SPANAWAY WATER NEWS

A NEWSLETTER TO THE CUSTOMERS OF SPANAWAY WATER COMPANY - Spring / Summer 2005

WATER QUALITY REPORT – 2005

Welcome to your seventh annual water quality report. This report presents information to you in the format prescribed by the Safe Drinking Water Act. The report includes information about many topics including: your water sources, how to contact your water system, public participation opportunities, and most importantly details of water quality and any detected contaminants.

We appreciate the time you take to read this annual report and learn about both your water sources and Spanaway Water Company. We continue striving to provide you with safe, high quality water that meets or exceeds all federal and state standards. Water quality is tested daily by water company employees and on a regular schedule that includes weekly, annual, and tri-annual analysis by Washington State and EPA certified laboratories.

Spanaway Water Company (SWC) is a non-profit mutual water company owned by all the property owners (members) served by the company. SWC serves over 8,005 families and more than 330 businesses in the Spanaway Area. The company's Board of Directors are elected from and by the company membership. Therefore, you can be certain that both high water quality and reasonable prices are their top priorities.

The annual meeting of SWC is held on the second Monday of November at 7:30 p.m. Members are elected to the Board of Directors at the annual meetings. The Board of Directors meets monthly on the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. You are invited to participate at these meetings, all of which are held at the Company office at 18413 "B" St. E.

If you would like more information about Spanaway Water Company, the information in this

HOW AND WHY IS MY WATER TREATED

As water is pumped from each of the eleven wells, chlorine is added as a disinfectant providing extra protection to insure that no harmful bacteria are present. The minimum amount of chlorine is used to maintain a detectable level throughout the water system. Corrosion control with sodium hydroxide is also used at four wells. This treatment reduces the slight natural acidity of the water, resulting in decreased copper levels found in some homes. These treatment requirements are mandated under federal law.

Four of our wells have naturally occurring manganese. Even at the very low levels found at the wells, "brown" water may occur when large flows are created in water mains, such as when fire hydrants are used for fire fighting or testing. The rushing water picks up the manganese "rust" that settles in the mains. Manganese is not a health related contaminant, rather it is an essential human nutrient with a recommended daily amount (RDA) of 2.0 mg. However, even at 0.05 mg/l (1/40th of the RDA) brown water may occur. The presence of manganese is therefore considered an aesthetic problem, not a health issue. Your water company has a manganese filter at well 4 with additional filters planned for the Yakima (2008) and Buckeye Grove (2006) wells. The company's main flushing program has improved water quality and reduced brown water calls. Should you experience "brown" water, letting an outside faucet run for 5 to 15 minutes should clear the problem. Routine main flushing is done on Tuesdays. To reduce the risk of discoloring clothing we ask that you avoid washing clothes on Tuesdays.

UPDATE ON WATER SYSTEM FLUORIDATION

Though the Washington State Supreme Court invalidated the Tacoma-Pierce County Board of Health (BOH) mandate requiring public water system fluoridation in 2004, the issue is still alive. Based on a narrow reading of the Court's opinion, the BOH again proposed mandating fluoridation for all water systems except water districts. After many objections the BOH developed a much less costly alternative dental health plan focused on at risk children. Water utilities support this proposal as it directly addresses those children in need of dental care. However, because water itself does not cause nor increase dental decay and utilities are not in the medical/dental business, the consensus of utilities is to not fund this program. The Pierce County Council agreed with utilities and unanimously passed a resolution asking the BOH to: 1) Withdraw the proposed fluoridation mandate; 2) Seek funding for the alternative dental care plan from sources other than water utilities; and 3) review

WHAT ARE THE SOURCES OF MY WATER?

Spanaway Water Company draws water from 11 wells located in the Spanaway area of the Chambers/Clover Creek watershed. The well depths vary from 99 to 645 feet. The water system has three tanks holding 5,100,000 gallons, one booster station serving the higher elevations at the south end of the water system, well over 120 miles of water mains, and over 740 fire hydrants. The diagram below provides an overview of the water system.

