

# Town of Pe Ell

## ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

### MAY 2023

#### YOUR TOWNS WATER SYSTEM

The Town of Pe Ell obtains its water from Lester Creek or from a pump station on the Chehalis River. Water flows from either source to the filtration plant, south of Pe Ell, where it is filtered through a slow sand filter system. It is then disinfected with chlorine, and sent into a 180,000 gallon clear well for the proper detention time. Detention time is the amount of time required for chlorine to disinfect our drinking water. After water has had the allowable detention time, it is then transferred to the 500,000 gallon reservoir, where it gravitationally flows to the towns water system.

#### WATER QUALITY PROTECTION PROGRAMS

The Town of Pe Ell is committed to supplying our customers with high quality and aesthetically pleasing drinking water. The town has adopted the following programs to help ensure that the drinking water supplied to its customers, meets or exceeds all federal and state standards in the years to come.

1. 1997 Water System Comprehensive Plan. This plan analyzes all aspects of the water system, identifying current and future plans by the town to continue providing high quality drinking water to its customers. Included in the plan is a Water Conservation Program recommending ways in which the town and its residents can help preserve our water resources.
2. 1997 Watershed Control Plan. This plan identifies the watersheds of Lester Creek, and the Chehalis River. It identifies potential contamination sources, and provides proactive steps to ensure safety of these resources.

#### GENERAL HEALTH EFFECTS INFORMATION

While traveling over and through the ground, water dissolves naturally occurring minerals and may contain substances resulting from the presence of animals and human activities. Contaminants that may be present include microbes, inorganic and organic materials, chemicals, pesticides, herbicides, and radioactive materials. To ensure tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that are the same as the standards for public drinking water.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, persons with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, and some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infection. These people should seek advice from their health care providers about drinking water. EPA and the CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline, (800) 426-4791.

The Town of Pe Ell's drinking water sources do not contain lead or copper. However, lead or copper can leach into residential water from building plumbing systems. The Town of Pe Ell has incorporated corrosion control in the water treatment facility that has reduced corrosiveness, and has

minimized the issues with lead and copper. Homes or buildings that were re-plumbed with copper pipes and lead based solder are considered as high risk. The use of lead-based solder was stopped in 1985. Worst case conditions are considered to be when water has been stagnant in pipes for over 6 hours. If you do not have copper pipes, you are at a low risk. If, however your home is at high risk, and water has been sitting for 6 hours or more, flush your lines by running water for 10 to 15 seconds BEFORE using it for drinking or cooking. Utilize this flushing for plants or washing.

### **WATER CONSERVATION FOR YOU**

1. Take shorter showers or shallower baths.
2. Consider purchasing a high-pressure low flow shower head.
3. Wash full loads of laundry and dishes.
4. When purchasing a new toilet, consider low flow models.
5. Consider water displacement devices within the toilet tank.
6. Repair all plumbing leaks promptly.
7. Do NOT use the toilet as a wastebasket.
8. Do NOT run the faucet while brushing teeth or shaving.
9. Water lawns in early morning, or consider not watering at all.

### **PUBLIC INPUT**

The Town of Pe Ell welcomes input from its residents on ways to protect and conserve water supplies. We would be happy to supply you with additional information on ways you can help protect and conserve our water supplies. Residents with input of water issues on this report may contact town staff at (360) 291-3543, or attend Town Council meetings held on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of each month.

### **WATER QUALITY MONITORING RESULTS**

For the entirety of 2022, water samples for e-coli, and fecal coliforms were analyzed by a state approved testing facility, were far below federal and state standards. Quarterly samples of chlorine disinfection by-products were also far below federal and state standards, and showed our water is safe to drink, with no issues to health were found.

