

## 2003

# Annual Consumer Confidence Report on the Quality of Puget Sound Naval Shipyard Drinking Water System

*This is an annual report on the quality of water delivered by Puget Sound Naval Shipyard (PSNS) Drinking Water System. Under the “Consumer Confidence Reporting Rule” of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), community water systems are required to report this water quality information to their customers. Presented in this report is information on the source of our water, its constituents, and the health risks associated with any contaminants. Our water is safe to drink. Please read on for a full explanation of the quality of our water.*

### **Background Information**

In general, 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. It can also pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- A. Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, or wildlife;
- B. 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;
- C. Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses;
- D. 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;
- E. Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Department of Agriculture’s regulations establishes limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. 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 the water poses a health risk. 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. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA’s Safe Drinking water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

### **Required Source Water Information:**

The PSNS system purchases drinking water from the City of Bremerton. Bremerton’s water sources are surface water from the Union River Reservoir and groundwater from 12 production wells located in the Bremerton area. The City owns and protects the 3,000 acre watershed surrounding the Union River supply. Access to the watershed is limited and only water supply and forestry management activities take

place there. Groundwater wells are also safeguarded through wellhead protection efforts. All water facilities are monitored and patrolled. Access to the water system within the PSNS boundaries is secured, and limited to water supply activities. The facilities are monitored and patrolled. **Any suspicious activities should be noted and called in to the trouble desk at 360) 476-3393 or 360) 476-2341.**

Bremerton’s water system is operated and maintained by experienced personnel certified by the State. In 1992, the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) determined Bremerton’s Union River water source was of such good quality the City was not required to install filtration as long as all water quality, operational, and watershed protection requirements are met. Treatment of Bremerton’s water currently consists of:

- ◆ Chlorine for disinfection to control microbes that might be present in the water.
- ◆ Sodium hydroxide to reduce corrosion of lead and copper from customer plumbing.

### Sampling Schedule

Analyte/Contaminant Group	Monitoring Frequency
Biological contaminants (total coliform group)*	10 samples every month
Asbestos	1 sample every 9 years
Lead and copper	40 sample twice a year
Nitrates	1 sample every year

\*Contaminants in this group include total coliform, fecal coliform, and heterotrophic bacteria

### Definitions of Key Terms

To gain a better understanding of the content of this report, several key terms must be defined. These are as follows:

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) – 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.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) – 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. Under the Safe Drinking water Act, the EPA establishes these MCLs for compliance purposes.

Action Level (AL) – The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment techniques or other requirements, which must be followed.

Treatment Technique (TT) – A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

The water system is analyzed for contaminants such as lead and copper, which are governed by action levels (ALs), and not MCLs. Additionally, the water system is analyzed for contaminants that are subject to treatment techniques.

### Additional Acronyms/Terms Used in This Report

Below is a listing of acronyms and terms (with explanations) used in this Consumer Confidence Report:

CCR	Consumer Confidence Report
SDWA	Safe Drinking Water Act: Federal law setting drinking water requirements

ppm	Parts per million; a unit of measure equivalent to a single penny in \$10,000
ppb	Parts per billion; a unit of measure equivalent to a single penny in \$10,000,000
ppt	Parts per trillion; a unit of measure equivalent to a single penny in \$10,000,000,000
mg/kg	Milligrams per kilogram; a unit of measure equivalent to a part per million (ppm)
mg/L	Milligrams per liter; a unit of measure equivalent to a part per million (ppm)
µg/L	Micrograms per liter; a unit of measure equivalent to a part per billion (ppb)
mrem/yr	Millirem per year; a measure of radioactivity in water
pCi/L	Picocuries per liter; a measure of radioactivity in water
MFL	A million fibers per liter; a measure of asbestos in water.
NTU	Nephelometric turbidity unit; a measure of turbidity in water
TTHMs	Total trihalomethanes; by-products of drinking water disinfection
Level Found	Laboratory analytical result for a contaminant; this value is evaluated against an MCL or AL to determine compliance
Range	The range of the highest and lowest analytical values of a reported contaminant. For example, the range of reported analytical detections for an unregulated contaminant may be 10.1 ppm (lowest value) to 13.4 ppm (highest value). EPA requires this range to be reported for certain analytes.
N/A	Not applicable

### Source Water Quality Data:

The City of Bremerton tests for over 50 inorganic and organic compounds in the source water. The compounds in the table below were detected in Bremerton's source water during 2003 and meet the protective standards set by federal and state agencies. *Not listed are the compounds that were tested for but were NOT detected.*

The PSNS System sampled for lead/copper in September 2003 at 40 tap water sample sites. The results indicated the system was well within the State DOH requirements. Sample results are available to the consumer upon request. A second round of samples will be drawn in February 2004 to fulfill State requirements. The number of samples and frequency of testing will be reduced if the February round is also in compliance with the State rule.

### More Information

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/Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). **Please note:** The City of Bremerton has tested for *Cryptosporidium* since 1994 and has never detected this organism in the source water.

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable than the general population to lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in either your home or workplace's water, you may wish to flush your tap first thing in the morning for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using your water. Flushing the tap reduces the level of lead detected in the water because you will not be ingesting the water that has been sitting in contact with soldering in your home's connections. Additional information on lead in drinking water is available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

<b>Contaminates Detected in the City of Bremerton's Water</b>					
<b>Substance/ Year sampled</b>	<b>EPA's MCL/AL</b>	<b>Highest Level Detected</b>	<b>EPA's Goal</b>	<b>Possible Source of Contaminate</b>	<b>Meets Standards</b>
Turbidity	Treatment Technique	2.07 NTU's	N/A	Soil Runoff	Yes
<b>At the Customer's Tap (PSNS)</b>					
Lead*	0.015 mg/L	0.038 mg/L 2**	0	Corrosion of Household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits	90%= 0.008 mg/L*** Yes
Copper	1.3 mg/L	No sample exceeded AL	1.3 mg/L	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives	Yes

**DEFINITIONS**

\* 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 deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

\*\* This value represents the total number of sampling sites that exceed the action level

\*\*\*This value represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value of the 8/2003 round of sampling

**Who can you call concerning our water systems?**

For answers to questions concerning this CCR, please call Ms. Lisa Rama, Naval Station Bremerton Public Affairs Officer, at (360) 476-0444. If you live in Bremerton, you can obtain additional residential water quality information by calling 478-5920. To be actively involved in issues concerning the City's water system, the Bremerton City Council meets every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall, 239 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Bremerton.