

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT
HMC Management
June 2005

As part of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act of 1996, drinking water providers are required to furnish a Consumer Confidence Report to their customers on an annual basis beginning 1999. The purpose of this report is to tell you about your water, where your water comes from and how it compares to stringent standards set by regulatory agencies.

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 (800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants 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 Safe Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

Contaminants that may be present in source water before it is treated include:

- *Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agriculture livestock operations and wildlife.
- *Inorganic 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 and residential uses.
- *Radioactive contaminants, which are naturally occurring.
- *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 stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

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.

Your water comes from a single well field containing two wells. After the water comes from the wells it is distributed to your home, normally without treatment.

Listed below are the results from 2004 laboratory tests (other than coliform):

<u>Inorganic Contaminants</u>	<u>MCL</u>	<u>SRL</u>	<u>HMC</u>	<u>Water</u>
Nitrate	10	0.5	2.7	June 2004
<u>Radionuclides</u>				
Radium 228	Not detected			June 2004

*Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

*Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): the level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's 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.

*State Reporting Level (SRL): the minimum reporting level for Dept. of Health.

*N/A: not applicable *nd: not detectable at testing limit *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).

As a result of consistent and high water quality the Department of Health has granted a waiver for nearly all sampling and testing except coliform. In 2004, two of the monthly routine coliform tests revealed the presence of coliform bacteria. Though not a serious threat to health, coliform bacteria is an indicator of vulnerability to more serious bacterial contamination.

An investigation was conducted to determine the most likely source of the contamination. Water drawn directly from the two wells has not shown any problems, but water that has been stored in the old, 30,000-gallon reservoir has shown the presence of contaminants at times. Temporary, minimal chlorination of the tank successfully eliminated the contamination, but expert advice following the investigation has concluded that the reservoir needs to be abandoned. Replacement with a 99,000-gallon reservoir is underway. The required building permits are expected this month. The new reservoir will not only alleviate the contamination problem but will also allow for meeting current Washington Department of Health and Pierce County Fire Marshal capacity requirements.

For additional information, please contact the Island Manager, Doug Allen, at (253) 884-9350.