



2010

# Drinking Water Quality Report



## Director's Message . . . . .

We are pleased to publish this annual drinking water quality report for you. The report summarizes the findings of our 2010 drinking water quality testing program. The federal Safe Drinking Water Act requires that we provide you with this information annually. We are happy to comply because we want you to know your water is safe to drink.

We are very proud of our state-of-art water system and the competency of the staff that operate and maintain it. In 2010, our water filtration plant processed nearly 18 billion gallons of drinking water. That means, on average, about 54.5 million gallons of water was treated and delivered each day to water systems throughout the Everett water service area—an area comprising about 80 percent of the homes and businesses in Snohomish County.

We have tried to make this report easy to understand. However, if you have questions please contact us at 425-257-8800 and ask to speak to a water quality specialist. You can also obtain more information about our water system online at: [www.ci.everett.wa.us/pw](http://www.ci.everett.wa.us/pw).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Davis".

Dave Davis,  
Public Works director  
May 2011



# Drinking Water Source



Your drinking water comes from Spada Reservoir, located about 30 miles east of Everett at the headwaters of the Sultan River. Spada Reservoir was created in 1964 through a partnership between the City of Everett and the Snohomish County PUD as part of the Jackson Hydroelectric Project. This 50-billion-gallon reservoir serves as a collection point for rain and snowmelt from the Cascade Mountains.

Spada Reservoir is located in the Sultan Basin Watershed, an area covering more than 80 square miles. A watershed is a geographic area where all precipitation drains into a single body of water. The Sultan Basin Watershed is one of the wettest watersheds in the continental United States. The average rainfall is about 165 inches—five times the rainfall of Everett.

To protect the naturally pristine water in Spada Reservoir, water quality in the Sultan Basin Watershed is carefully monitored. The watershed is patrolled and human activities are limited to minimize the impact on water quality. We continue to evaluate and adjust our security measures on an ongoing basis.

# Drinking Water Treatment

From Spada Reservoir, our water travels through a pipeline to Chaplain Reservoir. This is where the City's water treatment facility is located. Chaplain Reservoir holds about 4.5 billion gallons of water and, on average, nearly 55 million gallons of water is treated each day at the water treatment facility.



Your drinking water is treated with advanced filtration and disinfection. First, agents are added to the water that cause particles to coagulate. Next, the water passes through large filters to remove the particles. These particles can include sediment and natural materials as well as viruses, bacteria and other disease-causing organisms. Finally, hypochlorite solution is added to the water to eliminate any organisms that were not removed by the filtration process.



During the treatment process, polymers are added as part of the filtration process, fluoride is added for dental health purposes and sodium carbonate is added to adjust the pH level of water so it is less corrosive on pipes and plumbing fixtures. These additives are carefully monitored and the water is continually tested to make sure it is safe to drink.

# Information From EPA

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.



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 at 1-800-426-4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised people, such as people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people 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 risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

## Detected Regulated Contaminants

Parameter	Major Source	Units	EPA Regulations		Everett Water Results		
			Ideal Level/Goal (MCLG)	Maximum Allowable (MCL)	Range or Other	Average Value or Highest Result	Comply?
Nitrate	Erosion of natural deposits, animal waste	ppm	10	10	< 0.100-0.114	< 0.080	Yes
Total Coliform Bacteria	Naturally present in the environment	% Positive	0	5% Positive per Month	0-1.6%	1.6%	Yes
Total coliform bacteria monitoring is used to track microbial quality in the water distribution system. Everett collects 120-125 samples per month. Not more than 5 percent of the monthly total can be positive for total coliforms. Two routine total coliform samples collected in August 2010 were positive. Both locations were retested and the results were negative. No total coliform was detected the remainder of 2010.							
Fluoride	Dental health additive	ppm	2	4	0.7-1.1	0.9	Yes
Fluoride is added to your water in carefully controlled levels for dental health.							
Residual Disinfectant Level (free chlorine)	Added as a drinking water disinfectant	ppm	4.0 (MRDLG)	4.0 (MRDL)	0.1-1.0	0.6	Yes
Haloacetic Acids (5) (HAA5)	By-product of drinking water chlorination	ppb	N/A	60	22.6-45.6	33.3	Yes
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	By-product of drinking water chlorination	ppb	N/A	80	27.3-44.0	35.6	Yes
Haloacetic acids and trihalomethanes form as by-products of the chlorination process that is used to destroy or inactivate disease-causing microbes. The results for TTHM and HAA5 reported here are from the four locations monitored to determine compliance with the current regulations.							
Turbidity	Soil erosion	NTU	N/A	TT	100%	0.10	Yes
Turbidity is a measure of the amount of particulates in water in Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU). Particulates in water can include bacteria, viruses and protozoans that can cause disease. Turbidity measurements are used to determine the effectiveness of the processes to remove these particulates. The values reported are the lowest monthly percentage of samples that met the turbidity limit and the highest single filtered water turbidity measurement obtained for the year. In 2010 no filtered water turbidity results were above the EPA 0.3 NTU limit so the lowest percentage was 100%.							

