



2010

Drinking Water Quality Report

General Manager's Message

We are pleased to provide you our annual drinking water quality report. This report summarizes the findings of our 2010 drinking water quality testing program. The federal Safe Drinking Water Act requires that we provide you this information annually. We are happy to comply because we want you to know your water is safe to drink.

We are very proud of the first-class water system and the dedicated staff that operate and maintain it. In 2010, Silver Lake Water & Sewer District purchased 1,255,252,000 gallons of treated potable water supplied from the City of Everett water filtration plant. That means on an average, the District supplied 2,827,000 gallons of water that was delivered each day to our customers of the Silver Lake Water & Sewer District. We have tried to make this report easy to understand. If you have questions please contact us at 425-337-3647 and ask to speak to a water quality specialist. You can also obtain more information about our water system online at: www.slwsd.com or at www.ci.everett.wa.us/pw.

Patrick Curran, General Manager
Silver Lake Water & Sewer District
May 2011



Drinking Water Source



Your drinking water comes from Spada Reservoir, located about 30 miles east of Everett at the headwaters of the Sultan River. Spada Reservoir was created in 1964 through a partnership between the City of Everett and the Snohomish County PUD as part of the Jackson Hydroelectric Project. This 50-billion-gallon reservoir serves as a collection point for rain and snowmelt from the Cascade Mountains.

Spada Reservoir is located in the Sultan Basin Watershed, an area covering more than 80 square miles. A watershed is a geographic area where all precipitation drains into a single body of water. The Sultan Basin Watershed is one of the wettest watersheds in the continental United States. The average rainfall is about 165 inches—five times the rainfall of Everett.

To protect the naturally pristine water in Spada Reservoir, water quality in the Sultan Basin Watershed is carefully monitored. The watershed is patrolled and human activities are limited to minimize the impact on water quality. While there have been no threats to the water supply system, the District continues to cooperate with the City of Everett to evaluate and adjust our security measures as necessary.

Drinking Water Treatment

From Spada Reservoir, our water travels through a pipeline to Chaplain Reservoir. This is where the City of Everett's water treatment facility is located. Chaplain Reservoir holds about 4.5 billion gallons of water and, on average, nearly 55 million gallons of water is treated each day at the water treatment facility.



Your drinking water is treated with advanced filtration and disinfection. First, agents are added to the water that cause particles to coagulate. Next, the water passes through large filters to remove the particles. These particles can include sediment and natural materials as well as viruses, bacteria and other disease-causing organisms. Finally, hypochlorite solution is added to the water to eliminate any organisms that were not removed by the filtration process.



During the treatment process, polymers are added as part of the filtration process, fluoride is added for dental health purposes and sodium carbonate is added to adjust the pH level of water so it is less corrosive on pipes and plumbing fixtures. These additives are carefully monitored and the water is continually tested to make sure it is safe to drink.

Information From EPA

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 (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public 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 at 1-800-426-4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised people, 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 about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Detected Regulated Contaminants

Parameter	Major Source	Units	EPA Regulations		Our Water Results		
			Ideal Level/Goal (MCLG)	Maximum Allowable (MCL)	Range or Other	Average Value or Highest Result	Comply?
Nitrate	Erosion of natural deposits, animal waste	ppm	10	10	< 0.100-0.114	< 0.080	Yes
Total Coliform Bacteria	Naturally present in the environment	% Positive	0	5% Positive per Month	0	0	Yes
Total coliform bacteria monitoring is used to track microbial quality in the water distribution system. SLWSD collects 60 samples per month. No total coliform was detected in 2010.							
Fluoride	Dental health additive	ppm	2	4	0.7-1.1	0.9	Yes
Fluoride is added to your water in carefully controlled levels for dental health.							
Residual Disinfectant Level (free chlorine)	Added as a drinking water disinfectant	ppm	4.0 (MRDLG)	4.0 (MRDL)	0.06-1.05	0.77	Yes
Haloacetic Acids (5) (HAA5)	By-product of drinking water chlorination	ppb	N/A	60	19.1-42.6	28.8	Yes
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	By-product of drinking water chlorination	ppb	N/A	80	23.4-61.1	41.0	Yes
Haloacetic acids and trihalomethanes form as by-products of the chlorination process that is used to destroy or inactivate disease-causing microbes. The results for TTHM and HAA5 reported here are from the four locations monitored to determine compliance with the current regulations.							
Turbidity	Soil erosion	NTU	N/A	TT	100%	0.10	Yes
Turbidity is a measure of the amount of particulates in water in Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU). Particulates in water can include bacteria, viruses and protozoans that can cause disease. Turbidity measurements are used to determine the effectiveness of the processes to remove these particulates. The values reported are the lowest monthly percentage of samples that met the turbidity limit and the highest single filtered water turbidity measurement obtained for the year. In 2010 no filtered water turbidity results were above the EPA 0.3 NTU limit so the lowest percentage was 100%. Turbidity values are measured by the City of Everett.							

