

This is your 2008 Water Quality Report, also referred to as a Consumer Confidence Report. The purpose of this report is to keep you informed about the water you drink. The Federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires water utilities to provide detailed water quality information to each customer annually. This information is provided so that you, the consumer, are better informed about the quality of the water you drink.

## **So, what's the bottom line?**

**Longview's water meets or exceeds state and federal standards.** Your water is tested regularly at laboratories certified by the State of Washington to perform these tests. State and federal regulators routinely monitor our compliance and testing protocols to assure safe delivery of drinking water to you. If you have questions or comments about the information in this report, please call the Longview Regional Water Treatment Plant at 360.442.5680, or the Utilities Operations Center at 360.442.5700. We welcome your interest in Longview's water system.

## **The Source of Longview's Water**

The Longview Regional Water Treatment Plant takes water from the Cowlitz River about five miles north of its confluence with the Columbia River. The water is pumped across the Westside Highway to the plant from a pump station on the west bank of the Cowlitz. The average rate of pumping is about 8,000 gallons per minute (gpm), and sometimes as high as 12,000 gpm.

The Cowlitz River watershed is fed by glacial melt from Mt. Rainier and tributaries such as the Toutle River. Because of silt remaining from the 1980 eruption of Mt. St. Helens, the Cowlitz River becomes very turbid, or full of stirred up particles and sediment, during high runoff periods.



*Cowlitz River near Longview Regional Water Treatment Plant intake*

## **Additional Information about Water Quality**

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 materials. It can also pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in water sources are microbes, pesticides, herbicides, organic or inorganic chemicals, and radioactive materials.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets the amount of certain contaminants that can be present in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) sets the limits for contaminants in bottled water. Drinking water, including bottled water, may contain small amounts of some contaminants. Per the EPA and FDA, the presence of small amounts of contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk. If you would like more information about these contaminants, please contact the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800.426.4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general public. Some persons with weaker immune systems, 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 caused by some contaminants. These individuals should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. Guidelines from the EPA and Centers for Disease Control on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by certain contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline.

# Water Quality Monitoring Results

Longview's water is monitored for over 170 contaminants, including pesticides, at the water treatment facility. In addition, Public Works Department personnel collect samples from throughout the distribution system to test for coliform, chlorine levels, lead, and copper. The SDWA requires water systems to report annually on any contaminants *detected* in drinking water. In accordance with Washington State Office of Drinking Water recommendations, contaminants monitored but not detected are not identified in this report. All primary contaminants detected, regardless of level, are identified in this table. Unless otherwise noted, contaminants are measured in *parts per million* (ppm) or *parts per billion* (ppb). To add perspective, one ppm is roughly one inch in sixteen miles.

Contaminant	Date Tested	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Detected Level	Major Source(s)	Violation
Iron	8/08	ppb	30	N/A	28	Erosion of natural deposits	No
Manganese	8/08	ppb	50	N/A	15	Erosion of natural deposits	No
Turbidity	Continuous monitoring			1 NTU	.2 NTU	Erosion	No
Lead	8/07	ppb	2	15*	1.44	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.	No
Copper	8/07	ppm	200	1300*	19.2	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits.	No

\*Samples for lead and copper are subject to *action levels*. An *action level* is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Contaminant	Date Tested	Unit	MRDL	MRDLG	Detected Level	Major Source(s)	Violation
Haloacetic Acid	12/08	ppb	60	60	29	By-product of chlorination used for drinking water disinfection	No
Total Organic Carbon	4/08	ppb	TT	TT	660	By-product of chlorination used for drinking water disinfection	No
Total Trihalomethanes	12/08	ppb	80	N/A	64.6	By-product of chlorination used for drinking water disinfection	No

## Important Definitions

**MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level.** The highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal.** 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.

**TT = Treatment Technique.** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**MRDL = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level.** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**MRDLG = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal.** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

**NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units.** A unit of measurement for light refraction.

**Turbidity =** A unit of measure for water clarity and many indicate the presence of contaminants.

**Note:** In 2007, the City of Longview received a waiver from the Washington State Office of Drinking Water that releases the City from new requirements to monitor for cryptosporidium. This additional monitoring is required for all surface water systems to determine the need for additional treatment. However, because the City is changing from a surface water source to a ground water source, monitoring for cryptosporidium has been waived.