SPANAWAY WATER QUALITY TESTING

2004 was a relatively quiet year with only increases in testing for disinfection by-products – the results of chlorination in addition to normal testing. The new testing results were all less than 25% of the EPA's maximum contamination level, as were the ongoing lead and copper testing. The next page presents the EPA's standards and information about the contaminants that were detectable. A complete listing of all water quality testing and the highest levels ever found in the water system is available at the company office.

WATER QUALITY DATA

The following portion of the newsletter is presented in compliance with the EPA's format and content requirements. Please call if you have any questions or comments. It should be

Special considerations for at risk people: *Some people may be more vulnerable to contamination 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).*

About Bottled 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).*

Terms and abbreviations used in the following table:

Maximum Contamination 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.

Maximum Contamination Level (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, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

ND: not detectable at testing limit. **N/A:** not applicable. **mfl:** million fibers per liter. **ppb:** parts per billion or micrograms per liter. **ppm:** parts per million or milligrams per liter. **pCi/l:** picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)

Contaminants detected in 2004 with designated Maximum Contaminant Levels

Inorganic Compounds:	MCL	MCLG	Highest Level	Range of Detection	Sample Date/s	Violation	Typical Source of Contamination
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	4.6	ND-4.6	8/04	No	Runoff from fertilizer use: Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; or Erosion of natural deposits.
Organic Compounds							
Volatile Organic Chemicals (all in ppb):							
Trihalomethanes (TTHMs):	80*	80	21.6	ND-21.6	Qtr'ly/2004	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chloroform		Unset	14.1	ND-14.1	Qtr'ly/2004	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Bromo-dichloromethane		0.00	5.6	ND-5.6	Qtr'ly/2004	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chloro dibromomethane		60.0	1.9	ND-1.9	Qtr'ly/2004	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Bromoform		0.00	ND	ND-ND	Qtr'ly/2004	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	60*	60	7.1	ND-7.1	Qtr'ly/2004	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Monochloroacetic Acid		Unset	ND	ND-ND	Qtr'ly/2004	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Dichloroacetic Acid		0.00	3.6	ND-3.6	Qtr'ly/2004	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Trichloroacetic Acid		30.0	3.5	ND-3.5	Qtr'ly/2004	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Monobromoacetic Acid		Unset	ND	ND-ND	Qtr'ly/2004	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Dibromoacetic Acid		Unset	ND	ND-ND	Qtr'ly/2004	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
* Compliance is determined by running annual average of quarterly sampling for subcomponents of TTHMs and HAA5s.							
Chlorine	4	n/a	1.2	0.06-1.2	Daily 2004	No	Water additive used to control microbes.
Radionuclides							
Gross Beta (pCi/l)	50	50	ND	ND-ND	8/04-11/04	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Contaminants with action levels rather than MCLs

Copper	AL	MCLG	Spanaway Level	# of sites above the AL	Sample Date/s	Typical Source of Contamination
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	ND-0.39	0	11/04	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead						
Lead (ppb)	15	0	ND - 5	0	11/04	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.

About Water Sources and contaminants: *The 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, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

Inorganic chemical 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, 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, 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 pro-

Spanaway Water Co. was been notified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), that we were not in full compliance with the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR). This is a regulation that required public water systems serving more than 10,000 persons to test their water for twelve chemicals that may or may not be present in any particular supply. The purpose of this testing was to determine whether these substances are commonly found throughout the United States and to help the EPA determine which, if any of them should be regulated in the future. Monitoring for these substances was to have been completed, and the results reported to EPA by December 30th 2003. Spanaway Water has taken

CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE – Road Projects, Sewer Projects, and Water Mains

As always it seems that every road in Spanaway is seeing some kind of construction. The following update gives you a heads-up about what construction to anticipate.

The Washington Dept. of Transportation's Pacific Ave./SR-7 project should begin later this summer. This will include sidewalks, additional traffic signals, and storm water ditching. Utility relocation for this work is largely completed and state work is expected later this summer.

