

Town of Pe Ell

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

JUNE 2022

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 the water has had the allowable detention time, it is then transferred to the 500,000-gallon reservoir, where it gravitationally flows to the town's 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 the 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 number 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 does 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 the water has been stagnant in pipes for over 6 hours. If you do not have copper pipes, you are at 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 the 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 the input on water issues on this report may contact town staff at (360) 291-3543, or attend Town Council meetings held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month.

WATER QUALITY MONITORING RESULTS

For the entirety of 2021, water samples for e-coli, and fecal coliforms were analyzed by a state-approved testing facility and 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 town's water usage was reduced by Weyerhaeuser restricting the use of the truck wash-down rack. The water usage was reduced last year by using less water for lawns and gardens. The flushing of fire hydrants is being reduced to fewer flushing times. Several water leaks in the system have been repaired. 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
 - b. Safe Drinking Water Act Hotline: (800) 426-4791 www.epa.gov/safewater
 - c. Washington Dept. of Health, 1511 3rd Ave, #719, Seattle, WA 99101 (206) 464-7059
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, Paul Petersen (360) 324-2018 regarding water quality of the water system operations. Water systems policies are set by the Pe Ell Town Council, which meet on the 1st and 3rd 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
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.