Detected Unregulated Contaminants

Parameter	Units	Ideal Level/Goal (MCLG)	Our Water Results	
			Range Detected	Average Value
Bromodichloromethane	ppb	0	1.1-3.3	2.0
Chloroform (trichloromethane)	ppb	300	22.7-57.8	39.9
Dichloroacetic Acid	ppb	0	4.5-16.2	10.5
Trichloroacetic Acid	ppb	300	9.5-28.9	17.7
Monochloroacetic Acid	ppb	None	0-3.8	1.0
These substances are individual disinfection by-products for which no MCL standard has been set, but must be monitored to determine compliance with the USEPA Stage 1 Disinfection By-products Rule MCL's for Total trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids (5).				



Lead and Copper

Parameter	Major Source	Units	EPA Regulations		Everett Water Results		
			Ideal Level/Goal (MCLG)	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile Level	Homes Exceeding the AL	Comply?
Copper	Plumbing, erosion of natural deposits	ppm	1.3	1.3	0.188	None	Yes
Lead	Plumbing, erosion of natural deposits	ppb	0	15	3	2 of 108 (1.9%)	Yes

USEPA and state regulations require Everett and the systems it supplies to monitor for the presence of lead and copper at household taps in their combined service area every three years. The above data was collected in 2009. The next round of required regional tap sampling will be conducted in the summer of 2012. The 90th% level is the highest result obtained in 90 percent of the samples collected when the results are ranked in order from lowest to highest. The results for water tested before it enters household plumbing were even lower. This indicates that there is virtually no lead or copper in the water, but household plumbing may contribute to the presence of lead and copper at the tap.

Additional Information

Parameter	Units	Everett Water Results	
		Range Detected	Average Value
Alkalinity ³	ppm	11.7-20.3	15.7
Aluminum ³	ppb	0.010-0.038	0.018
Arsenic ⁴	ppb	ND ¹	ND ¹
Calcium Hardness ³	ppm ²	7.8-12.6	9.4
pH ³	s.u.	6.4-9.4	7.4
Sodium ⁴	ppm	5.6-7.4	6.5
Total Hardness ^{2,3}	ppm ²	10.1-14.1	11.8

¹ ND = Not detected.
² Hardness and alkalinity units are in ppm as CaCO₃ (calcium carbonate equivalent units).
³ Results are from samples collected from 60 locations in SLWSD's distribution system.
⁴ Sodium and Arsenic are monitored at the treatment plant effluent.

Cryptosporidium:

Cryptosporidium is a one-celled intestinal parasite that if ingested may cause diarrhea, fever, and other gastrointestinal distress. It can be found in all of Washington's rivers, streams, and lakes and comes from animal or human wastes deposited in the watershed. *Cryptosporidium* is resistant to chlorine, but is removed by effective filtration and sedimentation treatment such as that used by Everett. It can also be inactivated by certain types of alternate disinfection processes such as ozonation and UV light contactors. Past monitoring results suggest that *Cryptosporidium* is present in the source only occasionally and at very low concentrations. In 2010, Everett collected monthly *Cryptosporidium* oocysts samples from the source water at the plant intakes. A single oocyst was detected in the June sample. No oocysts were detected in the other eleven samples.

Treatment Polymers:

During water treatment, organic polymer coagulants are added to improve coagulation and filtration, which remove particulates from water. The particulates that are removed can include viruses, bacteria and other disease causing organisms. The USEPA sets limits on the type and amount of polymer that a water system can add to the water. In addition to the EPA limits, the State of Washington also requires that all polymers used be certified safe for potable water use by an independent testing organization (NSF International). During treatment, Everett adds only NSF approved polymers and the levels used are far below the safe limits set by USEPA.

Perchlorate:

In January 2009, the USEPA released a health advisory for perchlorate. Perchlorate is an inorganic contaminant used in solid propellant for rockets, missiles, fireworks and elsewhere (e.g., production of matches, flares, explosives, etc.). Sodium hypochlorite solutions used in water and wastewater treatment plants have also been identified as a potential source of perchlorate contamination. Perchlorate's interference with iodide uptake by the thyroid gland can decrease production of thyroid hormones, which are needed for prenatal and postnatal growth and development, as well as for normal metabolism and mental function in adults. EPA set the safe health advisory limit for drinking water at 0.015 ppm. In mid 2009, Everett implemented a monthly perchlorate monitoring program to determine if the hypochlorite used for disinfection at the water plant contributed measurable levels of perchlorate to Everett's drinking water. The method used is capable of detecting perchlorate as low as 0.0004 ppm. Through 2010, no perchlorate has been detected in the drinking water.