### **WATER USE EFFICIENCY**

The towns water usage was reduced by Weyerhaeuser restricting the use of the truck wash-down rack. Although water loss was much higher than average due to some large leaks and several smaller leaks, the water usage was reduced last year by using less water for lawns and gardens, the flushing of fire hydrants is being reduced to less flushing times and those water leaks in the system have been repaired as they were found. This year 2023 I'm sure you have noticed the construction going on at the east side of town, there have been new water mains installed, replacing the outdated water main, this will help to improve water efficiency, by removing possible micro-fractures in the old main and creates a looping system to prevent chlorine and silt build up, the new mains came online at the end of March 2023 and all new service lines were completed the 1<sup>st</sup> week of April 2023. There will also be new construction late spring 2023 on Mauerman rd. and Gatch rd. to move and replace water lines that were installed in fields many years ago, this will help water efficiency greatly as it will remove those failing lines as well and to help locate leaks more effectively. If anyone has a good idea on how to conserve water, please feel free to contact a town council member or town staff. It is everyone's responsibility to conserve our natural resources, especially during times of water shortages! See a copy of the WUE at the end of this report.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

1. **Where can I find out more information about my drinking water?**
  - a. Town of Pe Ell, 111 S. Main St., Pe Ell, WA 98572 [www.peellclerk@centurylink.net](mailto:www.peellclerk@centurylink.net)
  - b. Safe Drinking Water Act Hotline: (800) 426-4791 [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater)
  - c. Washington Dept. of Health, 1511 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave, #719, Seattle, WA 99101 (206) 464-7059  
[www.dohwa.gov/ehp/dw](http://www.dohwa.gov/ehp/dw)
2. **How can I get more involved in decisions affecting my drinking water?**
  - a. Contact town staff, or your Water/Sewer Superintendent, Ryan Webster (360) 208-4878 or Water Treatment Operator in Training, Dale Randall 360-208-4344 regarding water quality of the water system operations. Water systems policies are set by the Pe Ell Town Council, which meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of every month
3. **Is bottled water cleaner and safer than tap water?**
  - a. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least a small amount of some contaminants. Since the Federal Food and Drug Administration regulates contaminants in bottled water and is responsible for providing the same levels of public protection as are public water systems, bottled water is not necessarily cleaner or safer. Micro-plastics have been found in most bottled water sources in recent years.
4. **Since drinking water can contain contaminants, is it bad for me?**
  - a. The presence of contamination 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 at: (800) 462-4791. Or online at: [www.epa.gov/safewater.com](http://www.epa.gov/safewater.com)
5. **What are the health effects of copper?**
  - a. Copper is an essential nutrient. But some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with WILSON'S disease should consult their health care provider.
6. **What are the health effects of lead?**
  - a. 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 deficits in attention span, and learning abilities. Adults who drink water containing lead over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.
7. **Why is chlorine added to the water?**
  - a. Pursuant to state and federal laws, very small amounts of chlorine are added to the water as a disinfecting agent to protect you from disease causing pathogens, or microorganisms. If you are bothered by the chlorine taste, keep a pitcher of tap water in the refrigerator. The chlorine will dissipate rapidly if the water is allowed to sit for a short time.
8. **Why are we sending this report?**
  - a. Federal law requires that we prepare and annual water quality report and make it available to our customers.





Date Submitted: 2/17/2023

## Water Use Efficiency Annual Performance Report - 2022

WS Name: PE ELL TOWN OF

Water System ID# : 66750

WS County: LEWIS

Report submitted by: *Ryan Webster*

### Meter Installation Information:

Estimate the percentage of metered connections: 100%

If not 100% metered – Did you submit a meter installation plan to DOH? No

Within your meter installation plan, what date did you commit to completing meter installation?

