2013 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
Town of Cathlamet

This report is required to be provided to you by regulation. Some of the information is technical in nature. Your water comes from the Elochoman River and is treated at the Town's filtration plant there. Drinking water is then distributed to consumers and businesses including two smaller systems that buy all their water from us. We provide all the treated water to consumers in Cathlamet and, via our largest customer the PUD, to Puget Island. We test the water on-site daily, monitor the plant and distribution system, and do specialty testing periodically as required to ensure water quality that complies with federal and state regulations. **Not one of our tests showed results at levels that pose a health risk to consumers.** If you ever have concerns about your water, please feel free to contact us at 795-8032.

There has been much confusion about the new Waste Water Treatment Plant located across from the Wahkiakum School. That facility has nothing to do with your drinking water. The Town's water plant on the Elochoman is still where all the system's drinking water is filtered.

Water is a valuable resource. Check that your toilets don't run continually. Fix dripping faucets and showers. You will be amazed at how a little drip adds up over time.

We're proud of this year's report. We want to keep you informed about the water you have received over the past year. Our goal is to supply safe and dependable drinking water. **If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Duncan Cruickshank at (360)795-8032.** If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Town Council meetings that are held on the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the River Street Meeting Room.

Our Department of Health Office of Drinking Water identification number is system 11850D. The table below lists the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2013. 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 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 (1-800-426-4791). Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons 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 microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

In Washington State, lead in drinking water comes primarily from materials and components used in household plumbing. The more time water has been sitting in pipes, the more dissolved metals, such as lead, it may contain. Elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially in pregnant women and young children. To help reduce potential exposure to lead: for any drinking water tap that has not been used for 6 hours or more, flush water through the tap until the water is noticeably colder before using for drinking or cooking (30 seconds to two (2) minutes.) You can use the flushed water for watering plants, washing dishes, or general cleaning. Only use water from the cold-water tap for drinking, cooking, and especially for making baby formula. Hot water is likely to contain higher levels of lead. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water is available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or online at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Department of Health and EPA prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Washington Department of Agriculture regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

Our water is treated at the plant with chemicals that help reduce the turbidity (amount of suspended material); with chlorine to kill potentially harmful bugs; and with fluoride to promote healthy teeth.

In the following table you will find terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

Non-Detects (ND) - laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in $10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in $10,000,000.

Parts per trillion (ppt) or Nanograms per liter (nanograms/l) - one part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years, or a single penny in $10,000,000,000.
Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL: 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 or MCLG: 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.
Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): 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.
Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): 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.

TEST RESULTS						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Organic Contaminants						
Total coliform bacteria	N	0	Count	0	Presence/ absence	Naturally present in the environment (if present)
Inorganic Contaminants						
Copper	N	Low = .033 High=.711 Average = 0.369	ppm	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine	N	Low = 0.46 High=1.44 Average = 0.97	ppm	MRDL G = 4	MRDL = 4	Water additive used to control microbes
Fluoride	N	Low = 0.78 High = 0.9 Average = 0.78	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead	N	Low = ND High = 11 Average = 2 (4/10 were ND)	ppb	15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	N	.32	ppb	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Volatile Organic Contaminants						
Haloacetic Acids (HAA)	N	45,000	ppt	n/a	MCL = 60,000	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
TTHM (Total trihalomethanes)	N	43,000	ppt	n/a	80,000	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity	N	0.07	NTU	n/a	0.3	Cloudiness of water. 0.07 NTU represents the highest average monthly turbidity.

Organic Contaminants:
Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present. If coliforms were found in more samples than allowed this would be a warning of potential problems.

Inorganic Contaminants:
Chlorine. Some people who use 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 in excess of the MRDL could experience stomach discomfort.
Copper. 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 personal doctor.
Fluoride. Some people who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the MCL over many years could get bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones. Children may get mottled teeth.
Lead. 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 slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over **many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.**
Nitrate. Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue-baby syndrome.

Volatile Organic Contaminants:
Haloacetic Acids (HAA). Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes). Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
Turbidity. Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches.
As you can see by the table, our system had no violations. We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some contaminants have been detected. The EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels.

MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated contaminants, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

Rarely something will happen that may cause deposits on the inside of our water main supply lines to become agitated and color your water at home. Usually such changes in color are a result of high flow usage from a fire hydrant. Rest assured, although the water looks unpalatable, it is OK. Please let us know if this happens in your home and we will investigate.

In our continuing efforts to maintain a safe and dependable water supply it is necessary to make improvements to your water system. The larger of these improvements are discussed at Town Council meetings. This year we are writing the 6 year water plan that helps direct Town staff towards investment in water system improvements, if you would like to offer input, please let us know.

Please call our offices at (360) 795-3203 or (360) 795-8032 if you have questions.

The Cathlamet Water System staff is dedicated to providing top quality water to every user. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future. Please be careful when disposing of chemicals, medicines, and petroleum products. Think before you pour anything on the ground, into the storm drains or into the sewer systems.

Thank you!

Duncan Cruickshank **Terry Vik** **Jay Watson**