

Environmental Protection Agency
(EPA) Message

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

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. We are responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Why Provide a Water Quality Report?

Last year as in years past, your tap water met almost all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) drinking water parameters (See 2023 Violations). Lummi Tribal Sewer and Water District (LTSWD) and Lummi Natural Resources safeguard your drinking water. This report summarizes 2023 water quality testing results. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

The primary sources of water for the Lummi Nation are wells located in an aquifer under the Lummi Nation. LTSWD occasionally purchases treated water from the City of Bellingham. Bellingham obtains its water from Lake Whatcom. Results from Bellingham’s Consumer Confidence Report are included in this report. Both the City of Bellingham and the LTSWD conduct multiple analyses of water quality from the sources and distribution systems. Every effort is made to protect the quality of drinking water and provide customers with safe and reliable water.

The most common issues the LTSWD faces with our water, are aesthetic (color and taste) issues associated with Iron, commonly found in well water. We do regularly experience color issues when the flow of water in the water mains is disrupted by a water main break or high flow usage out of a hydrant stirs up Iron that has built up and settled out in the pipes. While the reddish-brown color is unappealing, it is safe, and generally can be eliminated by running the water for a short period of time.

Regarding questions about Lead contamination in your water, all of our mandated Lead and Copper testing since the issuance of the Lead and Copper Rule in 1991, indicates that our water system is largely free of these contaminants. The Lummi Nation is very fortunate that most of our water distribution system was installed after the issue of lead in piping and fixtures was well understood. The piping systems associated with Lead in particular, were not utilized in our water system. The overwhelming amount of piping in the Lummi Nation’s system is either PVC pipe or Ductile Iron pipe and the service lines to homes are primarily High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE) or copper lines.

The Lummi Nation is also fortunate regarding Lead and Copper, in that the Nation utilized ground water wells that have moderately high levels of alkalinity (Moderately Hard) water, which provides natural protection against corrosion of pipes. The primary cause of Lead contamination in water, Low Alkalinity (Soft) water generally associated with surface water sources, is more commonly associated with Lead issues. Most large water utilities in Washington rely upon surface water, including the City of Bellingham. However, we are confident that the water supplied to the Lummi Nation from the City is safe because the City has been very proactive in eliminating Lead distribution lines. Their Lead and Copper testing shows a very low incidence of problems.

For more information about your Drinking Water Please Contact:
James Solomon, Water Supervisor
james@ltswd.com or 360-758-7167

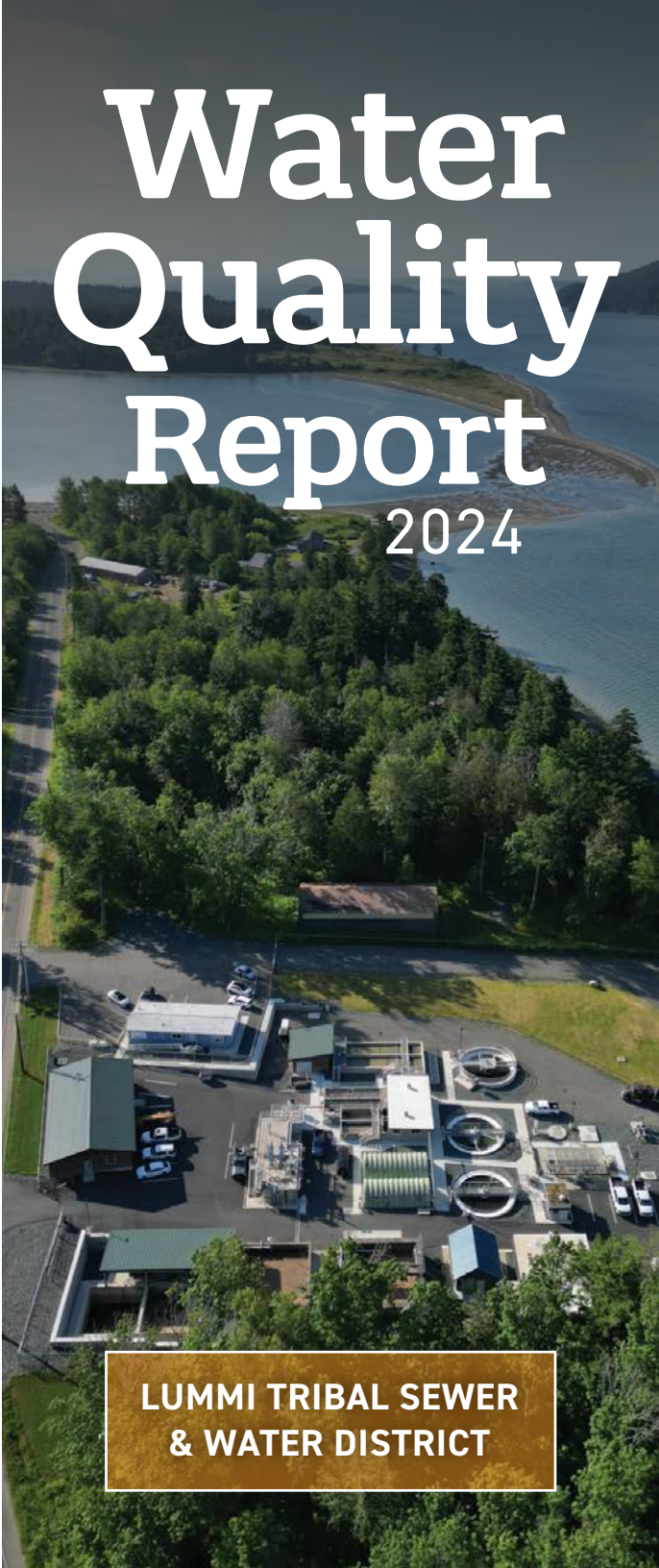
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Water
Quality
Report
2024



