

VERA WATER & POWER 2009 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

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

| 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 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 300 Tests were taken during this reporting period | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Coliform Bacteria | | | | | | | | | | | | | No Constituents Detected | |
| Fecal Coliform and E. Coli | | | | | | | | | | | | | No Constituents Detected | |
| Inorganic Chemicals | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 29 Inorganic Chemicals have been tested for in 2009 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Nitrates - Tested for in 2009 | ppm | 10 | 10 | .6 | .5 | 1.0 | | 1.3 | .5 | | .5 | .5 | .7 | Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits |
| Synthetic Organic Compounds | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 86 Synthetic Organic Chemicals have been tested for in 2007 | | | | | | | | | | | | | No Constituents Detected | |
| Volatile Organic Compounds | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 62 Volatile Organic Chemicals have been tested for in 2009 | | | | | | | | | | | | | No Constituents Detected | |
| Lead & Copper | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 30 Homes were tested in 2007 for Lead and Copper which is regulated at the customer's tap. | | | | | | | | | | | | | Action levels not exceeded | |
| Samples were taken in 2007 and met monitoring requirements. Testing is scheduled for Spring 2010. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Abbreviations | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ND = Not Detected ppm = parts per million ppb = parts per billion AL = Action Level - concentrations of a constituent which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

YOUR WATER UTILITY



System I.D. 914505

Mailing Address:

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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.

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.

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 and Power pumped 3 billion gallons of water to its customers in 2009 which was slightly more than the total amounts pumped in 2008. Of the 3 billion gallons of water pumped, the District reported approximately 236 million gallons in leakage last year which represents only 7.7% loss 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 water 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.



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.

OUR CLIMATE = OUR WATER SUPPLY

The lack of snow during the winter of 2009 and 2010, made us keenly aware of how fickle Mother Nature can be and how significantly it affects our lives each year. During our previous two winters, we received record high levels of snowfall, and then in the Spring, high levels of melting snow roared down through rivers and streams. This winter though, having seen very little snow or moisture, very little is stored in snow in the mountains.

Currently in our region, snow levels are reporting at 55% of normal, thus sending deep concern through out the State because low snow levels affect future summer water levels. The El Niño weather pattern that has brought warmer, drier winter conditions to the region, is expected to continue this summer, and although we do not have a crystal ball to predict what Mother Nature may be up to this summer, all indications are that the Pacific Northwest will be experiencing some level of drought concerns.

We all can help start preserving our water in order to ensure an ample water supply through out the summer and fall by using our water wisely. Last year in our annual Water Quality Report to you, we discussed using our water wisely so there will be plenty to go around for future generations. We can cut down on our water use by making small changes that won't hurt our way of life but will help conserve water. We have links to several ideas for using water wisely on our website at www.verawaterandpower.com.

This year, Vera's Board of Directors adopted Vera's *Water Use Efficiency Plan* that outlines steps the District is taking to educate our customers about water conservation, ways to protect Vera's water distribution system against water loss, and long term efficient use of our water supply. There are many ways you can take part in conserving our water supply for the immediate needs during a dry year, as well as for long term conservation. You can check for leaks at your home or business, inside and out. Have your sprinkler systems inspected annually for any leaks. If you notice there are areas where water is puddling on your lawn, this could be a sign that there is a leak in one of your water pipes or a leak in your sprinkler system. Either way, you are losing precious water, not to mention that water leaks can unnecessarily cost you a lot of extra money when you bill comes in the fall!

An easy way to water wisely without a sprinkler system, can be to place timers on your hose bibs to prevent you from leaving them on too long. It is also wise to keep an eye on the weather report for any rainy stretches and to turn off your automatic sprinkler systems during these times of extra moisture. As you can see, our climate certainly does affect how we use our water supply and Vera Water and Power works extremely hard everyday to protect the quality of your drinking water by maintaining our distribution system and by testing for contaminants on a routine basis. You can see by the Annual Water Quality Report that Vera's water quality remains extremely high. You can count on us to guard the precious resource of our pure drinking water to the very best of our ability.

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.