



2005 Water Quality Report

This report describes the quality and sources of Longview’s drinking water, and programs that protect our water quality. This publication complies with a new federal law requiring water utilities to provide water quality information to customers every year, and is being provided in addition to other notices required by law. The city encourages public participation in the decisions which affect your drinking water. If you are interested in attending any meetings regarding this matter, please call 360.442.5220 and we will put you on our contact list.

While most of the content is required by regulation, we also include information that responds to typical questions our customers ask about the water treatment system. We support the public’s right to know the results of our water quality monitoring. We also recognize that a report full of technical information may not be inviting reading to most people.

So what is the bottom line?

Longview’s water meets or exceeds state and federal standards. Water is tested regularly through a certified laboratory. State and federal regulators routinely monitor our compliance and testing protocols to assure safe delivery of drinking water to our customers. If you have further questions or comments about the information in this report, please call the Longview Regional Water Treatment Plant at 360.442.5680. We welcome your interest in Longview’s water system!

Important Water Facts

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 River. The average rate of pumping is about 8,000 gallons per minute (gpm), 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 left over from the 1980 eruption of Mt. St. Helens, the Cowlitz River is apt to become very turbid during high runoff periods. This is due to the fact that the Toutle River runs directly off of Mt. St. Helens.

Longview water: a great value!

Your water rates pay for delivering high quality water to your door and keeping the water system in top condition. Currently, the City is making a number of improvements to its water treatment facility to ensure the reliability and quality of its water and its service. The money received from water customers funds planning and conservation programs, water supply and treatment, system operation and maintenance, and building and maintenance of the water facilities. Every dollar paid for water is invested in your water system.

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 on 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.

If you have any additional questions, check out our website at www.mylongview.com, or call 360.442.5680.

Water Quality Monitoring Results

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requires that water systems report annually on contaminants that have been detected in their water supplies. Longview Water monitors over 170 contaminants, including pesticides, at the water treatment facility. In addition, the City also collects samples from customer taps to monitor for chlorine, coliform, lead and copper. We collect samples at our reservoirs, distribution system, and at customers' taps. When contaminants have been detected, they have been below the levels that EPA considers of concern. Longview's water meets or surpasses federal and state drinking water standards.

Important Definitions (Used for the table below)

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)

The highest level of a contaminant which is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set by the EPA and Department of Health.

Action Level (AL)

The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system follows.

Part per million (ppm)

These units describe the levels of detected contaminants. One part per million is about 1/2 of a dissolved aspirin tablet (162.5 mg) in a full bathtub of water (about 50 gallons).

State Required Level (SRL)

The level at which the state regulates the test results of each contaminant, which is usually at a higher standard than the EPA.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)

A unit of measurement for light refraction.

Turbidity

A unit of measure for water clarity and may indicate the presence of contaminants.

Contaminants	Date Tested	Unit	SRL	MCL	Detected Level	Major Sources	Violations
Antimony	7/12/05	ppm	0.005	0.006	<0.001	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants, ceramics; electronics; solder	No
Arsenic	7/12/05	ppm	0.002	0.01	<0.002	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes	No
Barium	7/12/05	ppm	0.1	2	<.005	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits	No
Beryllium	7/12/05	ppm	0.003	0.004	<0.001	Discharge from metal refineries and coal-burning factories; discharge from electrical, aerospace, and defense industries	No
Cadmium	7/12/05	ppm	0.002	0.005	<0.001	Corrosion from galvanized pipes; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from metal refineries; runoff from waste batteries	No
Chloride	7/12/05	ppm	20	250	9		No
Chromium	7/12/05	ppm	0.01	0.1	<0.001	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits	No
Cyanide	7/12/05	ppm	0.05	0.2	<0.01	Discharge from metal refineries; plastics; discharge from fertilizer factories	No
Fluoride	7/12/05	ppm	0.2	4	1.0	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories	No
Iron	7/12/05	ppm	0.1	0.3	<0.02		No
Manganese	7/12/05	ppm	0.01	0.05	<0.005		No
Mercury (Inorganic)	7/12/05	ppm	0.0005	0.002	<0.0005	Discharge from metal factories and refineries; landfills	No
Nickel	7/12/05	ppm	0.04	0.1	0.001		No
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	7/12/05	ppm	0.5	10	<0.1	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits	No
Nitrite (as Nitrogen)	7/12/05	ppm	0.5	1	<0.1	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits	No
Selenium	7/12/05	ppm	0.005	0.05	<0.005	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines	No
Silver	7/12/05	ppm	0.01	0.1	<0.001		No
Sulfate	7/12/05		10	250	18.7		No
Thallium	7/12/05	ppm	0.002	0.002	<0.001	Leaching from ore-processing sites; discharge from electronics, glass and drug factories	No
Zinc	7/12/05	ppm	.2	5	<0.01		No
Turbidity	Continuous Monitoring			1	0.2		No