



COWLITZ COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

900 Ocean Beach Highway Ste 1-B
Longview, WA 98632
TEL (360) 414-5599
FAX (360) 425-7531

www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/health

Board of County Commissioners

Michael A. Karnofski District 1
Dennis Weber District 2
Joe Gardner District 3

Volume 9

THE WATER FLOWS

February 2015

Program Contact Info

Main Line 414-5599

Environmental Health Lead

Audrey Shaverx6440

Drinking Water Staff

Jesse Smith.....x6442

Office Assistant

.....x6441

Group B Operational Handouts

On our website are several documents created for Group B Public Water systems with information on proper operation of small systems.

Included in these handouts are the following documents:

- Preventive Maintenance Guide
- Proper pump house piping handout
- Pest Control Handout
- Troubleshooting Bladder pressure tanks
- Coliform Bacteria Handouts
- Arsenic Information Handouts
- Past Newsletters

There are other handouts and links on our webpage with information on operating a water system.

The webpage is located at <http://www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/index.aspx?nid=1125>

MINIMUM WATER SAMPLING REQUIREMENTS FOR GROUP B WATER SYSTEMS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

BACTERIA—ANNUALLY NITRATE—EVERY THREE YEARS

Arsenic Notification

Please remember that the new regulations required water systems that exceed 10.0 ppb or .010 mg/L of arsenic to send out notifications to your users in writing by March 31, 2014.

If your water system has not sent any notification previously and your system has arsenic levels that tested above the new standard then send the notification immediately. It is recommended that you document the notification method and maintain a copy of the written notification form for your records.

A sample arsenic notification form can be found on our website at: <http://www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/index.aspx?nid=1125>

You are also required to send the noti-

fication in the future if any new houses are connected to the water system or if any future arsenic samples are 10 ppb or higher.

Notifications are required to have the following information:

- Description of Contamination
- Resolution of problem (if any)
- Where to get information of health effects
- What consumers should do to protect health
- When the purveyor expects problem to be resolved
- Contact Information

Please also note that the 2012 EPA Health Advisories document lists 2ppb of arsenic to be the level at which one would expect the excess lifetime cancer risk to be 1 in 10,000.

Nitrate Sampling Reduction

Nitrate samples are required every three years for Group B systems. However the sampling schedule can be reduced to every 5 years if your water system meets the following criteria:

- Three consecutive samples below 2.0 mg/L
- 100 Foot Sanitary Control Area with no potential sources of contamination in that SCA.
- Drilled well that was constructed in compliance with WAC 173-160

Please submit requests for reduction in the sampling schedule by email to (smithj@co.cowlitz.wa.us) or in writing to this office at the address above with Attn: Jesse Smith. Please submit documentation that the water system complies with above requirements when requesting a reduction in sampling schedule.

Water Sample Labs

Below is a list of the certified labs in the local area providing drinking water sample testing for your required water quality. It is recommended that you call ahead for pricing, instructions and hours. A complete list of state certified labs can be found on the Dept. of Ecology webpage at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/eap/labs/search.html>

Lab Name	Address	Phone Number
BSK Associates (formerly Addy Lab) Additional Collection Sites Haase Watch and Clock Repair Woodland Hi-School Pharmacy	2517 East Evergreen Blvd, Vancouver 1220 Ocean Beach Highway, Longview 1365 Lewis River Road, Woodland	360-750-0055 360-414-0336 360-225-9478
ALS Environmental Additional Collection Site Dale McGhee & Sons Well Drilling	1317 S. 13th St, Kelso 3032 Allen St, Kelso	360-577-7222 360-423-8493
Lewis County Health Department	360 NW North St, Chehalis	360-740-1237

Water System Security

If your well and water system equipment are not protected against unauthorized access it is a good time to provide locks, fences or other measures of protection for the water system to help prevent any theft or intentional contamination of the water supply.

In 2008 a Group A water system in Castle Rock had its well intentionally contaminated with a petroleum product and the water system was unusable for over a month. Last year a private homeowner in Cowlitz County had its well intentionally contaminated with an unknown substance.

While these events are very rare it does not mean it can never happen. Below are some basic minimal precautions that can be taken to prevent contamination, vandalism or theft:

- Provide locks, fences or other security measures to prevent access of wells or water system equipment;
- Notify nearby water system users of the water system location and ask them to provide additional oversight and notify you of any suspicious activity;
- Motion activated lights around water system equipment;
- Routinely inspect water system buildings for break-ins.

Replacing Water Lines

Periodically water systems should replace water lines because they are old or leaking. When replacing water lines please remember some basic steps to minimize entry of contaminants when doing the repair.

- 1) Notify customers of issue and possible lack of water. Recommend to boil water if used until disinfected and sampled.
- 2) Hire a professional. Unless you are experienced at plumbing in the long run it can be more cost effective to hire a professional to do it right.
- 3) Try to keep new pipes as clean as possible during installation. This can be very difficult in various weather conditions and in-ground installations.
- 4) Flush pipes to remove any contaminants, such as soil, that may have entered the piping. Flush in locations to avoid the unclean water from going into homes.
- 5) Disinfect water pipes or water system. Flush disinfectant from water system after a period of time.
- 6) Take coliform samples to verify system is free of contamination.

Free Online Training

- Private Well Class - www.privatewellclass.org - The Private Well Class Training is a free online training that was created by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign through EPA funding. The class consists of 10 lessons that are emailed to you on a weekly basis. The training goes through a variety of topics that would impact a small well based water system. There are also some webinars posted on the website that covered water quality, proper care of wells, and how your well works.

Please note the training is not geared towards meeting or understanding drinking water regulations.