

# Whatcom County Water District No. 13

## Water Quality Report

### 2019

#### Consumer Confidence Report for the Year 2019

We're pleased to present to you the 2019 Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of the water that was provided last year. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards. We believe the information provides a valuable service to our customers.

Your drinking water is highly regulated by the EPA and is tested regularly. Keeping pace with upgraded water testing and more stringent federal standards is a challenge but one that Whatcom County Water District No. 13 strongly supports. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe source of drinking water.

#### Who We Are.....

Whatcom County Water District No. 13 is a water utility of 386 active connections. Our Board of Directors consists of 5 members who meet the fourth Tuesday of every month and work closely with Water & Wastewater Services, LLC, a certified water manager to bring you good quality water. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this water utility, your water, or this report, we will be happy to answer them. **In case of emergency, please call Water & Wastewater Services, LLC our water system manager, at 1-800-895-8821 or after regular hours at 1-360-630-0970.**

Whatcom County Water District No. 13 water source consists of 2 wells. Water is pumped from these wells into two 150,000-gallon tanks. From the storage tanks, water is gravity fed throughout the distribution system to the consumers.

#### Presence of Contaminants in Drinking Water

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).

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, radio-active 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 water 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 storm water runoff, and septic systems.

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. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations.

## Presence of Contaminants Continued....

**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 Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

## Water Quality Data

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the 2019 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1 through December 31, 2019. The state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old.

### Terminology

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

**MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level):** the highest 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.

**AL (Action Level):** the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**ND (Not Detected)**

**ppm (parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)):** about the same as ½ an aspirin tablet dissolved in a bathtub full (50 gallons of water)

**ppb (parts per billion or micrograms per liter):** about the same as 1 dissolved aspirin tablet in a 100,000 gallon swimming pool.

Inorganic Contaminants	MCL	MCLG	WQDO #13 Year	Range of Detections	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Sources of Contaminant
Arsenic (ppb)	.010	0	.001	.001	2016	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	S01 0.66	0.66	2019	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	S02 0.65	0.65	2019	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use
Lead & Copper	AL	MCLG	WQDO #13 Percentile	Total # of Samples / # Exceeding AL	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Sources of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	.015	0	.003	10 / 0	2019	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	.090	10 / 0	2019	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Synthetic Organic Compounds	MCL	MCLG	Approved Year	Range of Detections	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Sources of Contamination
Herbicides	N/A	N/A	ND	S01 & S02 ND	2018	NO	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Pesticides	N/A	N/A	ND	S01 & S02 ND	2018	NO	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Radionuclide Contaminants	MCL	MCLG	Approved Year	Range of Detections	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Sources of Contaminant
Gross Alpha (pCi/l)	15	0	S01 & S02 ND	ND	2015	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta (pCi/l)	50	0	S01 & S02 ND	ND	2015	NO	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Radium 228	5	0	S01 & S02 ND	ND	2015	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Microbiology	MCL	MCLG	Approved Year	Range of Detections	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Sources of Contaminant
Total Coliform Bacteria	0	0	ABSENT	PRESENT/ ABSENT	2019	YES	Naturally present in the environment

**Additional Information for Lead in Drinking Water:** If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Whatcom County Water District No. 13 is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

**Additional Information for Coliform Bacteria:** Every month our system is tested for Coliform Bacteria. The sample taken in November 2019 came back positive for total coliform bacteria. We immediately collected repeat samples for the site which came back positive of coliform bacteria. The system was then flushed. An investigative bacteria sample was then collected and came back negative for coliform bacteria. The violation was isolated and brief. We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements