

# **RUSTLEWOOD ID75027 N WATER SYSTEM CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT 2013**

**June 2014**

## **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 Rustlewood 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 2013 calendar year.

## **ABOUT THE SYSTEM**

The Mason County Department of Utilities and Waste Management is now a division of the Mason County Public Works Department. The utilities division employs five full time operators certified by the State of Washington to operate and maintain the water and wastewater systems owned by Mason County, one of which is Rustlewood. There is a certified operator on duty every day of the week to monitor these systems. While we do use other operators at Rustlewood Marty Grabill is assigned as the primary operator in charge of the Rustlewood water and sewer systems. Marty can be reached on his cell phone at 360-490-6608.

The Rustlewood community gets its water from three wells located near the entrance to the community. There are two water storage tanks that provide 65,000 gallons of equalizing storage at this location.

Mason County is required by state law to install service meters by January of 2017. Staff is working to identify available grant and loan programs to help offset the cost of this project. In addition, there is work needed to improve the well controls and storage facilities.

It is our understanding that the PUD, Hood Canal Communications, and Century Link will be upgrading their underground infrastructure in Rustlewood this year which will likely result in some water service interruptions if a water line is broken as a result. Mason County will do its best to provide accurate locates and assistance to the other utilities during this process to prevent damage to our pipes.

## **CROSS-CONNECTION CONTROL PROGRAM**

Do 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? If so you need to contact Tom Moore at 360-427-9670 ext.652.

## **WHO DO I CALL WITH A PROBLEM?**

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, 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM Fri) call 360-427-9670 ext. 283. After hours emergency please call 911 or Marty Grabill's work phone at 360-490-6608. On weekends you can also call 360-275-7067 to report problems such as leaks or service interruptions. For technical information or water saving tips call Tom Moore at 360-427-9670 extension 652.

## **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 contaminants actually improve the taste of drinking water.** Some people are more vulnerable to contaminants effects 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.

## **WATER QUALITY DATA 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 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.**

**Some studies report that metered water systems use about one third as much water as unmetered systems of the same size. State law mandates the installation**

**of water service meters by January 2017. Mason County is preparing for meters by installing meter sets where they do not currently exist. You will be notified several days in advance of a planned water service interruption that is going to affect you as a result of this work.**

During 2013, 12 routine bacteriological samples taken from various points throughout the system in accordance with our Coliform Monitoring Plan, all were satisfactory. We also tested all the wells for nitrates. All of the monitoring met 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. 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.

## **A PARTING WORD FROM TOM**

**MOORE** I have been working for Mason County and the community of Rustlewood for thirty years come September 30<sup>th</sup> and have decided to retire. Small utilities like Rustlewood are very expensive and difficult to operate in a cost effective manner. Over my time here I've tried my best to hold those costs down by running this system as cost effectively as possible. There have been a number of changes as you might expect over the course of the last thirty years and no doubt many more to come as the county strives to bring you clean safe drinking water and environmental protection through effective wastewater treatment. Because of the aging infrastructure there is more to do. None of this would be possible without your support. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for being a part of the solution to the problems we've addressed at Rustlewood during my career.

SUBSTANCE	EPA'S MCL	HIGHEST LEVEL DETECTED	CONTAMINATE SOURCE
Nitrate	10 mg/L	< 1.0 mg/L	Natural Deposits
Manganese	0.11 mg/L	0.06 mg/L	Natural Deposits
arsenic	.01 mg/L	.002 mg/L	Natural Deposits

Mg/L = parts per million    Ug/L = parts per billion



