



PCJWSA ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

March 2004

Volume 5, Issue 1

CALENDAR YEAR 2003 REPORT

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The PCJWSA 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.

PCJWSA Directors:

Doug Olson - Chair

Dick Carter - Vice Chair

George Baumgardner - Secretary

Doug Kellow - Director

Jack Brooks - Director

As you will see in the following pages, your drinking water is safe and meets Federal and State requirements. We have attempted to make this report as straightforward, easy to read and understandable as possible while still complying with Federal requirements for this report. The water quality test results in the following table reflects the latest data available from testing performed in 2003. At this time, regulations require PCJWSA to monitor for most substances once every 4 years. PCJWSA will be conducting a new round of testing in the Spring of 2006.

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. In October of 2003 we tested our water for the

presence of radioactive constituents as required by Federal Regulations. There was only a slight detectable amount of radioactivity in the drinking water.

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.

The two sites have 3 wells each, for a total of 6 wells. Each well produces water at the rate of about 100 gallons per minute. Well water is also referred to as groundwater. PCJWSA is currently in the process of researching additional water sources; both surface and groundwa-

ter.

During a power outage, PCJWSA has an emergency generator that can be connected to either of these two sites to ensure that water continues to flow to your tap and to the reservoirs.

If you have additional questions regarding this report, please contact PCJWSA at 503-965-6636. If you know of someone who did not receive a copy of this report and would like to, please let them know that they may pick one up at our office. We will also have additional copies available at the Post Office, Library and Kiawanda Community Center.

If you have questions about this report that we cannot adequately address, we will refer you to the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.



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 is the measurement of 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 margin of safety.

PCJWSA tests for many different constituents in your drinking water. Almost 80 in all. We've shown only 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 2003, PCJWSA tested water from 10 homes for lead and copper levels in the drinking water. None of the homes that were tested exceeded the copper Action Level of 1.3 PPM. One home tested exceeded the Action Level for lead, which is set at 15.0 PPB. PCJWSA is in compliance with the lead and copper rule for the calendar year 2003.

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead/copper in drinking water than the general public. It is possible that lead/copper 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 or copper 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/copper exposure. All potential sources of lead/copper in the household should be identified and removed, replaced or reduced.

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 requirements. Your drinking water is SAFE at the reported levels. ◆◆◆



PACIFIC CITY JOINT WATER-SANITARY AUTHORITY

WATER QUALITY TEST RESULTS

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measure	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source(s) of Contamination	
Inorganic Contaminants							
Arsenic	N	3.3	ppb	n/a	50	Erosion of natural deposits: runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes	
Oct. 2003							
Nitrate	N	0.6	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits	
Dec. 2003							
Combined Uranium Oct. '03	N	0.1	pCi/L	0	30	Erosion of natural deposits	
LEAD AND COPPER TESTING							
2003							
Substance	Units	Goal	Action Level(AL)	90th Percentile	Exceeds Action Level	Complies	Source of Contaminant
Copper	ppm	1.3	1.3	0.891	0	Y	Corrosion of household plumbing
Lead	ppb	0	15	9.2	0	Y	Corrosion of household plumbing

The 90th percentile is the highest result found in 90% of the samples when they are listed in order from the lowest to the highest. EPA requires testing for lead and copper at customers' taps most likely to contain these substances based on when the house was built. The EPA determined that if the sample results exceeded the Action Level (AL), cities must take action in reducing the risk of leaching of lead and copper. As you can see by the table above, no homes exceeded the 90th percentile during testing performed in 2003. Our next testing is scheduled for summer of 2004.

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.

Sodium— EPA does not have a MCL for sodium in drinking water, but EPA does issue a recommended level of 20 PPM. The analysis for sodium at the Dune Wells showed levels at 24.7 PPM and at the Spit Wells, 31.5 PPM. People on low sodium diets may need to make adjustments to their diet in order to compensate for the sodium levels in their drinking water.

Sulfate—The MCL for sulfate is 250 PPM. Sulfate at the Dune Wells was 2.1 PPM. Spit Wells—1.9 PPM.

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.

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AUTHORITY ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT***

