

The Swinomish Tribal Community

The Swinomish Tribal Water System

Water Quality

Our goal is to always supply safe water to our customers. We are pleased to report on our efforts to meet this goal. This report contains detailed information about water quality and water testing completed between January 1, 2002 and December 31, 2002. In summary, the water we supplied met all Federal quality standards. We continue to monitor the water monthly for bacteria and conduct special studies for lead and copper contamination. The Utility Department and the Swinomish Tribal Community remain committed to ensuring the highest quality of drinking water.

The Swinomish Tribal Community buys water from the City of Anacortes. We then pipe the water throughout the Reservation to serve the Village and other Tribal neighborhoods. We also sell water to commercial customers and other neighborhood users. We have two backup emergency wells on Reservation Road. To distribute the water, we maintain storage tanks, pumps, and miles of pipeline.

Want To Know More?

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact **John Petrich, Utility & Housing**



The Skagit River is our source of water.

Director at 466-7223.

We want our customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of the regularly scheduled meetings of the Utility Authority. The meeting announcements are posted at most tribal buildings.

For additional water quality information

- Environmental Protection Agency – Safe Drinking Water Hotline 800-426-4791
- EPA Web site www.epa.gov/safewater
- American Water Works Association Web site www.awwa.org
- City of Anacortes Water Department 428-1598
- Swinomish Tribal Utilities: 466-7223

Our Water System

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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, radio-active material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water before we treat it include:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which

may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic waste water discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.

Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture and residential uses.

Radioactive contaminants, which are naturally occurring.

Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

Our water supply is routinely checked and evaluated for these potential contaminants.

2002 Water Quality Data

The table below shows the results of our water quality analyses. Every regulated contaminant that we detected in the water, even the most minute traces, is listed here. The table contains the name of each contaminant, the highest level allowed by the regulations (MCL), the ideal goals for public health (MCLG), the amount detected, and the usual sources of such contamination.

Lead & Copper	AL	MCLG	Range De- tected	Range of Detections	Number of Sites above AL	Typical Source of Contaminant
Copper (mg/l)	1.3	1.3	0.226 average	0.042-0.378	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (µg/l)	15	0	ND		0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits.

This information below was provided by our supplier, The City of Anacortes: The data from samples collected in 2002

Contaminants	MCL	MCLG	Level Detected	Range of De- tection	Violation	Typical Source of Contamination
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80	0	26.0 average	24-30	none	By product of drinking water chlorination

Table Definitions:

Maximum Contaminant Level: The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The "Goal" (MCLG) is 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.

Parts per Million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l): Equivalent ratios of the contaminant in the water. By comparison 1 ppm would be like 1 penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (µg/l): Equivalent ratios of the contaminant in the water. By comparison 1 ppb would be like 1 penny in \$10,000,000.

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

What does the data mean?

The table shows that while some contaminants were detected, The levels were well below the established standards for drinking water. We are in full compliance with the established regulatory standards for public water supply operation. Our water qual-

ity reports are available for inspection at the Utility Office. We also have the current consumer confidence report from our supplier on file. Please contact our office if you would like to review this information.

Our Monitoring Program

In 2002 we tested our water for lead and copper. Every three years, our supplier also tests over 80 contaminants, including solvents, pesticides, heavy metals, and other inorganic chemicals. Test for radiation are done every four years and nitrates are tested yearly. We collect and test samples every month for bacteria. None of our monthly samples showed contamination with bacteria in 2002. Chemicals added to the water for treatment are tested daily.

A Monitoring Waiver

The Swinomish Tribal Utility Authority received a monitoring waiver from the EPA for testing chemicals in our backup well supply. The EPA issued this waiver because our system has shown to be in past compliance and the wells are only used infrequently during emergen-

cies. The waiver saves valuable financial resources from our budget. The EPA routinely examines the waiver to insure that public health is not compromised. If the situation changes and the EPA determines that our water may be vulnerable to contamination, or

the well source use is increased, we will then resume water quality monitoring for our back-up water supply wells.

Should I be concerned about lead?

Some customers who live in older homes may have plumbing components and fixtures that contain lead. Infants and young children are more at risk from lead contamination.

The Swinomish Utility Authority test for lead and copper in its drinking water every three years. Our test have been in

compliance with Federal standards.

If you are concerned about elevated levels in the water in your home, you can minimize your exposure by:

- ◆ Flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using the water, particularly if

the water has been standing in the pipes for several hours.

- ◆ Using only cold water for cooking, drinking, and making baby formula.

Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791)

According to EPA:

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

Why does the water sometimes taste like chlorine?

Our water treatment process includes adding chlorine to kill bacteria. The drinking water regulations require that we keep a chlorine residual throughout our water distribution system. This insures that disinfection is accomplished throughout the system. Many

factors influence the level of chlorine in the water. These include; system maintenance, line flushing, fire hydrant maintenance, water temperature, and the quantity of water flowing through the pipes. Any of these may cause you to notice the smell or taste of chlorine.

Water leaving our treatment facility has a level of around 0.5 parts per million. We attempt to keep just a trace amount of chlorine residual, at the ends of the distribution system, to provide bacteria contamination protection for all customers

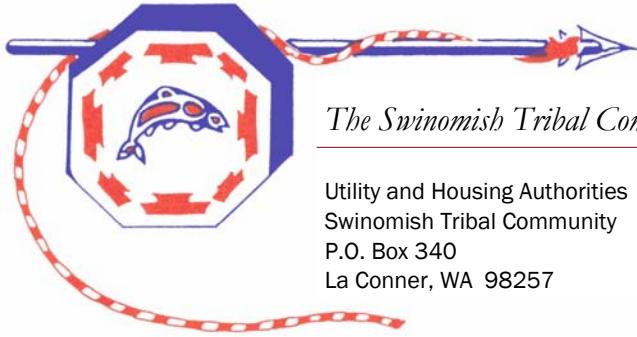
What about fluoride and water?

Fluoride is a naturally occurring chemical often found in water sources. Public health research has found that people who drink water containing optimal levels of fluoride have better dental health than consumers

of fluoride deficient water. We adjust the fluoride concentration in our water to optimal levels. We test the water daily for fluoride concentration and use our equipment to maintain the level at about 1.0 part per

million throughout the distribution system. Our customers receive the benefit of consuming water containing the optimum level of fluoride.

“Our customers receive the benefit of consuming water containing the optimum level of fluoride.”



The Swinomish Tribal Community

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"We are committed to always supply safe water to our customers".

Our Goal Is To Provide Safe Water!

The Swinomish Tribal Community manages the water utility to provide valuable water service to community members and other customers. The Tribal Utility Authority will continue to maintain and monitor the water supply so that our goal, ***"to always supply safe water to our customers"*** is achieved. Please contact us if you have questions or if you would like more detailed information.

Special Health Concerns:

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons 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. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the *Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791)*.