

HMC MANAGEMENT
CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

June 2009

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 be 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 lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking 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-occurring 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 2007/2008 laboratory tests (other than coliform):

<u>Inorganic Contaminants</u>	<u>MCL/AL</u>	<u>SRL</u>	<u>HMC Water</u>	
Arsenic	0.0	0.0	Less than 0.002	October, 2007
Nitrate	10	0.5	1.8	April, 2008
Lead	0.015	0.002	Less than 0.002	August, 2008
Copper	1.3	0.02	See 5 tests, below	August, 2008
Copper values at five locations: 0.52, 0.22, 0.67, 0.23, 0.11				

Volatile Organic Chemicals

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. All monthly coliform tests in 2008 were 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 continues. This is a major capital project for which adequate funding must be developed.

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