

Spanaway Water Co.

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TEKS SERVICES



Kyle Bracken - Water Works Operator

Water Quality Report 2010



WATER QUALITY REPORT – 2010



Welcome to your thirteenth annual water quality report. This report presents information to you in the format prescribed by the Safe Drinking Water Act.

We continue to strive 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 9,000 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 meet monthly on the third Thursday of each month at 4:00 p.m. You are invited to participate in 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 newsletter, contaminants, or any other water issues, we will be happy to answer your questions. Please see www.spanaway-water.org or call 531-9024 and ask for Tim Tayne, Water Programs Manager, or Jeff Johnson, Manager.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Spanaway Water Company is required by the 1996 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act to publish this report. It contains information about the source and quality of your drinking water.

Sometimes my water is discolored, is it safe to drink?

Your water is safe to drink or cook with. Manganese in pipes can be released when valves are being repaired, the system is being flushed or fire hydrants are in use. 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.

Most Bottled Water Brands Don't Disclose Purity

Even when bottled waters are covered by the FDA's rules, they are subject to less rigorous testing and purity standards than those which apply to city tap water. For example, bottled water is required to be tested less frequently than city tap water for bacteria and chemical contaminants. In addition, bottled water rules allow for some contamination by E. coli or fecal coliform (which indicate possible contamination with fecal matter), contrary to tap water rules, which prohibit any confirmed contamination with these bacteria. Similarly, there are no requirements for bottled water to be disinfected or tested for parasites such as Cryptosporidium or Giardia, unlike the rules for public water systems that use surface water sources. This leaves open the possibility that some bottled water may present a health threat to people with weakened immune systems, such as the frail elderly, some infants, transplant or cancer patients, or people with HIV/AIDS.

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).

HOMELAND SECURITY – A Community Concern

Like all utilities, we take security very seriously and we also 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.

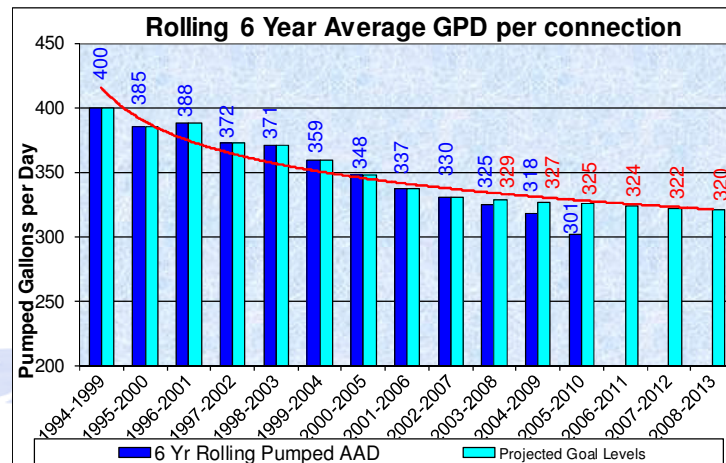
Cross Connection



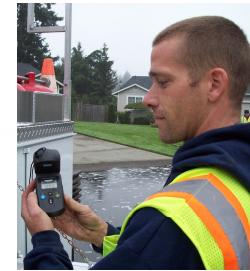
A cross connection is a connection (direct or indirect) between potable (i.e. drinking) water and non-potable water or other substances. The risk of contamination is due to either back-siphonage or back pressure. In either example the pressure in the supply side is temporarily lower than the customer side. This could be due to high demands in the area, such as fire fighting or water main flushing. A common example of a cross connection is a garden hose submerged in a bucket.

2010 Water Use Efficiency

2010 was the fourth year under Washington's Water Use Efficiency Rule. Fiscal 2010 (Oct. 1, '09-Sept. 30 '10) water use decreased nearly 157 million gallons to 949 million gallons a decrease over fiscal 2009 of 16.5%. This reflects 2010's more normal summer, customer conservation, and the Company's leak detection and repair efforts. Our water use efficiency goal is to reduce the rolling 6 year average use by at least 0.5%. Our goal for 2010 was use below 325 gallons per day/per unit (GPD/U). The actual rolling average for 2010 was 301 GPD/U well below our goal. 2009 leakage was 19.7%, for fiscal 2010 this was reduced to 18.3% and we expect that 2011 will be considerably lower due to the complete system leak detection study that identified leaks totaling about 150 million gallon per year. With these leak repairs we hope to have 2011 leakage below our and the State's goal of 10%.



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 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 that settles in the mains. Manganese is not a health related contaminant, however, even at 0.05 mg/l brown water may occur. The presence of manganese is therefore considered an aesthetic problem. Your water company has manganese filters at well 4 and Buck-eye Grove with an additional filter planned for the Yakima wells.