Important Terms:

- Maximum Contaminant 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 Contaminant 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 water treatment technology.
- 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.
- Treatment Technique (TT) – A required process and performance criteria intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- Action Level (AL) – The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers a treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- Parts per million (ppm)/ parts per billion (ppb) – A part per million means that one part of a particular contaminant is present for every million parts of water. Similarly, parts per billion indicate the amount of a contaminant per billion parts of water.
- Not Applicable (N/A) – Means EPA has not established MCLGs for these substances.

Water Conservation Report

In November 2007, the Silver Lake Water & Sewer District adopted a water conservation savings goal in compliance with the state water use efficiency requirements. In collaboration with the City of Everett and other local water purveyors, the District participates in a six year regional water conservation plan (2007-2012) that has set a goal to save 1.97 million gallons of water a day (MGD) by the end of 2012.

The plan calls for spending about \$2.95 million on regional water conservation activities through 2012. This includes youth education, indoor and outdoor water conservation kits, and rebates for water efficient clothes washers and toilets. The District is required to report on the progress of this program annually to the state and the customers we serve.

In 2010, in accordance with the regional water conservation plan, 570 water conservation workshops were conducted in classrooms throughout Snohomish County, including the District, reaching more than 15,000 students. More than 5,100 clothes washer rebates and 660 toilet rebates were issued. All participating water systems, including the District, distributed 180,000 lawn water calendars, 5,200 indoor conservation kits and 6,000 outdoor conservation kits. And, under a new program, 690 low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators were installed in commercial kitchen facilities. The District conducted a leak detection program in 2010 on 28.4 miles of pipe in its system.

These 2010 activities achieved an estimated savings of 0.88 MGD for the region, surpassing the 2010 savings goal of 0.80 MGD. This brings the cumulative programs savings (2007 through 2010) to 1.98 MGD – 138 percent of the four-year goal (1.43 MGD) and 100 percent of the planned six-year goal (1.97 MGD). Through efficiency and cost minimization, these savings have been obtained for about \$290,000 less than the planned budget for the four-year period.





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SUMMER LAWN WATERING CALENDAR

Enter your house number:

days.

JUNE 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Use a hose with a shut-off nozzle when watering by hand. Nozzle *FREE from your water provider.

JULY 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Water only your lawn and garden. Attach a *FREE automatic shut-off timer to your hose bibb.

AUGUST 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Plant native plants. They require less water and less care.

SEPTEMBER 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Use much in your gardens to reduce evaporation and retain moisture.

*Supplies are limited

There are a number of ways to save water, and they all start with YOU.

General Information

All water sources (both tap water and bottled water) contain impurities. As water flows 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 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 storm 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, and may 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.



Next Steps

For more information about drinking water quality, please contact:

Silver Lake Water & Sewer District:

Phone: 425-337-3647
Website: www.slwds.com

City of Everett Water Quality Office:

Phone: 425-257-8800
Website: www.ci.everett.wa.us/pw

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):

Phone: 1-800-426-4791
Website: www.epa.gov/safewater

State Department of Health (DOH):

Phone: 1-800-521-0323
Website: www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/

To get involved in decisions

affecting your drinking water, attend and comment at District Commissioner meetings, scheduled for the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 5:30 pm at the District Administrative Office, 15205 41st Avenue SE, Bothell, WA 98012. Agendas are available on the District's website at www.slwds.com.

Silver Lake Water & Sewer District Elected Officials:

Board of Commissioners:

Anne Backstrom, Bill Anderson and Rod Keppler



Partnership for Safe Water

The Silver Lake Water & Sewer District helps fund Everett's participation in The Partnership for Safe Water which is a voluntary cooperative effort supported by more than 200 water utilities, the USEPA, the American Water Works Association and other prominent drinking water organizations in the United States. The goal of the Partnership program is for participating utilities to use a continuous improvement process developed by the Partnership members.

The program strives to help drinking water utilities optimize their treatment plants to produce drinking water of a higher quality than is required by the regulations. To participate, each treatment plant must demonstrate that it can consistently meet the Partnership water quality standards at one of four levels.

Since the City of Everett began participating in this program, it has met the third highest level of performance standards set by the Partnership in ten of the past eleven years. Recently the City has renewed its commitment to continuously improving performance at the Everett Water Filtration Plant and has been working to incorporate some of the Partnership's tools into a new improvement program that is being developed at the plant.

The District's policy is to support the City of Everett's continued participation in this cooperative effort to strive for excellence. The District is pleased Everett has implemented a new program to improve operations and water quality at the treatment plant, and hopes the Everett Utility will qualify at the highest Partnership level in the future. The District believes this is the best way to insure our customers will always have the highest quality drinking water possible.