With the completion of the Spanaway Loop Road extension, the next expected County road project should be the widening of 176th St. from "B" St. to Meridian. The project will widen the road to five lanes with curbs, gutters, and sidewalks. This work is not planned to begin until 2008. As a result of this County project, the existing 8" and 12" water mains must be relocated and will be replaced with a new 12" ductile iron main. As a replacement for existing system facilities not related to growth these costs will be paid from general water rates.

The 22nd Ave. sewer extension has been completed to 192nd St E. During the sewer installation, two new 12" water mains were installed. The first connects the existing lower pressure zone 22nd Ave main to water storage tank 3. A second parallel upper pressure zone main was installed to serve the growth at the higher elevations in the 192nd St. area. Because these are growth related mains, growth fees are funding the main extensions. The sewer construction will be further extended to 203rd St. and both east and west on 192nd St. over the next several years. Exact timing is not available currently. 22nd Ave. and/or 192nd St. will be closed when this construction does occur.

Internally, Spanaway Water is planning to complete well #6 development this fall/winter. The well is designed to produce up to 900 gallons per minute (GPM) and will be equipped with manganese filtration and on-site chlorine generation. Also planned this winter is the redrilling and enlargement of well #5. After 8 years, we have finally obtained Dept of Ecology approval to both replace the aging well and increase the well capacity from 250 to 1,200 GPM.

It's up to each of us – Use Water Wisely!

When the well is dry, we know the worth of Water. - Benjamin Franklin

2005 Annual Water Quality Report, Fluoride

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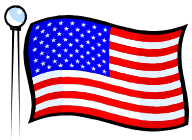
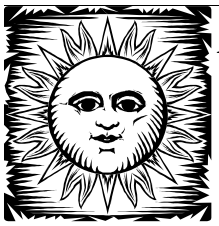
The samples and had them analyzed in accordance with the UCMR, but encountered difficulties with the electronic data reporting system required for reporting the data to EPA.

As noted above in the EPA's language, all sampling was completed and analyzed in a timely manner as required under the UCMR. Additionally, all UCMR sampling substances were undetectable in the water supplied to you by Spanaway Water. However, the direct electronic reporting to the EPA was not completed until August 2004. We should note that this is the first time the EPA has required direct electronic reporting. Both the EPA in setting up the reporting system and Spanaway Water in the access

HOMELAND SECURITY – A Community Concern



Like all utilities, we rely on the public to assist in facility security. Should you notice any unusual activity at any utility facilities, including water system wells, tank sites, or fire hydrants please contact the office at 531-9024 and/or the sheriff at 911. Tampering with a water system is a federal crime with penalties up to $1,000,000 and 20 years in jail.



DROUGHT ??? - CONSERVATION !!! & DEPT. OF HEALTH PROPOSED REGULATIONS

Drought?? Well yes or maybe. With the record setting low snow packs and a very dry winter (until mid April) much of the state is facing a major drought. In western Washington the river systems that supply Tacoma, Seattle, and Everett have improved with spring rain, but with no snow pack and the possibility of an unusually dry or warm summer, water use curtailment is a real possibility.

Unlike the river supplies, Spanaway Water relies entirely on ground water from the system's eleven wells. Ground water levels tend to be less impacted by seasonal or annual weather patterns. However, this is the third year in a row with below normal rainfall. This cumulative shortage has not abnormally lowered our ground water levels at this time, but like the river supplies, an unusually warm or dry summer could effect shallower wells. While we do not anticipate difficulties with our water levels, we do anticipate that shallower small private wells or water systems may find water levels dropping below needed levels and requesting emergency water supply.

Conservation!! With possible drought/snow pack issues it is especially important this year to use care in your water use. The back of this sheet has a check list – a great guide to saving water. Tear it off and hang it on the refrigerator as both a check list for water projects and water use guide, especially outside your home. It is there that water use (and water bills) more than doubles over the summer, primarily for lawn watering. This lawn watering results in the need for "seasonal wells", some of which run just a few weeks each year. This is why water we have stepped rates as more water is used. The costs related to these seasonal wells are passed on to those who need them for their higher water use.

Here are some tips for a greener lawn: 1) Give your lawn some fertilizer applied in April, June, Sept., and Nov./Dec.; 2) Raise your mowing height, reducing evaporation; 3) Control thatch build-up, best done in early spring and fall; 4) Aerate the ground surfaces, improving water absorption and air flow; 5) Improve your soil with a top-dressing of soil or "Tagro"; 6) Water sparingly, one inch of water per week including rain is all that is needed – a total of about 60 minutes per week; and 7) Water only during the cooler times of day – after 8:00 p.m. or before 10:00 a.m. Seven steps to a greener and healthier lawn.

Dept. of Health Conservation Regulations!?! The Washington Department of Health (DOH) has released its proposed water conservation regulation that must be adopted by Dec. 31, 2005 as directed by the state legislature. Many of the actions required have been ongoing activities of your water company. However, something completely new is a requirement that water use efficiency goals be developed through a public process at least every six years as part of the comprehensive water system plan update. These goals include reduction in per capita water use, reductions in system leakage, reductions of use for operational and maintenance needs, and evaluation of efficiency measures using cost-effectiveness criteria vs. new supply costs. These goals must then be incorporated in the utility's conservation plan that includes implementation steps, monitoring, reporting to DOH, and actions to be taken should the goals not be met, as well as addressing land use, growth projections, and historic and future water use patterns. We anticipate that this process will get started late next winter/early

Please trim along this line and use as a family home check list, Thank You!

A Year Round Home Water Savings Check List:

Please take a few minutes to think about this check list, talk about it with your family members, consider how you use water, and how much more you might be able to conserve. This saves both water and your water dollars.

Inside Your Home:

___ Check your water meter monthly when all water is off to check for unseen leaks.

___ Run full loads of laundry and dishes.

___ Turn off the water when brushing teeth and shaving.

___ Turn off the water when washing dishes except for rinsing.

___ Try to keep showers brief.

___ Check for leaks and fix faucet/toilet leaks as soon as possible.

___ Do not use the toilet as a flushing trash can.

___ Install flow restrictors or low flow fixtures throughout the house.

___ Insulate your hot water pipes.

Outside Your Home: (Consider letting your lawn go dormant for the summer, it will come back in the fall.)

___ Check and repair leaking hose bibs.

___ Only water on even or odd days based on your house number.

___ Hand water shrubs and special planted landscaped areas, or consider installing a drip irrigation system.

___ Landscape with rockeries and native drought resistant plants.

___ Make sure that when watering, you don't water the walks or road.

___ Only water the lawn with one inch of water per week.

___ Turn off any sprinkler system when it rains.

___ Water the lawn for less than an hour per week and only between 8:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m., not during the heat of the day. (The best time is in the early morning.)

___ Fertilize the lawn to help keep it green.

___ Think about adding top dressing to your lawn areas.

___ Raise the mowing height when the weather gets warmer and drier.

___ Make sure the water is turned off after the children have been playing in the sprinkler.

___ Use a car wash that recycles water; or use an automatic shut off nozzle when washing cars. Consider washing the car on the lawn.

___ Use a broom to clean walkways and driveways, not a hose.

Please trim along this line and use as a family check list, Thank You!

NEW BILLING FORMAT

By the time you read this newsletter you will have received at least one bill generated on our new bill format. The change to regular paper bill stock and return envelopes results in reduced bill production costs, lower postage rates, and reduced staff time. All of which make your Company run more efficiently - even with all the growth in the area.

We do have two requests of you - please include your account number on your payment checks, and if you make your payments at the office counter or drive up window **please bring your entire bill with you. It makes payment quicker for you and processing a lot easier for the staff. *THANKS!!***

We are also now accepting VISA and MasterCard for routine water bill payments at the office and over the phone. Due to VISA and MasterCard security requirements we can not take credit card payments through the mail.

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER, that's safe, Water Wise!