Wellhead Protection

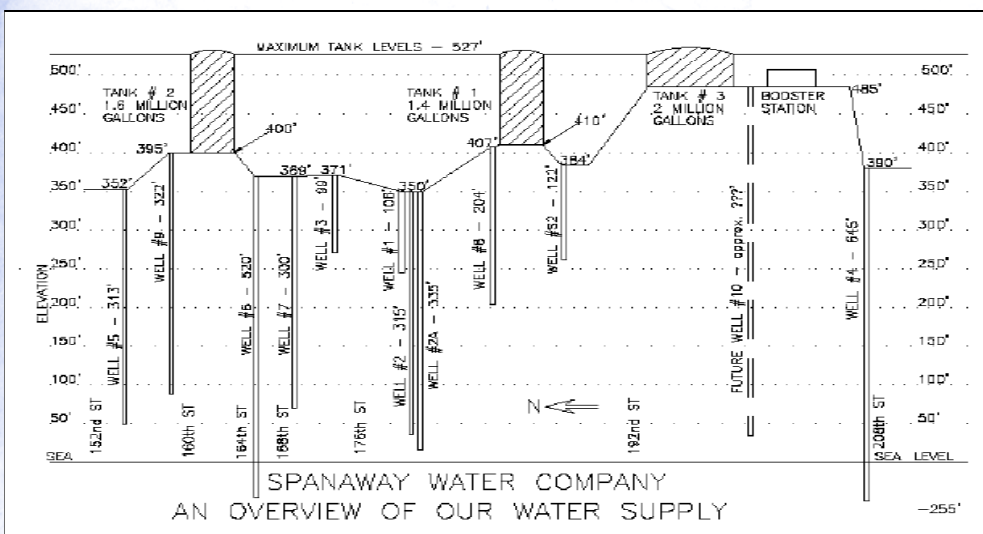
Since Spanaway's ground water sources are located in aquifers under where we live and work, our everyday activities can contribute to the contamination of these aquifers that supply our water. Ground water is naturally purified by traveling through the soil materials below us, but if these soils become contaminated with chemicals they will also release those chemicals into the ground water. To help protect these resources, use lawn chemicals sparingly, or look for safer alternatives. Always properly store and dispose of hazardous chemicals, and do not dump anything in storm drains.

Pierce County residents can safely dispose of household hazardous waste free of charge at the HazWaste Place located at the Tacoma Landfill. HazWaste Place is open seven days a week from 8AM to 6PM. The address is: 3510 S. Mullen St. which is off of Center St between Orchard and Tyler Streets next to the Home Depot store. You can call them at 800 287-6429. Used oil recycling is available at Jiffy Lube or Shucks Auto Supply.

For more information regarding our wellhead protection program or what you can do to protect our resource, feel free to call us or visit our web page at www.spanaway-water.org.

Where Does My Water Come From?

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.



Water Quality Requirements

The following portion of the newsletter is presented in compliance with the EPA's format and content requirements.

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, 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 storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming. Pesticides and herbicides, 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 byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, 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.

Spanaway Water Quality Testing

We sampled every source for nitrates, radionuclides, and bacteria, with the only detections listed in the table below, some chemicals are listed as the last detection. The finished water was tested for bacteria and disinfection by-products (DBP), the results of naturally occurring organic chemicals reacting with chlorination. The DBP's testing results were all less than 25% of the EPA's maximum contamination level. We also tested 31 homes, that have leaded copper fittings, for lead and copper and have listed the compliance levels for each. We have also included 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.

Contaminants detected in 2010 with designated Maximum Contaminant Levels						
Compound:	MCL	MCLG	Highest Range of Sample	Year	Typical Source of Contamination	
Regulated at Source						
Fluoride	4	4	0.3	ND - 0.3	2009	Additive for teeth, erosion of soils, mining
Nitrate	10	10	3.9	<0.2 - 3.9	2010	Runoff from fertilizer use: Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; or erosion of Volatile Organic Chemicals (all in ppb):
Regulated in Distribution System (DBP)						
Trihalomethanes (THM):	80*	80	11.5	1.6 - 11.5	Qtr'lly/2010	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	60*	60	3.5	ND - 3.5	Qtr'lly/2010	By-product of drinking water chlorination
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliance is determined by running annual average of quarterly sampling for subcomponents of THMs and HAA5s. 						
Total Coliform	0	0	0		2010	Naturally occurring throughout the environment
E. coli	0	0	0		2010	Animal Wastes
Chlorine	4	0.98	0.40 - 0.98		Daily	Water additive used to control microbes
Radionuclides						
Analyte						
Gross Beta (pCi/l)	50	50	ND	ND-ND	2010	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium-228 (pCi/l)	—	0.8	ND	ND-ND	2010	Erosion of natural deposits
Regulated at Consumer's Tap (based on 90th % of customers tested)						
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.0005-0.8 (0.39— 90th %)		2010	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead (ppb)	15	0	<0.1 - 4 (3.0—90th %)		2010	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.

Terms and abbreviations used in the following table:

Minimum Detectable Level (MDA): the level of contaminant in drinking water that can be reliably detected by the laboratory.
 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)