

BEARDS COVE WATER SYSTEM

ID # 05100E

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT 2006

June 2007

WATER SYSTEM MANAGER'S STATEMENT

The Consumer Confidence Rule is a federal requirement created by Congress and the Environmental Protection Agency. As a result the Mason County Department of Utilities and Waste Management is required to provide customers of the Beards Cove Water System with this report. Herein we will provide you with information on the results of our compliance and water quality testing, the health effects of any contaminants found during this monitoring, and who to call in case of emergencies, loss of water service, water leaks, and billing questions. We are reporting results from the monitoring performed during 2006 calendar year.

ABOUT THE SYSTEM

The Mason County Department of Utilities and Waste Management employs five full time operators certified by the State of Washington to run the water and wastewater systems the County owns and operates, one of which is Beards Cove. There is a certified operator on duty every day of the week to monitor our systems. To report a problem with your water service, billing statement or to report suspected leaks during regular office hours (8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mon-Fri) call 360-275-4467 ext. 283. After hours emergency please call 911. For technical information or water saving tips call Tom Moore at extension 652

About twice each year the hydrants are tested and the system is flushed of sedimentation that builds up in the pipes. This tends to stir things up and you may experience some turbidity. If you do, simply run a hose until the water clears. This usually takes only a few minutes. You should also know that if you've been away for extended periods it is a good idea to run your water through each fixture to freshen it up. Water can pick up trace metals from pipes and fixtures in your home during extended contact times.

This past year the County has experienced a number of water breaks that are attributed to a homeowner going out and trying to turn off or on the valve in the meter box. The County installs those valves for use by County personnel only. You should have in or on your home a valve that will shut your entire water service off for in home repairs etc. If you try to turn the street valve on or off it may break, you will be charged to have it fixed and this usually results in a water outage for your neighbors, overtime for our staff, and no one is very happy about the whole ordeal. So if you need to have your water

turned off or on call us.

WHERE DOES BEARDS COVE GET ITS WATER?

Beards Cove gets water from three wells located throughout the community. Well #1 is located on Anchor Dr. Well # 3 is up near the storage tank and Wells #4 and #5 are located in the park near the pool. Mason County has recently completed Well #5 to serve as a back up in case well #4 were to malfunction.



CROSS-CONNECTION CONTROL PROGRAM

If you have an automated sprinkler system, a direct method of filling a swimming pool or spa, or any other apparatus, fixture, existing backflow device, or other condition that may cause contaminants to backflow into the water system, you may be affected. Please contact Tom Moore at 360-275-4467 ext. 771.

ARE THERE CONTAMINATES IN MY WATER?

Drinking water including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least some small amounts of minerals, organics, or chemicals, called contaminants.

The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

Some people are more vulnerable to contaminants than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, such as persons with cancer undergoing chemo-therapy, persons who have 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 the advice of their health care provider about drinking water. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk and more information about contaminants and their potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

It became evident in the aftermath of the Katrina disaster that the general public needs to take responsibility to be better prepared in the event of a major disaster. Response by the Government may take days or weeks. Mason County's Emergency Management staff is ready to help you become better prepared. Please call 360-275-

4467 ext. 801 for information.

The Beards Cove Water System has auxiliary power supplies and a seismically stable storage tank but everything underground could be at risk during a major earthquake. If you lose water service it could take days or even weeks to restore depending on the damage. Please be prepared, storing a two-week supply of drinking water is not unreasonable. We will do our best to return the system to service as soon as possible in the event of a major disaster.

A WORD ON CONSERVATION

We all know how important drinking water is. This is especially evident during interruptions of service that occurs due to maintenance or repair of the system. While these interruptions are only a minor inconvenience remember they are minor only because we know service will resume and most uses of drinking water can be delayed for short periods.

Should service be interrupted for an extensive period having to obtain an alternate source of water could easily become the most important function of your day.

We are blessed to live in a part of the world where clean water seams plentiful. However this can be a double-edged sword in some cases. People sometimes fail to see the importance of the little things they can do to conserve. Of all the water in the world 97% is salt water. Of the remaining 3%, 2% is frozen leaving only 1% for consumption. Therefore don't be fooled by the apparent abundance of water in our environment. The water we can consume is only a small percentage of what is available and we must conserve and protect this our most precious resource.

Normally our wells operate about 4 to 6 hours per day. During hot weather we see the hours increase to as much as 16 to 20 hours per day. That is an increase from an average of about 200 gallons per household per day to around 600gallons. When this happens, **water use restrictions** are placed on the system to minimize the impacts of the increased demands. When you see the signs posted please reduce your lawn watering and car washing and follow an odd /even watering schedule based on the last digit of your street address. Call us for more information and to get some great water saving tips.

WATER QUALITY DATA

During 2006, 24 routine bacteriological samples tested taken from various points throughout the system in accordance with our Coliform Monitoring Plan. We also tested all the wells for nitrates, radium 228. In addition the County tested for 63 volatile organic compounds. All examinations of water from the wells and from the collection system met or exceeded drinking water standards.

While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

Substance	EPA's MCL/Action level	Highest level Detected	Contaminate source
Nitrate	10	<1	Natural Deposits
Radium 228	N/A	Non-detect	Natural Deposits
Copper	1.3 mg/L	0.04	Fixtures, pipes and Natural deposits
Lead	0.015 mg/L	0.002	
Chloride	20mg/L	2.0	Natural deposits

