

# BEARDS COVE WATER SYSTEM

**ID # 05100E**

**CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT 2014**

**June 2015**

## **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 2014 calendar year.

## **ABOUT THE SYSTEM**

The Mason County Department of Public Works/Utilities 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 throughout Mason County. While we do use other operators at Beards Cove Jeff Palmer is assigned as the primary operator in charge of the Beards Cove water and sewer systems. Jeff can be reached on his cell phone at 360-490-0961.

Beards Cove gets water from four 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.

To report a problem with your water service, billing statement or to report suspected leaks during regular office hours (7:30 AM to 4:30 PM Mon-Thurs and 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM on Fri) call 360-275-4467 ext. 207, 283, 566. On weekends until 3:00 PM call 360-275 7067. After hours emergencies please call Jeff Palmer at 360-490-0961 or 911. For technical information or other information please contact Erika Schwender at 360-275-4467 ext. 652.

One of the regular maintenance activities performed by our staff is to flush the water system pipes and test the fire hydrants several times throughout each year. This tends to stir up sedimentation and you may temporarily experience increased turbidity and / or a change in color of your water. If you do so, simply run the water until it clears up, which usually takes only a few minutes. Staff will post signs prior to flushing hydrants.

Every year the County experiences 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, if it does you will be charged to have it fixed.

**Anytime you plan to dig in a utility right of way or easement you must call 811 before you dig.**

## **WHERE DOES BEARDS COVE GET ITS WATER?**



## **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. For more information please contact Erika Schwender at 360-275-4467 ext. 652.**

## **Contaminates in Drinking Water**

Drinking water, including bottled water may reasonably be expected to contain at least some small amounts of minerals, organics, or chemicals. The presence of chemicals does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Some of these compounds actually improve the taste of drinking water. Chemicals of concern are associated with potential health risks and the federal and state government established maximum allowable levels for these substances.

Some people are more vulnerable to certain contaminants' effects than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, or who have organ transplants, HIV/AIDS, or other immune system disorders, the elderly and infants can be particularly at risk. 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**

In the event of a severe storm or other natural 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.

There is a history of vandalism and theft at the storage tank facilities. Any suspicious activity should be reported to the Mason County Sheriff's office. Please call 911 if you observe anyone tampering with the water system's facilities. Water systems have been identified as potential terrorist targets by the Department of Homeland Security. We all need to be extra vigilant around our rural water supply facilities.

### **WATER 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 minor inconveniences, 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 fortunate to live in a part of the world where clean water seems 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 water suitable for drinking. 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 600 gallons. 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.

Washington State Drinking water regulations require that all systems have service meters by January 2017. Mason County has begun preparations to begin meter installations this year and hopes to complete installation well before the deadline. We will do our best to see you are notified of planned service interruptions in advance.

### **WATER QUALITY DATA**

All state mandated water quality monitoring during 2014 met the state 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.

While high levels of arsenic are known to cause cancer in humans and are linked to other health effects, such as skin damage and circulatory problems, EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic.

The following table provides information on the constituents detected during routine monitoring of Beards Cove's Drinking water supply.

Substance	Maximum Allowable Contaminant Level (MCL) in mg/L	Highest Level detected in Beards Cove Drinking Water in mg/L	Date of sample collection	Mandatory State Reporting Limit in mg/L	Most probable Contaminant source
Nitrate	10.0	0.5000	08/26/2014	0.2000	Fertilizer, wastewater intrusion
Hardness		50.000	06/13/2012	10.0000	Natural Deposits
Conductivity	700.0000 umhos/cm	97.0000 umhos/cm	06/13/2012	70.0000 umhos/cm	Natural Deposits
Iron	0.3000	3.4000	6/13/2012	0.1000	Natural Deposits
Color	15 CU	25 CU	6/13/2012	15.0000 CU	Natural Deposits
Manganese	0.0500	0.0200	6/13/2012	0.0100	Natural Deposits
Sodium		6.0000	6/13/2012	5.0000	Natural Deposits
Turbidity		32.0000 NTU	6/13/2012	0.1000 NTU	Sediment
Lead		0.0010	10/02/2014	0.0120	Plumbing
Copper		0.0300	10/02/2014	0.0200	Plumbing

\*Not all parameter are required to be tested each year. The Consumer Confidence Report provides information on substances, which have been tested for within the last 5 years and had concentrations greater than the Mandatory State Reporting Limit.