HMC MANAGEMENT

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

June 2008

As part of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act of 1996, drinking water providers are required to furnish a Consumer Confidence Report to their customers on an annual basis beginning 1999. The purpose of this report is to tell you about your water, where your water comes from and how it compares to stringent standards set by regulatory agencies.

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 indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can is obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons 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 from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lesson the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Contaminants that may be present in source water before it is treated include:
*Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agriculture livestock operations and wildlife.
*Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occuring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
*Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture and residential uses.
*Radioactive contaminants, which are naturally occurring.
*Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and in some cases, radioactive material and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Your water comes from a single well field on Herron Island that contains two wells. After the water comes from the wells it is distributed to your home, normally without treatment.

Listed below are the results from the 2007 laboratory tests (other than coliform):

Inorganic Contaminants	MCL/ACL	SRL	HMC Water	
Nitrate	10	0.5	1.7	March, 2007
Arsenic	0.0	0.0	Less than 0.002	October, 2007

Volatile Organic Chemicals	
We tested for 62 VOC's; none were detected	June, 2007

*Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.
*Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): the level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
*Action Level (AL): the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
*State Reporting Level (SRL): the minimum reporting level for Department of Health.
*N/A: not applicable *ND: not detectable at testing limit *ppb: parts per billion or micrograms per liter *ppm: parts per million or milligrams per liter *pCi/l: picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation).

As a result of Herron Island's consistently high water quality the Washington Department of Health has granted waivers for much of the sampling and testing except for coliform bacteria and a few chemicals such as nitrate and arsenic. Though not a serious threat to health, coliform bacteria is an indicator of vulnerability to more serious bacterial contamination. In January, 2007 the monthly routine coliform test revealed the presence of coliform bacteria. On investigation, no source for this was found, and immediate follow up sampling was satisfactory. It is possible that the sample was contaminated during handling. Subsequently, HMC contracted with a new laboratory for all water testing. All coliform tests since then have been satisfactory.

In early October, 2005 a new 99,000-gallon reservoir was placed in service. The new reservoir was designed to not only alleviate any contamination problems related to the old reservoir, but to also meet current Washington Department of Health and Pierce County Fire Marshal capacity requirements. Inside the new reservoir is a state-of-the art water circulation system that ensures optimal "first in, first out" water movement. That is, water that has been in the tank longest is the first to be drawn out, minimizing the potential for the tank retaining "stale" water that could lead to possible bacterial problems.

The two underground pumps that fill the new reservoir are controlled by state-of-the art devices that sense water pressure in the tank. These controls are easily adjusted if necessary and eliminate the need for electrical connections to the reservoir as well as eliminating water level-sensing floats inside. In conjunction with the reservoir construction new large-diameter pipes and valves were installed nearby. These are the beginning point of a future replacement of the island water distribution system. Planning for the new distribution system is underway.

State Water Use Efficiency and Water Conservation Mandate

Growing communities place an increasing demand on Washington's water resources. To help meet these growing needs and to conserve water for the benefit of the environment and for future generations, the Washington State Legislature passed the Municipal Water Law in 2003. This law gives municipal water suppliers certain benefits and obligations. One of these obligations is to comply with the new Water Use Efficiency Rule which became effective in January, 2007.

The Water Use Efficiency Rule affects all municipal water suppliers, which includes all community water suppliers with 15 or more residential connections (known as Group A water systems).

The Rule requires water systems to use water efficiently and demonstrate that they are doing so. Specifically, water systems must:

- Develop a plan through a public process, establish efficiency goals and enact measures to manage water use.
- Reduce distribution system leakage to 10 percent or less.
- Install service meters within 10 years, if not already installed, to accurately account for water usage and leakage.
- Report annually on their progress in using water efficiently, beginning in 2009 for systems with under 1000 connections.

For additional information, please contact the Island Manager, Doug Allen, at (253) 884-9350.