



2008 Annual Water Quality Report

King County Water District No. 20
12606 First Avenue South
Seattle, Washington 98168-2617
<http://www.kcw20.org>

Russ Pritchard, *President, Commissioner*
Gary G. Coy, *Secretary, Commissioner*
Kathleen Keene, *Commissioner*

Dick Swaab, *General Manager*
Marianne Ott, *Office Manager*
Chris Cordi, *Superintendent*

News from the Manager

This is the tenth annual Water Quality Report to our customers. This report describes the District's drinking water sources and quality for 2007, and how this quality compares to allowable EPA limits. Federal regulations require that water utilities provide water information to their customers annually. The District and the City of Seattle are proud of their water systems and want to share this information with you. With the information we are providing for you here, you can make informed decisions about your drinking water.

We continue to upgrade our system annually, replacing aging and undersized water mains to provide a more reliable distribution system and greater fire flows to all of our ratepayers. The District is planning to replace 3,500 feet of undersized water mains in the south central portion of the District later this year.

When you drop your bill off or call in, please let us know what more we can do for you.



Dick Swaab
General Manager

What's going on in our neighborhood?



Commissioners John Thompson from WD 125 (left) and Russ Pritchard from WD 20 (right) inspect the new security improvements at the reservoir

Construction is complete on the **2007 Capital Improvement Project** on S. 127th Street which installed 600 feet of 8" ductile iron water main, replacing 4" cast iron pipe and installing new fire hydrants, valves and water services. In addition to District projects, developers continue to install new water main, hydrants and services as part of the development of their properties.

The District installed an **emergency intertie** with Water District No. 45. This will provide water to either District in the event of an emergency.

In early 2008, King County Water Districts 20, 125 and 45 completed a joint project to **improve security at the 6 million gallon reservoir**. These three Districts formed a consortium in the mid-1970s to build a reservoir and help reduce the peak water costs. The consortium added security measures, both inside and outside the entrance to the structure. Constant monitoring is possible at the District office. Motion sensors will activate alarms which will in turn, have someone to the site in few minutes.

Group Health Pharmacy is accepting outdated medicines for disposal. Rather than disposing them down the drain or in the garbage, you can bring them to the Group Health Cooperative Burien Medical Center Pharmacy (140 SW 146th St in Burien) whether you are a member of Group Health or not. By properly disposing of outdated medicines, you are protecting the environment for future generations.



Financial news: Pay your water bill by credit or debit card



King County Water District No. 20 customers can now pay their water bill with their credit card. The District has been accepting electronic payments withdrawn from checking or savings accounts for several years. Now we are able to accept credit card payments as well. This new service went into affect in April 2008. A notice

about this new service was included in your April and May water bills. This is not an automatic service, you will need to contact the District for each bill. Please contact the District office and District staff for more information.

The District offers a reduced rate for all eligible low-income senior or low-income disabled ratepayers. Call the office (206) 243- 3990 to get this set up. It must be renewed every two years.

2007 Water Quality Analysis Results

The results of the 2007 regional water quality testing are included in this report. This information is summarized in the table below. All of the compounds found in the Cedar River supply were found to be at lower levels than the EPA allows.

Not listed in the table below are the over 100 other contaminants that were tested for, but not detected, in your drinking water. If you would like a list of the other compounds or if you have other water quality questions, please contact our office.

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 Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Compounds	Major Source	Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Maximum Allowable (MCL)	Actual Range Detected	Average	Complies?
Raw Water						
Total Organic Carbon, ppm	Naturally present in the environment	NA	Depends on treatment technique	0.3-1.0	0.6	√ Yes
Cryptosporidium, #/100L	Naturally present in the environment	NA	NA	ND to 4	ND	√ Yes
Finished Water						
Turbidity, NTU	Soil Runoff	NA	Depends on treatment technique	0.2-1.9	0.6	√ Yes
Fluoride, ppm	Water additive, which promotes strong teeth	4	4	0.6-1.0	0.85	√ Yes
Barium, ppb	Erosion of natural deposits	2000	2000	(one sample)	1.9	√ Yes
Total Coliform, % positive samples	Naturally present in the environment	0	5%	0-3.23%	0.29%	√ Yes
Nitrate, ppm	Erosion of natural deposits	10	10	(one sample)	0.045	√ Yes
Total Trihalomethanes, ppb	By-product of Drinking water disinfection	NA	80	17-35	24	√ Yes
Haloacetic Acids (5), ppb	By-product of Drinking water disinfection	NA	60	16-30	26	√ Yes
Chlorine Residual, ppm	Water additive	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	0.25-1.68	1.06	√ Yes

Lead and Copper Sampling Program	MCLG	Action Level ⁺	Results of 2006 Samplings [*]	Homes Exceeding Action Level	Source
Lead, ppb	0	15	4.6	0 of 51	Corrosion of household plumbing systems. These sample were collected in homes within the Cedar River service area.
Copper, ppm	1.3	1.3	0.11	0 of 51	

⁺The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

^{*}90th percentile: 90 percent of the samples were less than the values shown. No new monitoring was completed in 2007.

DEFINITIONS

Maximum Contaminant Level (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 (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.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU):

The unit of measure for turbidity. Turbidity, a good indicator of water quality, is a measure of the cloudiness of the water.

Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

ppm: parts per million

ppb: parts per billion

NA: Not Applicable

ND: Not Detected

About your drinking water....

