

VERA WATER & POWER 2011 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

Mandatory Health-Related Standards Are Established by the Washington State Department of Health

THE IMPORTANCE OF BACKFLOW PROTECTION

Parameter	Unit of Measure	Highest Detected Level Pump Stations											Likely Source of Contamination	
		MCL	MCLG	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		33
Microbiology														
353 Tests were taken during this reporting period														
Total Coliform Bacteria*														No Constituents Detected at Wells
Fecal Coliform and E. Coli														No Constituents Detected at Wells
* Two non-acute coliform violations														
Inorganic Chemicals														
29 Inorganic Chemicals have been tested for in 2009														
Nitrates - Tested for in 2011	ppm	10	10	.8	.6	1.8	2.1	.6	.7	.7	1.0			Testing in 2013 Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion or natural deposits
Synthetic Organic Compounds														
86 Synthetic Organic Chemicals have been tested for in 2007														No Constituents Detected
Testing in 2012 & 2013														
Volatile Organic Compounds														
62 Volatile Organic Chemicals have been tested for in 2009														No Constituents Detected
Testing will be between 2012 & 2013														
Lead & Copper														
32 homes were tested in 2010 for Lead & Copper which is regulated at the customer's tap.														Action levels not exceeded
Testing will be in June 2013														
Abbreviations														
ND = Not Detected ppm = part per million ppb = parts per billion AL = Action Level - concentrations of a constituent which exceeded, triggers treatment of other requirements.														

Your local water purveyor, Vera Water & Power plays a critical role in the prevention of contamination of your public water system from its water source, the Spokane Aquifer, to your service connection. Once the clean drinking water is provided to you, it is then that we become partners with you, our customers, in protecting it from contamination by having the proper barriers installed to prevent cross-contamination with Vera's public water distribution system.

We rely on you to help us keep our drinking water safe and clean. Once water enters your service line, it has the potential to be introduced to contaminants. If your sprinkler system doesn't have adequate backflow protection, winterizing it by blowing out the system may force this potentially contaminated water back into your home's water supply and into Vera's distribution system.

In the fall of 2010, Vera, with guidance by DOH, decided to chlorinate the entire system due to failed coliform bacteria testing and again, a partial chlorinating in the fall of 2011 was done in small areas of the District. This incident occurred during the time that most of residential and commercial customers were winterizing their sprinkler irrigation systems by "blowing them out" with air compressors.

By working together to prevent potential contamination of your potable water system, we will be keeping the public health safe, and also be keeping your water rates as low as possible. Each time there is a coliform event because of the lack of backflow protection or cross-connection control, there are costs associated with chlorinating and disinfecting our water system. Additionally, DOH only allows a certain number of coliform events in during a 12-month period before possibly requiring full-time chlorinating for a water district. Our incentive is high to work together to protect our wonderful water.

For more information on backflow testing, please contact your local sprinkler contractor to schedule your annual backflow device test. Vera Water & Power maintains a list of certified backflow assembly testers for your use. Also, you may call Todd Henry at 509-924-3800 for this information.

In Washington State, lead in drinking water comes primarily from materials and components used in household plumbing. The more time water has been sitting in pipes, the more dissolved metals, such as lead, it may contain. Elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially in pregnant women and young children. To help reduce potential exposure to lead: for any drinking water tap that has not been used for 6 hours or more, flush water through the tap until the water is noticeable colder before using water for drinking or cooking, or general cleaning. Only use water from the cold-water tap for drinking, cooking, and especially for making baby formula. Hot water is likely to contain higher levels of lead. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in your drinking water is available from EPA's *Safe Drinking Water Hotline* at 800-426-4791 or online at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Dept. of Health and EPA prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the WA State department of Agriculture regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

Treatment Technique or **TT**: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
Maximum contaminant level or **MCL**: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or **MCLG**: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

YOUR WATER UTILITY

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 Todd Henry
 Director of Operations

Regularly scheduled Board Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month at 7:00 P.M. at the District office North 601 Evergreen Road, Spokane Valley, WA.

Please contact Todd Henry, Director of Operations at 509-924-3800, if you have any questions regarding the water that we serve you, our customers.

Federal Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described from the many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

GALLONS PUMPED BY VERA WATER & POWER

Vera Water & Power pumped 2.6 billion gallons of water to its customers in 2011 which is approximately the same as the total amounts pumped in 2010. Of the 2.6 billion gallons of water pumped, the District reported approximately 266 million gallons in leakage last year which represents 9.9% of all water pumped.

We are required under the *State Water Use Efficiency Rule* to sustain an average loss of 10% or less for three years running. Vera has met this requirement. We work very hard maintaining Vera's water system with a strong leak detection program and aggressive hydrant use metering policies to reduce the loss of water each year.

Water loss also results during construction occurring in the District and the accidental digging into water lines. Vera's conservation requirements make it essential that our leaks and construction dig-in repairs receive top priority. Vera's goal is to preserve an adequate supply of pure, clean drinking water for our future generations.

Working Together for Pure Water



Vera Water & Power

Vera's original No. 1 Well built in 1908 celebrated 100 years of service to our customers in April 2008.

We at Vera Water & Power work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. Let's all work together to keep our precious and pure drinking water clean and clear. Please remember that the Spokane Aquifer is our sole source of drinking water.