## Detected Unregulated Contaminants

Parameter	Units	Ideal Level/Goal (MCLG)	Everett Water Results	
			Range Detected	Average Value
Bromodichloromethane	ppb	0	1.4-2.0	1.7
Chloroform (trichloromethane)	ppb	300	25.9-42.1	33.9
Dichloroacetic Acid	ppb	0	4.8-16.1	12.6
Trichloroacetic Acid	ppb	300	14.8-28.0	19.7
Monochloroacetic Acid	ppb	None	2.8-3.2	3.0
These substances are individual disinfection by-products for which no MCL standard has been set, but must be monitored to determine compliance with the USEPA Stage 1 Disinfection By-products Rule MCL's for Total trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids (5).				



# Lead and Copper

Parameter	Major Source	Units	EPA Regulations		Everett Water Results		
			Ideal Level/Goal (MCLG)	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile Level	Homes Exceeding the AL	Comply?
Copper	Plumbing, erosion of natural deposits	ppm	1.3	1.3	0.188	None	Yes
Lead	Plumbing, erosion of natural deposits	ppb	0	15	3	2 of 108 (1.9%)	Yes

USEPA and state regulations require Everett and the systems it supplies to monitor for the presence of lead and copper at household taps in their combined service area every three years. The above data was collected in 2009. The next round of required regional tap sampling will be conducted in the summer of 2012. The 90th% level is the highest result obtained in 90 percent of the samples collected when the results are ranked in order from lowest to highest. The results for water tested before it enters household plumbing were even lower. This indicates that there is virtually no lead or copper in the water, but household plumbing may contribute to the presence of lead and copper at the tap.

## Additional Information

Parameter	Units	Everett Water Results	
		Range Detected	Average Value
Alkalinity <sup>3</sup>	ppm	11.7-20.3	15.7
Aluminum <sup>3</sup>	ppb	0.010-0.038	0.018
Arsenic <sup>4</sup>	ppb	ND <sup>1</sup>	ND <sup>1</sup>
Calcium Hardness <sup>3</sup>	ppm <sup>2</sup>	7.8-12.6	9.4
pH <sup>3</sup>	s.u.	7.4-8.9	8.1
Sodium <sup>4</sup>	ppm	5.6-7.4	6.5
Total Hardness <sup>2,3</sup>	ppm <sup>2</sup>	10.1-14.1	11.8

<sup>1</sup> ND = Not detected.  
<sup>2</sup> Hardness and alkalinity units are in ppm as CaCO<sub>3</sub> (calcium carbonate equivalent units).  
<sup>3</sup> Results are from samples collected from 26 locations in Everett's distribution system.  
<sup>4</sup> Sodium and Arsenic are monitored at the treatment plant effluent.

