

Middle Fork Water and Sewer System 2022 Drinking Water Quality Report

Lewis County Public Works Department, 57 W Main St, Chehalis, WA 98532

Office Hours: 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM, Monday - Friday

Web address: www.lewiscountywa.gov/publicworks/utility-services or call 1-855-858-2843 or 360-740-1371

INTRODUCTION

This report describes the quality and source of the drinking water, testing requirements, and results for 2021. Our reporting year is from January 2022 to December 2022. Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand our efforts to continually improve the water treatment process and the system. We are pleased to report that your drinking water met the federal and state requirements.

SOURCE OF OUR WATER

Our water comes from three wells which draw from groundwater that is hydraulically connected to the Middle Fork Newaukum River. These wells are located to the west and south of the Birchfield development. A 100 foot buffer surrounds the wells to restrict any activity that could contaminate them. After the water comes out of the wells we add chlorine as a disinfectant to protect you against microbial contaminants. Routine monitoring is done at the Pump House and throughout the system to ensure water quality is in compliance with Federal and State regulations. The provided table lists the results of our monitoring for this year. It is important to remember that the presence of contaminants at a low level does not necessarily pose a health risk.

PROTECTING YOUR WATER

Our water source is from a surface water body. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity. Some contaminants that may be present before it is treated are:

- 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 from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, petroleum based products, mining, and farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides which may come from agricultural 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 come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

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

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, such as cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy, individuals 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 individuals 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 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. The Middle Fork Water & Sewer System is 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791 or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

WATER QUALITY DATA TABLE

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants we detected that are applicable for the reporting year of this report and from the most recent testing to meet all applicable standards. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

In the table, you will find many terms and abbreviations that you might not be familiar with. To help you understand these terms, some definitions have been provided.

Contaminants	Unit	MCLG	MCL	Level Detected	Sample Date	Violation	Likely Source(s) of Contaminant
<i>Inorganic Contaminants</i>							
Nitrate	ppm	10	10	0.32 - 0.1	04/21/2022 12/6/2022	No	Runoff from fertilizer use. Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	ppm	AL=1.3	1.3	0.123 – 0.026	06/14/2022	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
Lead	ppb	15	0	0.003 – 0.001	6/14/2022	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
<i>Radioactive Contaminants</i>							
Gross Alpha	pCi/L	N/A	15	3.0	4/21/2022	No	Erosion of natural deposits.
Radium 228	pCi/L	N/A	5	1.0	4/21/2022	No	Erosion of natural deposits.

- AL Action Level is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- MCLG Maximum Contaminant Level Goal 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.
- MCL Maximum Contaminant Level is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- MRDL Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level is 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
- MRDLG Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal is 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.
- N/A Not applicable.
- ppb Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter.
- ppm Parts per million, or milligrams per liter.
- TT Treatment Technique. A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

VIOLATIONS

No violations occurred in 2022.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Lewis County is dedicated to providing quality water to every customer, and to managing the system responsibly and efficiently. We thank our customers for their assistance, and ask for your continuing support of the Middle Fork Water and Sewer System which we recognize is a vital resource of the community.

Please call Lewis County at 1-855-858-2843 if you have questions about the water system.

The Lewis County Board of County Commissioners holds regularly scheduled meetings every Tuesday at 2:00 PM at the County Courthouse located at 351 NW North Street, Chehalis, WA.