The EPA sets drinking water quality standards and establishes testing methods and monitoring requirements for water utilities. The EPA sets maximum levels for water contaminants and requires utilities to give public notice whenever a violation occurs. The contaminants that might be expected to occur in water include biological contaminants such as virus and bacteria, inorganic contaminants such as salts and minerals, organic contaminants such as by-products of the water disinfection process, pesticides and herbicides, and radioactive contaminants from natural or man-made deposits.

Last year, snow accumulation was above normal in the Cedar River watershed. Your drinking water was monitored 365 days a year and was tested for

over 100 compounds. The tests are done before and after treatment and while your water is in the distribution system. The tables on the adjacent page show the detected contaminants and compares them to the limits and goals set by the EPA and the State of Washington to ensure your tap water is safe. Please note that your water falls safely within state and federal guidelines for each and every contaminant, significantly below the EPA's levels. Asbestos monitoring is not required for our District because all the asbestos pipe in our distribution system



**Chester Morse Lake,
Ralph Naess, SPU**

was removed prior to 1991. Not listed are the over 100 other contaminants that were tested for, but not detected, in your drinking water. If you would like a list of the other compounds, please call Seattle Public Utilities at **(206) 684-7834**.

District sets two Water Use Efficiency goals to meet new Municipal Water Law

King County Water District No. 20's commitment to water conservation began in the early 1990's. Programs were designed to meet the Washington State Department of Health Conservation (DOH) Planning Guidelines and to slow the increase of average and peak seasonal water use demand. The DOH revised its requirements for water conservation planning as a result of the 2003 Municipal Water Law. As required by part of this law, the District

adopted water use efficiency goals in a public process in December 2007. The District, Seattle Public Utilities and 16 other water utilities formed the Saving Water Partnership (SWP). The SWP consists of Wholesale Water Customers, excluding municipalities and special purpose districts that belong to Cascade Water Alliance.

For 2007, King County Water District No. 20 purchased 1,002 million gallons of water and had a distribution system leakage rate was 5.3%. The District replaced 600 feet of water main and constructed an emergency intertie with Water District No. 45. The District's Water Use Efficiency goals are shown in bold italics. Progress towards meeting these goals will be reported annually.

(1) As part of the SWP regional conservation program, King County Water District No. 20 participates in the regional water conservation program. The regional goal is 11.0 mgd by 2010. In 2007, the regional program, with our participation,

achieved 1.28 mgd of savings, which is on track to meeting the 2010 goal. The District customers participated in the showerhead and aerator distribution program and 95 clothes washers were rebated to District customers as part of the WashWise Program. One commercial business replaced 12 toilets and another business installed WaterSmart Technology to reduce water use by 2,304 gallons per day.

(2) King County Water District No. 20 will to continue to have less than 10 percent annual water loss for the entire system. The District has averaged less than 6% water loss for the past 15 years with high water losses of 8.3 % in 1999. The leakage rate, or water loss, for 2007 was 5.3%. The District will continue to reduce water losses by completing more water main replacement projects in the future and metering water demand more accurately.

How much is:

a part per million?

- 1 ounce in 7813 gallons
- 1 second in 12 days
- 1 penny in \$10,000
- 1 inch in 16 miles

a part per billion?

- 1 ounces in 7.8 million gallons
- 1 second in 32 days
- 1 penny in \$10 million
- 1 inch in 16,000 miles



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If you would like to get more involved, you are invited to attend the Board of Commissioners meetings on the first Wednesday and third Tuesday of each month. The meetings are held at the District office located at 12606 First Avenue South, Seattle. Please contact the District at (206) 243-3990, Fax (206) 244-7514, email: mo@kcwd20.com

Rebates—How you can reduce your water and electric use and get money back

How much is your old refrigerator costing you?

Check out how much your old refrigerator is costing you by going to the www.energystar.gov website and selecting **Appliances** and **Refrigerators and Freezers**. It may be time for you to get a new refrigerator. With energy costs increasing each year, older refrigerators might be costing you more than they should.

Is the WashWise program for you?

The WashWise program offers rebates of \$50 to \$100 for the purchase and installation of qualified energy and water-saving clothes washers. The more energy and water the washer saves, the higher the rebate. To apply for the WashWise Clothes Washer Rebate, you need to purchase a \$50 - \$100 Rebate Qualifying Clothes Washer and fill out the rebate form (you can get one from the retailer or call the hotline at 1-866-632-4636). Once the washer is installed in your residence, complete the rebate form and send it in with a copy of your receipt within 90 days of washer purchase, to:

SPU WashWise Program
1400 SW 5th Av, #700
Portland, OR 97201

Got a leaky toilet?

Your old toilet may be costing you more to leave it in rather than replacing it. Recently, a customer replaced two 53 year old toilets with new efficient low flow models. Monthly water consumption for the home was reduced from 35 ccf to 12 ccf. Including the rebates, the new toilets paid for themselves in just a couple months. Older toilets use about 3.5 gallons per flush whereas many of the new toilets use 1.6 gallons or less. That's at least twice the savings per flush.

Not sure if your toilet is leaking? Put 5 to 10 drops of food coloring in the tank, wait at least 10 minutes then check your toilet bowl. If you see colored water, then your fill valve or flapper valve may need to be replaced. This can easily be done by most people or your local plumber. You should check for leaks at least once a year, especially if you have an older toilet.

For more information about these and other water saving ideas and rebates, check out www.savingwater.org. They also have information for multi-family and commercial customers about how to help save water outside.