"SERVING THE PUBLIC BY PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT"

PCJWSA
ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

SEPTEMBER 1999

Volume 1, Issue 1

THE NAME OF THE GAME IS SAFE DRINKING WATER

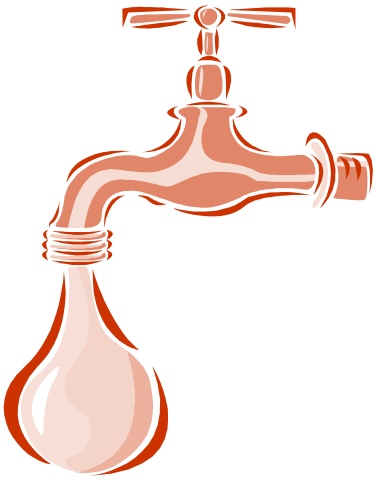
Inside this issue:

This, the first ever PCJWSA Annual Water Quality Report, offers the public a unique opportunity to learn more about the PCJWSA water system, what we do to ensure it continues to flow from the kitchen tap and what's in that water you drink right here in beautiful Pacific City, Oregon. While this is the first report we've ever done like this, it certainly won't be the last.

Take a look again at the title, it says "Annual". That means that every year, PCJWSA will be publishing a report just like this one. Beginning in the year 2000, and all subsequent years, the report will be issued by July 1.

In 1996, Congress amended the Safe Drinking Water Act. One of the mandates from these amendments was that most water systems in the United States must issue an annual water quality report to their customers. Officially, it's referred to as a "Consumer Confidence Report" or CCR. We think it's a great idea, but wish we had thought of it first!

As you will notice in the following pages, our drinking water is safe and meets Federal and State requirements. We have attempted to make this report as straight forward, easy to read and understandable as possible while still complying with Federal requirements for this report. The water quality test results in the following tables reflect the latest data available from testing performed in May 1996. At this time, regulations require PCJWSA to monitor for most of these contaminants once every 4 years. PCJWSA tests 2 water samples each month for total coliform. Annually, we test for lead/copper and nitrates. Asbestos, which was not detected in our water, is tested once every nine years.



Safe, Quality Drinking Water at Your Tap!!!

We hope you find this edition of the PCJWSA Annual Water Quality Report useful and informative. If you have additional questions or ideas for what you may want to see in next year's report, contact Tony Owen at 503-965-6636.

You may have questions that we cannot ade-

DID YOU KNOW?

The Pacific City Joint Water-Sanitary Authority Board of Directors meets the first Tuesday of every month at 5:00 PM in the Authority's office located at 34005 Cape Kiwanda Dr. Pacific City , Oregon. The public is invited to attend!

Call Tony Owen at 503-965-6636 with any questions you may have about **your** utility!

PCJWSA Directors:

Doug Kellow – Chair

Dick Carter – Vice Chair

Doug Olson – Secretary

George Baumgardner

Robert Rissel

DUNE WELLS, SPIT WELLS, RESERVOIRS AND ALL THAT STUFF!!

PCJWSA draws its water from two separate well fields that we refer to as the "dune wells " and the "spit wells". So named because the "dune wells" are at the base of a large sand dune north of our office on Cape Kiwanda Drive, and "spit wells" because they are on the Nestucca State Spit at the end of Sunset Drive. "Spit" refers to a peninsula, not the other thing you're thinking.

The two sites have 6 wells, with each well producing water at the rate of about 100 gallons per minute. Well water is also referred to as groundwater.

For those of you who have been around for awhile, you probably remember when we used to get our water from Horn Creek, a surface water source. You probably also remember this water as being very palatable and "sweet" in comparison to other water. Fortunately or

(See STUFF!! on page 2)

(STUFF!! continued from page 1)
unfortunately, depending upon one's perspective, Federal regulations prevent us from using Horn Creek water without the installation and use of special filtration equipment.

Ideally, PCJWSA would prefer to utilize Horn Creek as its main water source during the summer months and relieve some of the demand on the well fields. Because PCJWSA has water rights for about 900 GPM on Horn Creek, we believe it is a more reliable, long term solution to the community's water needs.

Although PCJWSA continues to evaluate the potential use of Horn Creek for drinking water, the cost of developing this "sweet water" source is quite expensive. At present, PCJWSA does not possess the financial resources to fund this type of capital improvement. Only a "yes" vote by the Authority's electors on a bond levy measure would secure the needed funding.

What's your opinion, should PCJWSA pursue development of the Horn Creek water source by asking the electors to approve a bond levy measure at some point in the future? Let us know what you think!

If Horn Creek were to be developed, where, you might ask, would we store all that water? As you know, we had planned to construct a new, 600,000-gallon reservoir during the Summer of 1999, high atop Brooten Mt.

We went through the entire process of refining the engineering, obtaining and evaluating bids, evaluating the customer benefits, but unfortunately , a legal issue involving a utility easement has derailed the project. Temporarily! We plan on having these issues resolved in time to re-bid the project in the early spring of 2000 and complete the project by mid-summer 2000.