### Cryptosporidium:

*Cryptosporidium* is a one-celled intestinal parasite that if ingested may cause diarrhea, fever, and other gastrointestinal distress. It can be found in all of Washington's rivers, streams, and lakes and comes from animal or human wastes deposited in the watershed. *Cryptosporidium* is resistant to chlorine, but is removed by effective filtration and sedimentation treatment such as that used by Everett. It can also be inactivated by certain types of alternate disinfection processes such as ozonation and UV light contactors. Past monitoring results suggest that *Cryptosporidium* is present in the source only occasionally and at very low concentrations. In 2010, Everett collected monthly *Cryptosporidium* oocysts samples from the source water at the plant intakes. A single oocyst was detected in the June sample. No oocysts were detected in the other eleven samples.

### Treatment Polymers:

During water treatment, organic polymer coagulants are added to improve coagulation and filtration, which remove particulates from water. The particulates that are removed can include viruses, bacteria and other disease causing organisms. The USEPA sets limits on the type and amount of polymer that a water system can add to the water. In addition to the EPA limits, the State of Washington also requires that all polymers used be certified safe for potable water use by an independent testing organization (NSF International). During treatment, Everett adds only NSF approved polymers and the levels used are far below the safe limits set by USEPA.

### Perchlorate:

In January 2009, the USEPA released a health advisory for perchlorate. Perchlorate is an inorganic contaminant used in solid propellant for rockets, missiles, fireworks and elsewhere (e.g., production of matches, flares, explosives, etc.). Sodium hypochlorite solutions used in water and wastewater treatment plants have also been identified as a potential source of perchlorate contamination. Perchlorate's interference with iodide uptake by the thyroid gland can decrease production of thyroid hormones, which are needed for prenatal and postnatal growth and development, as well as for normal metabolism and mental function in adults. EPA set the safe health advisory limit for drinking water at 0.015 ppm. In mid 2009, Everett implemented a monthly perchlorate monitoring program to determine if the hypochlorite used for disinfection at the water plant contributed measurable levels of perchlorate to Everett's drinking water. The method used is capable of detecting perchlorate as low as 0.0004 ppm. Through 2010, no perchlorate has been detected in the drinking water.



## Important Terms:

- 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 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 water treatment technology.
- 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.
- Treatment Technique (TT) – A required process and performance criteria intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- Action Level (AL) – The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers a treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- Parts per million (ppm)/ parts per billion (ppb) – A part per million means that one part of a particular contaminant is present for every million parts of water. Similarly, parts per billion indicate the amount of a contaminant per billion parts of water.
- Not Applicable (N/A) – Means EPA has not established MCLGs for these substances.

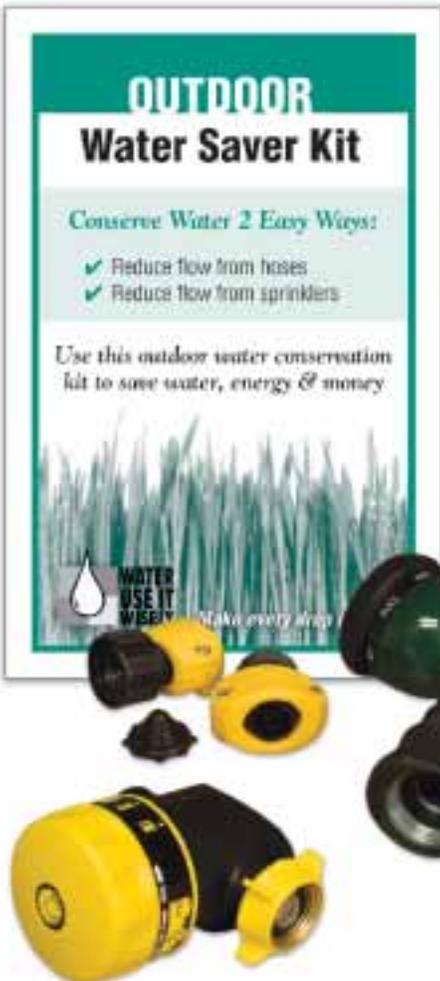
# Water Conservation Report

The City of Everett adopted a water conservation savings goal in compliance with the state water use efficiency requirements in 2007. The goal is to save 1.97 million gallons of water a day (MGD) in the Everett water service area by the end of 2012. These savings are based on a six-year regional water conservation plan (2007-2012) that was collaboratively developed with the water systems in Snohomish County that receive Everett water.