Current status of meter installation:

### Production, Authorized Consumption, and Distribution System Leakage Information:

12-Month WUE Reporting Period 01/01/2022 To 12/31/2022

Incomplete or missing data for the year? No

If yes, explain:

|  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| <b>Total Water Produced &amp; Purchased (TP)</b> – Annual volume gallons | 50,393,695 gallons           |
| <b>Authorized Consumption (AC)</b> – Annual Volume in gallons            | 22,285,721 gallons           |
| Distribution System Leakage – Annual Volume TP – AC                      | 28,107,974 gallons           |
| Distribution System Leakage – DSL = $[(TP - AC) / TP] \times 100 \%$     | 55.8 %                       |
| 3-year annual average - %  | 22.2 %      2020, 2021, 2022 |

### Goal-Setting Information:

Enter the date of most recent public forum to establish WUE goal: 09/01/2021

Has goal been changed since last performance report? No

*Note: Customer goal must be re-established every 6 years through a public process.*

### Customer WUE Goal (Demand Side):

*within 6 years reduce per capital consumption by 5%*

### Customer (Demand Side) Goal Progress:

Will try to put out mailers with bi-monthly water bills to explain the importance of conservation and show examples of what they can do to be a part of that.

### **Additional Information Regarding Supply and Demand Side WUE Efforts**

*The Town is working diligently to upgrade and repair any existing leaks as they are found.  
The public can help by informing town officials & employees of any potential (out of the norm water found on the surface) leaks in the main, service lines, or hydrants.*

### **Describe Progress in Reaching Goals:**

- Estimate how much water you saved.
- Report progress toward meeting goals within your established timeframe.
- Identify any WUE measures you are currently implementing.
- If you established a goal to maintain a historic level (such as maintaining daily consumption at 65 gallons per person per day for the next two years) you must explain why you are unable to reduce water use below that level.

*The town is currently updating mains on the older side of town which will reduce potential for leaks.*

The following questions will help DOH better understand water usage, water resources management and drought response. The data will be used to provide technical assistance, not for regulatory purposes.

### **All questions are voluntary**

| <b>Month</b> | <b>Date of Measurement</b> | <b>Static Water Level<br/>(feet below measuring point)</b> | <b>Dynamic Water Level<br/>(feet below measuring point)</b> |
|--------------|----------------------------|--|---|
| January      |                            |  |   |
| February     |                            |  |   |
| March        |                            |  |   |
| April        |                            |  |   |
| May          |                            |  |   |
| June         |                            |  |   |
| July         |                            |  |   |
| August       |                            |  |   |
| September    |                            |  |   |
| October      |                            |  |   |
| November     |                            |  |   |
| December     |                            |  |   |

**Water level data:**

Please provide the following information (if known) to help us better utilize the water level data.

Well tag Id number:

Well depth:

Water level accuracy (within 0.01 ft < 1 ft ~ 1 ft)

Completion type (e.g., cased open interval, cased open-ended, cased open-ended with perforations, etc...)

Location coordinates (latitude, longitude) and accuracy of the coordinates (< 1ft, ~1ft, >1000ft)

Water level parameter name (e.g. depth below measuring point, depth below top of casing, depth below ground surface)

Elevation of top of casing OR elevation of measuring point if different than top of casing (as specified in question 7)

**Monthly/Seasonal Water Usage:**

What was your maximum daily water demand for the previous year (in gallons per day)? 220,479

| Month     | Volume of Water Produced in gallons |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| January   | 4,027,854                           |
| February  | 3,327,885                           |
| March     | 3,709,951                           |
| April     | 3,530,517                           |
| May       | 3,793,068                           |
| June      | 3,712,320                           |
| July      | 4,910,433                           |
| August    | 4,910,433                           |
| September | 5,144,849                           |
| October   | 4,571,537                           |
| November  | 4,601,375                           |
| December  | 4,791,651                           |

**Water shortage response:**

Did you activate any level of water shortage response plan the previous year?

- Yes       No       There was no need to

If you activated a water shortage response plan the previous year, what level did you activate? (Check all that apply)

- Advisory Conservation       Voluntary Conservation  
 Mandatory Conservation       Rationing       Other

What factors caused your water shortage the previous year?

- Drought       Fire       Landslides       Earthquakes  
 Flooding       Water Supply Limitations       Other

**Do not mail, fax, or email this report to DOH**