Understandably, we were all quite disappointed. Having spent so much time trying to move a project of this magnitude along and then not see it come to fruition, well.... However, we press on and look forward to the completion of the new reservoir next year! We'll keep you posted.

Speaking of pressing on, we had 25 new water connections during fiscal year 1998-1999 (July 1, 1998 – June 30, 1999). That brings our "official" customer base total to 1,025 accounts! WOW! It seems only a few short years ago that we were wondering if we would ever have any new connections.

Of course with an increase in connections, comes an increase in the demand placed on the water system. This means an increase in costs for electricity, inventory, disinfection chemicals, new water meters and labor to maintain the 30+ miles of water distribution system you own. The good news is, we've been able to do it without raising your monthly water bill for several years. Will we be able to continue this practice indefinitely? Although we would like to be able to say "certainly", we also know that's not realistic.

As with any other business, our costs continue to rise. In order for us to keep <u>your</u> water system in top notch working order and comply with all State and Federal regulations, we have to charge you a monthly fee. Allowing the water system to fall into disrepair is not an option we will entertain. At some point, there may be no alternative other than to increase the monthly water bill to cover the additional expenses.

MORE NEAT THINGS TO LEARN!!

As you will see from the tables on the following pages, PCJWSA tests for a lot of different constituents in your drinking water. Almost 80 in all. We've only shown the results for those constituents that were detected in laboratory testing. If you would like to see the full range of lab results, please contact Tony Owen at 503-965-6636.

During 1998, PCJWSA tested water from 10 homes for lead and copper levels. While no violation of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) was incurred, one home was found with elevated lead levels.
Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general public. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.
Lead in drinking water is rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning, but it can add to a person's total lead exposure. All potential sources of lead in the household should be identified and removed, replaced or reduced.
During the past year, PCJWSA incurred 2 monitoring violations during the months of November and December for failure to test for total coliform as required by regulations. This does not pose a threat to the quality of our water supply. We have instituted a new sampling protocol program to help ensure these violations are not repeated.
All 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 mean that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health risks can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.
Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL's) are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many 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. Through our testing and monitoring we have learned that some constituents do exist in our drinking water . However, your drinking water meets or exceeds all State and Federal re-

DEFINITIONS

In the following tables you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in $10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in $10,000,000.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

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

Maximum Contaminant Level - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - The "Goal"(MCLG) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a

Pacific City Joint Water-Sanitary Authority is pleased to report that your drinking water meets or exceeds all standards set for quality and safety.

PACIFIC CITY JOINT WATER-SANITARY AUTHORITY

From May 1996

WATER QUALITY TEST RESULTS

except as noted

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measure	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source(s) of Contamination
			Radioactive Contaminants			
Alpha Emitters	N	<1	pCi/l	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
			Inorganic Contaminants			
Antimony	N	<1	ppb	6	6	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants;ceramics;electronics; solder
Arsenic	N	<5	ppb	n/a	50	Erosion of natural deposits: runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium	N	<0.01	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries;erosion of natural deposits
Beryllium	N	<0.20	ppb	4	4	Discharge from metal refineries and coal-burning factories; discharge from electrical, aerospace and defense industries
Cadmium	N	<2.0	ppb	5	5	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from metal refineries; runoff from waste batteries and paints
Chromium	N	<10	ppb	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Copper 1998 results 90th percentile	N	0.781	ppm	1.3	AL =1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Cyanide	N	<20	ppb	200	200	Discharge from steel/metal factories; discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories
Fluoride	N	<0.1	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead 1998 results 90th percentile	N	7.8	ppb	0	AL = 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits;
Mercury (inorganic)	N	<1.0	ppb	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from refineries and factories;runoff from landfills; runoff from cropland
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) 1998 results	N	<0.1	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measure	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source(s) of Contamination
Nitrite	N	<0.01	ppm	1	1	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium	N	<2.0	ppb	50	50	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines
Thallium	N	<1.0	ppb	0.5	2	Leaching from ore-processing sites; discharge from electronics,glass and drug factories
		VOLATILE ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS				
Benzene	N	<0.5	ppb	0	5	Discharge from factories; leaching from gas storage tanks and landfills
Carbon Tetrachloride	N	<0.5	ppb	0	5	Discharge from chemical plants and other industrial activities
Chlorobenzene	N	<0.5	ppb	100	100	Discharge from chemical and agricultural chemical factories
o-Dichlorobenzene	N	<0.5	ppb	600	600	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
p-Dichlorobenzene	N	<0.5	ppb	75	75	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
1,2 - Dichloroethane	N	<0.5	ppb	0	5	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
1,1 - Dichloroethylene	N	<0.5	ppb	7	7	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
cis-1,2 - Dichloroethylene	N	<0.5	ppb	70	70	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
trans - 1,2 - Dichloroethylene	N	<0.5	ppb	100	100	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Dichloromethane	N	<0.5	ppb	0	5	Discharge from pharmaceutical and chemical factories
1,2 - Dichloropropane	N	<0.5	ppb	0	5	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Ethylbenzene	N	<0.5	ppb	700	700	Discharge from petroleum refineries
Styrene	N	<0.5	ppb	100	100	Discharge from rubber and plastic factories; leaching from landfills
Tetrachloro-ethylene	N	<0.5	ppb	0	5	Leaching from PVC pipes; discharge from factories and dry cleaners
1,2,4 - Trichlorobenzene	N	<0.5	ppb	70	70	Discharge from textile-finishing factories
1,1,1, - Trichloroethane	N	<0.5	ppb	200	200	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
1,1,2 - Trichloroethane	N	<0.5	ppb	3	5	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measure	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source(s) of Contamination
Trichloroethylene	N	<0.5	ppb	0	5	Discharge from metal degreasing and other factories
Toluene	N	<0.005	ppm	1	1	Discharge from petroleum factories
Vinyl Chloride	N	<0.5	ppb	0	2	Leaching from PVC Piping; discharge from plastics factories
Xylenes	N	<0.0005	ppm	10	10	Discharge from petroleum factories discharge from chemical factories