The six-year plan calls for spending about \$2.95 million on behalf of the regional water conservation activities through 2012. The activities include youth education, indoor and outdoor water conservation kits, rebates for water efficient clothes washers and toilets, and other things. The City is required to report on the progress of this program annually to the state and the customers we serve.

In 2010, 570 water conservation workshops were conducted in classrooms throughout Snohomish County, reaching more than 15,000 students. More than 5,100 clothes washer rebates and 660 toilet rebates were issued. Participating water systems also distributed 180,000 lawn watering calendars, 5,200 indoor conservation kits and 6,000 outdoor conservation kits. And, under a joint program with Snohomish County PUD, 690 low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators were installed in targeted multifamily buildings.

These activities achieved an estimated savings of 0.88 MGD, surpassing the 2010 savings goal of 0.80 MGD. This brings the cumulative water savings to date (2007-2012) to 1.98 MGD – 138 percent of the four-year goal (1.43 MGD) and 100 percent of the planned six-year goal (1.97 MGD). Through efficiency and cost minimization, these savings have been obtained for about \$290,000 less than the planned budget for the four-year period.



From your local water provider.

**2010**

**SUMMER LAWN WATERING CALENDAR**

If your house number: 00-15 16-32 33-99

days.

JUNE 2010							JULY 2010						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Use a hose with a shut-off nozzle when watering by hand. Nozzle \*FREE from your water provider.

Water only your lawn and garden. Attach a \*FREE automatic shut-off timer to your hose bibb.

AUGUST 2010							SEPTEMBER 2010							
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7					1	2	3	4
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30			

Plant native plants. They require less water and less care.

Use mulch in your gardens to reduce evaporation and retain moisture.

\*Supplies are limited.

**There are a number of ways to save water, and they all start with YOU.**

## General Information .....

All water sources (both tap water and bottled water) contain impurities. As water flows over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water 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 runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.



## Next Steps .....

**For more information about drinking water quality, please contact:**

**City of Everett Water Quality Office:**

Phone: 425-257-8800

Website: [www.ci.everett.wa.us/pw](http://www.ci.everett.wa.us/pw)

**Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):**

Phone: 1-800-426-4791

Website: [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater)

**State Department of Health (DOH):**

Phone: 1-800-521-0323

Website: [www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/](http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/)

### To get involved in decisions

affecting your drinking water, attend and comment at Everett City Council meetings, every Wednesday in the Council Chambers at 3002 Wetmore Ave.

Meetings begin at 6:30 p.m., except the meeting on the fourth Wednesday of each month which is at 12:30 p.m. Agendas are available on the City's website at [www.ci.everett.wa.us](http://www.ci.everett.wa.us).

**City of Everett Elected Officials:**

**Mayor:** Ray Stephanson

**City Council:** President Shannon Affholter, Ron Gipson, Arlan Hatloe, Jeff Moore, Drew Nielsen, Paul Roberts and Brenda Stonecipher



**City of Everett  
Public Works Department**

3200 Cedar Street  
Everett, WA 98201

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## Partnership for Safe Water .....

The Partnership for Safe Water is a voluntary effort supported by more than 200 water utilities, the USEPA, the American Water Works Association and other prominent drinking water organizations in the United States. The goal of the Partnership program is for participating utilities to use a continuous improvement process developed by the Partnership members.

The program strives to help drinking water utilities optimize their treatment plants to produce drinking water of a higher quality than is required by regulations. To participate, each treatment plant must demonstrate that it can consistently meet the Partnership water quality standards at one of four levels.

Since the City of Everett began participating in this program, it has met the third highest level of performance standards set by the Partnership in 10 of the past 11 years. Recently the City has renewed its commitment to continuously improving performance at the Everett Water Filtration Plant and has been working to incorporate some of the Partnership's tools into a new improvement program that is being developed at the plant.

The City of Everett will continue participation in this cooperative effort to strive for excellence. As the new program to improve operations and water quality at the treatment plant is implemented, the Utility hopes to qualify at the highest Partnership level. We believe this is the best way to insure our customers will always have the highest quality drinking water possible.