LUMMI TRIBAL SEWER
& WATER DISTRICT

Violations Table

Chlorine

Some people who drink water containing chlorine well in excess of the MRDL could experience irritating effects to their eyes and nose. Some people who drink water containing chlorine well in excess of the MRDL could experience stomach discomfort.			
Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
MONITORING, ROUTINE (DBP), MAJOR	09/01/2024	09/30/2024	We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated.
MONITORING, ROUTINE (DBP), MAJOR	12/01/2024	12/31/2024	We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated.

Public Notification Rule

The Public Notification Rule helps to ensure that consumers will always know if there is a problem with their drinking water. These notices immediately alert consumers if there is a serious problem with their drinking water (e.g., a boil water emergency).			
Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
PUBLIC NOTICE RULE LINKED TO VIOLATION	12/13/2024	2024	We failed to adequately notify you, our drinking water consumers, about a violation of the drinking water regulations.

Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR)

The Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCRC) seeks to prevent waterborne diseases caused by E. coli. E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Human pathogens in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a greater health risk for infants, young children, the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems.			
Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
REPORT SAMPLE RESULT/FAIL MONITOR RTCR	12/01/2024	12/31/2024	We failed to submit sample results or report a failure to test our drinking water in a timely manner.

Lead and Copper Rule Revisions

Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems.			
Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
LSL INVENTORY-INITIAL (LCRR), Treatment Technique Violation	10/17/2024		We failed to complete an initial service line inventory, a comprehensive record of all drinking water service lines to identify and categorize materials, particularly those containing lead, to help protect public health. This inventory was to be completed and made accessible to you, our drinking water consumers, by 10/16/2024.
LSL REPORTING-INITIAL (LCRR), Reporting Violation	10/17/2024		We failed to submit an initial service line inventory to the EPA by 10/16/2024. We submitted the Lead Service Line Inventory on 10/28/2024.

Water Quality Data Table

In order to ensure tap water is safe to drink, EPA sets regulations to limit contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists drinking water contaminants that were detected during 2024. Many more contaminants were tested but only the substances listed below were found in your water.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
DISINFECTANTS AND DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS								
Chlorine (as C12) (ppm)	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	0.4	0.3	0.4	2024	No	Water additive used to disinfection.
Haloacetic Acids (HHA5) (ppb)	No goal for the total	60	6	0	13.7	2024	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes) (ppb)	No goal for the total	80	19	0	29.1	2024	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS								
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	6	3.1	18.5	2024	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.0388	0.0388	0.0388	11/01/2022	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	2.2	2.2	2.2	11/01/2022	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.21	0.21	0.21	11/01/2022	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	4	0	3.6	2024	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS								
Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L)	2024	0.391	0 – 0.391	0	5	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS								
Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Sample Date	# Samples	Exceeds AL		Type of Source
Copper-action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.155	2024	0	No		Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of Natural deposits
Lead-action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	1.4	2021	0	No		Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of Natural deposits



Your Lummi Tribal Sewer & Water District staff

*IMPORTANT DRINKING WATER DEFINITIONS

- MCLG:** Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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.
- MCL:** Maximum Contaminant Level: 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.
- TT:** Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- AL:** Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- pCi/L:** Pico Curies per Liter
- NTU:** Nephelometric Turbidity Unit
- MRDLG:** Maximum residual disinfection 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.
- 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.
- Turbidity:** Turbidity is a measurement of suspended particles in the finished water that is used to measure filter performance in the water treatment process.
- TCR:** We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are the an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards.
- ppm** (Parts per Million), **ppb** (Parts per Billion), **mg/L** (Milligrams per Liter), **NA** (Not Applicable), **ND** (Not Detected), **NR** (Monitoring not required)