Last year, as in years past, your tap water met all EPA and State drinking water health standards. The City of Everson vigilantly safeguards its water supplies and once again, we are proud to report that our system has never violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard.
This report is designed to inform our consumers about the quality of our drinking water. Included in this report are details about where our water comes from, how it is treated and protected, and how it compares to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Washington State Department of Health (DOH) standards.
Our water comes from the Strandell Well field located about ¾ miles southwest of downtown Everson. We have three wells that draw from the Well field; wells #4, #5, and #6. Well #6 draws from a deeper aquifer (156 ft.). Wells #4 & #5 draw from a shallow, unconfined aquifer underlain by glacial sand and gravel. The water in the aquifer flows in a northerly direction toward the well field.

As I reported last year, April of (2009) we completed installation our new manganese removal system on deep well #6 and use it as our primary source of drinking water. The new manganese removal system is working better than expected and is consistently able to reduce the manganese from 0.583 to <0.005 mg/L.

In 2009 I tested this water for hardness and the result is 170 mg/l, which means we have **Hard Water**. Water hardness is one of the most common water quality concerns reported by consumers in the United States. Water that is considered to be "hard" is high in dissolved minerals, specifically calcium and magnesium. As the concentration of the dissolved minerals increase, the water becomes harder. Hard water can be a nuisance in many ways. You may notice an accumulation of white/chalky deposits on items such as plumbing, tubs, sinks, pots and pans. **Hard Water is not a Health hazard**.

In order to insure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems.

THERE ARE SEVEN BASIC CATEGORIES OF CONTAMINANTS WE ARE REQUIRED TO TEST FOR:

1) **Microbial Contaminates,** such as viruses and bacteria which may come from either human or animal waste. *Testing Frequency*: once per month from 3 different alternating locations in the water system. This test is called the coliform bacteria test, and is currently performed by Avocet Lab in Bellingham.
2) **Inorganic Contaminates,** such as salts and metals. These can be naturally occurring, or result from storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming. *Testing Frequency:* every three years, from the city wells (except Nitrate, which we have to test for four times per year now). *14 primaries contaminants are tested*: Antimony, Arsenic, & Asbestos are a few of these 14 contaminates.
3) **Lead/Copper*:*** This test is directed at homes with copper plumbing and/or lead service lines. We have no lead services, but there are some copper-plumbed homes. Every three years we are required to test a selected group of 10 houses with copper plumbing. These tests indicate corrosiveness of water. Corrosive water dissolves lead and copper.
4) **Synthetic Organic Contaminates, including pesticides and herbicides,** which may come from a variety of sources, *tested for.* A few examples are: 2,4-D; Chlordane, Dinoseb, Atrazine, Simazine, and Lindane. We have never detected any of these contaminates thus far in our testing.
5) **Radioactive contaminates,** which are naturally occurring. We specifically test for Beta/Photon and Alpha emitters.
6) **Volatile Organic contaminates, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals**, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems**.** *Testing Frequency*: Every three years from the city wells. *22 contaminates are tested for.* Some examples are: Benzene, Toulene, Trichoroethylene. *Thus far, we have never detected any of these contaminates for categories #4, #5, or #6.*
7) **Disinfectant by-products from chlorine,** The two **byproducts** we test for are Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM), and Haloacetic Acids (HAA5). Our first round of testing was done in 2005, indicating a miniscule amount of each, which is shown on 2005 CCR.

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.
The sources of drinking water (both tap 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 human activity.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminates in drinking water than the general population. Immune compromised individuals 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. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

In 2010 We tested monthly for coliform bacteria at three rotating places in the system, and had no detects.

Nitrates is a ***primary*** contaminate, and concentrations greater than the MCL (10 mg/L) in drinking water has been linked to possible serious illness and even death in extreme circumstances in infants under 6 months of age. Tests on the deep well #6 have shown insignificant detection of nitrates.

We continue to strongly recommend that air expansion tanks be installed in the cold water supply lines just ahead of water heaters, if not already installed. This alleviates ***thermal expansion*** caused by your hot water tank, which can cause thermal pressure relief valves to leak, and even cause dangerous high pressure situations. Also, please be sure your relief valve is installed and in good working condition. It is recommended that hot water tanks are cleaned once a year. For more information, contact Jack Faulkner, Certified Building Official, at (360-966-3411).

City of Everson has now approved a cross connection control program. A cross connection is defined as any actual or potential physical connection between a public water system or the consumer's water system and any source of non-potable liquid, solid, or gas that could contaminate the potable water supply by backflow. There are numerous well-documented cases where drinking water has been contaminated via unprotected cross connections. These cases have caused illness, injury, and in some cases, death, to consumers served by the system. Working collectively we can make every effort to keep our water clean and pure for all to drink and make use of.

WATER QUALITY DATA

TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS USED BELOW:

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close as is 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. **N/A:** not applicable **ND:** Not detectable at testing limit **ppb:** parts per billion or, **ug/L:** micrograms per liter **ppm:** parts per million, or **mg/l:** milligrams per liter **pCi/L:** picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation) **millirems per year (mrem/yr):** a measure of radiation absorbed by the human body. **Million fibers per liter (MFL):** a measure of the presence of asbestos fibers longer than 10 micrometers.

Primary Contaminants	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	AL	MCL	Likely source of contamination
Nitrate	N	4.5 (Avg)	PPM	5	10	Runoff from fertilizer, leaching from septic systems
VOC's	N	ND				Byproducts of industrial processes
SOC's	N	ND				Pesticides and herbicides

Thank you for taking the time to read this report. We ask that our customers help us protect our valuable water resources, which are the heart of the community, our way of life, and our children's future. We would also encourage all our water customers to conserve water usage by installing water-saving devices, eliminating leaks, and being prudent in outside water use. For more information about our water, check with Everson City Hall at 111 W. Main Street, or phone: 360-966-3411.

This report *is bulk-mailed to all 98247 Zip code residents for reasons of simplicity and cost reduction. You may or may not be on the City of Everson Water system. Our water system serves all residents within the city limits of Everson, as well as the Everson Water Association, Hampton Water Association, and Emerson Road association as far south as and including the Percy Hoekema farm. This report can also be found on the City of Everson web site.*

Respectfully submitted,
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Water/Sewer Superintendent
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