. The PUD had a volunteer from Skagit View Village collect two samples. In the very first glassful of water, copper was measured at 1.4 ppm. Immediately after the first sample was collected, the volunteer let the faucet run for more than a minute. In this 'fully flushed' glassful of water, copper was measured at 0.1 ppm. Flushing your faucet really works!

Source Water Protection

To achieve improved protection of public water supply sources and the health of Washington's citizens, the Washington State Department of Health has developed the Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP).

The SWAP program evaluates potential threats to the safety of our water supplies by assessing sources of contamination. The SWAP is designed to give you and your community more information about the source of your drinking water, and any threats to its long-term quality that we can identify and address through a pollution prevention approach.

To learn more about the SWAP, contact the Washington State Department of Health at (360) 236-3149 or visit www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw.