

Water Quality Report 2015

Deer Creek Water Association - P.O. Box 30230, Bellingham, WA 98228

This report contains information about your drinking water. It is required by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Safe Water Drinking Act.

The bottom line:

Our water supply is safe to drink. Our water quality meets or exceeds state and federal standards.

Your Water Association

Greetings Deer Creek Water Community!

Have you ever thought about becoming a Board member? Or perhaps you are curious about the roles and responsibilities of your elected Board? If so, we would like to hear from you! Please contact one of your Board members or the Secretary/Treasurer to learn more about serving on Deer Creek's Board of Directors. Our telephone number is 360.820.4314.

Using Water Responsibly

As you consume water during this hot and dry weather, please keep in mind that you can reduce the cost of your water bill by reducing your water consumption. Also, watering plants or the lawn should be done in the morning to prevent the water from evaporating. Next, turn off hose bibs when you have finished filling troughs for animals or when you have finished washing the car. Last, consider using a timer or measure the amount of water going on your lawn. Over-watering or runoff from watering is the largest waste of water for domestic purposes. Thank you for your efforts and for your reduced consumption!

Your Drinking Water Source

Deer Creek Water Association's wells are located over the Deer Creek Aquifer, which is east of Guide Meridian and south of East Smith Road. The wells are about 150 feet deep, on land owned by Deer Creek, and operational since 1973 and 1983. This Aquifer is about 18 square miles in size and lies at depths of 10 feet to over 150 feet below the surface of the land.

Some Deer Creek residents receive water purchased from the City of Bellingham, whose water source is Lake Whatcom (**these residents receive Bellingham's Water Quality Report along with an attachment from Deer Creek**). Drinking water can come from surface water, such as lakes, reservoirs, rivers or streams, or it may come from a ground water aquifer (**an aquifer is water that lies underground in a saturated material such as gravel, sand, or clay, from which water can be drawn through a well**).

Water from our wells is pumped into a treatment plant where it is metered, treated with chlorine, and enters a manganese removal system. A small amount of chlorine is maintained in the water distribution system as a disinfectant and preventative measure against viruses and bacteria. The water is then pumped into our storage tanks which are almost a mile from the wells.



Officers and Directors

Dave Black	<i>President</i>
Vaughn Hagen	<i>Vice President</i>
Frank Hunt	<i>Director</i>
Leroy Rohde	<i>Director</i>
Liz Hale	<i>Director</i>
Douglas Wittinger	<i>Secretary/ Treasurer</i>

Staff

<i>Business Manager</i>
Douglas Wittinger 360.820.4314 dcwa@deercreekwater.org
<i>Operations Manager</i>
Gene Kirner 360.966.2526 360.961.5512 (mobile)

Questions about this report or concerning Deer Creek can be made to the Business Manager.

Year 2014 Water Quality Data

Tables below show health related drinking water contaminants we detected *during 2014* and during previous years. The State Department of Health (DOH) requires monitoring for certain contaminants less than yearly because concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. We are not required to list potential contaminants for which there were no detections. A water treatment plant was installed in early 2009 to reduce manganese in the water (manganese was not detected in our water at the last sample in 2012).

Contaminants Regulated in the Distribution System

Detected Substance	Test Date	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	DCWA Highest Detected Level	MCLG (EPA Goal)	Unit Measure	Violation?	Typical Sources of Contaminant
Arsenic	Jun 2012	0.010	0.0031	0.010	ppm	No	Erosion of natural deposits, orchards, glass & electronics production wastes.
Asbestos (fiber > 10 micrometers)	May 2010	7 million fibers/ liter	< 131 thousand fibers/ liter	7 million fibers/ liter	Million per liter	No	Decay of asbestos cement in water mains; erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (2 samples monthly)	Monthly 2013	MRDL=4.0	0.34 (Range .18 to .34)	MRDLG is 4.0	ppm	No	Disinfectant added to water. Used to control microbes.
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	Jun 2014	10	0.8	10	ppm	No	Runoff from fertilizer use
TTHM (see Terms below)	Aug 2014	80	9.2 and 11.5	none	ppm	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 (see Terms below)	Aug 2014	60	1.2 and 3.9	none	ppm	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Contaminants Regulated at Customer Tap

Detected Substance	Test Date	Action Level *	DCWA Highest Detected Level	DCWA 90th Percentile	Unit Measure	Violation ?	Typical Source of Contaminant
Copper (See Note # 1)	07/12	1300	550	290	ppb	No	Corrosion of plumbing
Lead (See Note # 1)	07/12	15	6	3.0	ppb	No	Corrosion of plumbing

Note #1: Ten sites were sampled. * Action Level—90% of samples must be below this level. (**Next testing due in Sept 2015**)

Information about arsenic : Your drinking water currently meets EPA's revised drinking water standard for arsenic. However it does contain low levels of arsenic. There is a small chance that some people who drink water containing low levels of arsenic for many years could develop circulatory disease, cancer or other health problems. Most types of cancer and circulatory diseases are due to factors other than exposure to arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water.

Information about Asbestos: The potential health effect from long-term exposure above the MCL of 7 million fibers per liter is increased risk of developing benign intestinal polyps.

The word "contaminant" as used in this report does not necessarily mean that the substance is harmful to your health in the quantities detected.

Terms and Abbreviations

AL - Action Level - The concentration level of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

HAA5 - HaloAcetic Acids - Are a group of chemicals that are formed when chlorine or other disinfectants used to control microbial contaminants in drinking water react with naturally occurring organic and inorganic matter in water. (2 samples taken in 2014).

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

MCLG - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - The level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

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.

ppb - parts per billion - corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years or a penny in \$10,000,000.

TTHM - Total Trihalomethanes - This is the sum of chloroform, bromodichloromethane, chlorodibromomethane and bromoform. Compliance is based upon the total. TTHMs are a by-product of chlorine reacting with organic and inorganic matter in drinking water (2 samples taken in 2014).

Secondary Standards - National Secondary Drinking Water Regulations (NSDWRs) are non-enforceable guidelines regulating contaminants that may cause cosmetic effects (such as skin or tooth discoloration) or aesthetic effects (such as taste, odor, or color) in drinking water. EPA recommends secondary standards but does not require systems to comply. Examples of these include Iron, Manganese, Silver, Chloride, Sulfate, and Zinc. None of these contaminants were detected in our water at the last sampling in 2012.