



# CITY OF EVERSON

## 2015 WATER QUALITY CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

NOTICE: It is the responsibility of the property owner to provide this report to all tenants residing at the physical address.

### CITY OF EVERSON DRINKING WATER CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT 2015

**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.

**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.

**Our water comes from the Strandell Well field** located about ¼ miles southwest of downtown Everson. The water in the aquifer flows in a northerly direction toward the well field. We have three wells that draw from the Well field; wells #4, #5, and #6. Wells #4 & #5 draw from a shallow, unconfined aquifer underlain by glacial sand and gravel. Well #6 draws from a deeper aquifer (156 ft.). Deep well #6 is used as our primary source of drinking water. The city's new manganese removal system is working better than expected and is consistently able to reduce the manganese from 0.63 to <0.005 mg/L.

**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 ROUTINELY REQUIRED TO TEST FOR:

**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 total coliform bacteria test, and is currently performed by Avocet Lab in Bellingham.

**Inorganic Contaminates, (IOC)** 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 is tested four times per year). 14 primary contaminants are tested: Antimony, Arsenic, & Asbestos are a few of these 14 contaminants.

**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.

**Synthetic Organic Contaminates, (SOC) 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 contaminants thus far in our testing.

**Radioactive contaminants**, which are naturally occurring. We specifically test for Beta/Photon and Alpha emitters.

**Volatile Organic Contaminates, (VOC) 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 contaminants are tested for. Some examples are: Benzene, Toulene, Trichloroethylene. *Thus far, we have never detected any of these contaminants for wells #4, #5, or #6.*

**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 was shown on the 2005 CCR. We did test for these in 2015, the results are in the table on the next page.

### Voluntary Watering Schedule

#### June 1—September 15

- SUNDAY - Odd Street Address
- MONDAY - NO WATERING
- TUESDAY - Even Street Address
- WEDNESDAY - Odd Street Address
- THURSDAY - Even Street Address
- FRIDAY - Odd Street Address
- SATURDAY - Even Street Address



City of Everson is a partner of the Whatcom Water Alliance, a regional water conservation group in Whatcom County. The goal of the Water Alliance is to improve coordination, collaboration and communication among local government purveyors in Whatcom County in order to achieve greater efficiency and effectiveness in delivering water supply services.

Water Alliance members share a passion in providing clean and safe water to protect your health, our planet and quality of life. Your investment in our water and sewer infrastructure through utility rates helps to keep it functional for current and future generations.

### WATER'S WORTH IT.

Indispensable to jobs, the economy, our health and our communities, water runs through our lives in many ways. Everyone uses water and everyone is responsible for it. We must all work together to keep our water clean and healthy. To do that, we each need to learn to value water. **To learn more, visit [www.watersworthit.org](http://www.watersworthit.org).**

*WATER'S WORTH IT™ is a trademark of the Water Environment Federation*

**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 contaminants 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 diabetes, 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 2015 We tested monthly for **coliform bacteria** at twelve 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.

**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

| Primary Contaminants  | Violation Yes/No | Level Detected | Unit of Measurement | AL  | MCL | Likely Source of Contamination                        |
|-----------------------|------------------|----------------|---------------------|-----|-----|---|
| Nitrate               | N                | 4.3            | ppm                 | 5.0 | 10  | run off from fertilizer, leaching from septic systems |
| Manganese             | N                | ND             | ppm                 |     | .05 | naturally occurring                                   |
| Asbestos              | N                | 0.57           | MFL                 | 7   |     | naturally occurring                                   |
| Total Trihalomethanes | N                | 4.9            | ug/L                |     | 80  | chlorine byproducts                                   |
| Haloacetic acids      | N                | 1.4            | ug/L                |     | 60  | chlorine byproducts                                   |
| Radium 228            | N                | 0.8            | pCi/L               |     | 5   | Radioactive material, naturally comes from soil       |
| Gross Alpha           | N                | 2.0            | pCi/L               |     | 15  | Radioactive material, naturally comes from soil       |

body. **Million fibers per liter (MFL):** a measure of the presence of asbestos fibers longer than 10 micrometers.

**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.

*Our water system serves all residents within the city limits of Everson, as well as the Everson Water Association and the Hampton Water Association, and as far south as and including the Percy Hoekema farm on Emerson Road. This report can also be found on the City of Everson web site at : [www.ci.everson.wa.us](http://www.ci.everson.wa.us).*

The City of Everson has an approved **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. If you have any questions or suspect you may have one, please contact Rick at 360.966.0282.

For more information regarding cross control connection issues, check out the Washington State Department of Health website at: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/>

**Should I buy bottled water?** Water treatment providers such as the City of Everson test their water for more substances than the manufacturers of bottled water! City water meets all of the federal and state drinking water standards. You may enjoy the convenience of bottled water, but it can cost up to **1000 times more** than water from your tap. According to Co-op America as much as 40 percent of bottled water is simply tap water, often with additional treatment, though not always. **If you use bottled water, consider it a food and refrigerate it after**

**opening.** Questions about water quality can be directed to the city's laboratory at 360.966.0282.

**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.