Lead and Copper Rule Testing

The 1994 Federal Lead & Copper Rule mandates a household testing program for these substances. According to the rule, 90% of the samples from the homes tested must have levels less than 0.015 milligrams per liter of lead and 1.3 milligrams per liter of copper. In 1998, the 90th percentile for lead in homes tested in Pacific City was 0.0078 mg per liter and 0.781 mg per liter for copper. Of the 10 homes tested, one exceeded the allowable lead level and one exceeded the allowable copper level. No additional water treatment is required by PCJWSA at this time. Corrosion control treatment could be required in the future if the Action Levels for lead and copper are exceeded by more homes during the annual testing pe-

Lead. Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficiencies in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

Copper. Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short period of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised people 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 for 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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

AND IN CLOSING……

Whew! Now that we have all the technical and legal stuff out of the way, let's talk about something else!

Q. *Why do I sometimes get discolored water after having been away from my home for an extended period of time?*

A. *Numerous homes in Pacific City have water service lines that are made of galvanized pipe and/or the water main may be galvanized pipe. In addition, some of these homes may have long water service lines. Over time, galvanized pipe begins to rust inside and out leaving a rusty colored water in the line. If your water has not been used for an extended period of time, that rusty water accumulates in the pipe so when you turn on the tap, the discolored water appears. We suggest that you flush your lines thoroughly upon returning to your home after an extended absence. The water will usually clear-up quickly.*

Q. *Why do I see PCJWSA staff members running all that water out of fire hydrants and those yellow stand-pipes?*

A. *First of all, we call those "yellow stand-pipes", "blow-offs". The blow-offs are generally located where we have a dead-end water main and are <u>not</u> typically used for fire suppression purposes. We use the blow-offs and fire hydrants to flush water out of the mains. This is done for several reasons: it helps to keep the water fresher especially on dead-end lines, it helps to control problems with water discoloration, removes sediment from the lines, allows us to flow test our fire hydrants and gives us an opportunity to exercise valves and fire hydrants and generate needed repair orders. We will generally flush the entire water distribution system twice per year. In problem areas, we may flush lines 4-6 times per year. In conjunction with our flushing program we also exercise all of the water distribution valves, not just the main line valves.*

Q. *What became of the street light funding issue?*

A. *Well, its not really a water question, but that's okay. As you may know, PCJWSA pays the electricity bill for the street lights. Our funding is running out and we asked our customers what method they would prefer to use for paying for the lights: taxes or a surcharge on their monthly water bill? Overwhelmingly, our customers said " a surcharge on the monthly bill". The Board of Directors will make a final decision on the issue and if they decide to apply the surcharge, you'll see that on your monthly bill later this fiscal year (early Spring 2000).*

Thanks for taking the time to read about <u>your</u> water system. The next time you open the kitchen tap for a tall glass of water, ask yourself if you take for granted the availability of safe, dependable, quality drinking water. Most people never give the idea a second thought. For your benefit, the staff members at PCJWSA can't afford not to think about it!

If you know of someone who didn't receive a copy of this newsletter and would like

1. *Do you know how gallons are contained in a cubic foot of water?*
2. *Do you know if your water meter reads in gallons or in cubic feet?*
3. *Do you know how many water reservoirs PCJWSA has?*
4. *Do you know the total water storage capacity of the PCJWSA reservoir(s)?*
5. *Do you know what the different colors on our fire hydrants indicate?*
6. *Do you know how many people PCJWSA employs?*
7. *Do you know how many fire hydrants PCJWSA has?*
8. *Do you know how many water mainline valves PCJWSA has?*
9. *Do you know if we allow people other than PCJWSA staff members to operate water meter shut-off valves?*
10. *Do you know if you have your own personal water shut-off valve on your side of the water meter?*

1. 7.48. 2. Cubic feet. 3. Three. 4. 430,000 gallons
5. Flow rating in gallons per minute. Red =
<500GPM. orange = 500-999 GPM and
Green = 1,000 – 1,499 GPM.

"Serving the public by protecting the environment"

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