



# Water Quality Report

## Skamokawa Water System

Owned and Operated by Public Utility District No. 1 of Wahkiakum County

**Message from Management:** The District is pleased to present the year 2022 Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of water and the services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of potable drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

This report presents a summary of our water quality data, describes what the data means, and indicates our level of compliance with State and Federal drinking water requirements. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact us at 360-795-3266. We want our customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 8:30 a.m. at the Public Utility District office in Cathlamet (45 River Street).



**Our Water Supply:** Skamokawa Water System (former name: West Side Water Works) has a well and reservoir that are located at Skamokawa Vista Park. There is also an intertie with Vista Park's water system that serves as a backup for emergency use by either system.



**Our Water Quality:** The Skamokawa Water System is routinely monitored for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The table on the back of this page shows the results of monitoring to December 31, 2022. Complete inorganic samples were tested in August 2021 with all results below MCL. All drinking water may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of contaminants. It is important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the *Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline* at 1-800-426-4791.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals. In some cases, it dissolves radioactive materials and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune compromised 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/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the *Safe Drinking Water Hotline* (1-800-426-4791).



**Year 2022 Operations:** In an effort to attain our mission to provide reliable water service, Wahkiakum PUD has continued to focus on maintenance efforts to retain the integrity of infrastructure in Wahkiakum County. In addition, system improvements also included the installation of two by-pass meters to assist with leak detection. This will help shorten the time it takes to locate water leaks now and in the future. The District also replaced a water main valve that was inoperable. System improvements like these continue to increase the reliability of our infrastructure in Wahkiakum County.



**Water Use Efficiency:** Water conservation may not seem necessary in our climate, but the reality is that our clean potable water is a finite resource. It is up to each one of us to protect these resources for future generations. We are working tirelessly to reduce our water consumption and appreciate our customers' help in reporting any issues concerning water conservation. A benefit to reduced consumption is lower operating costs which may help defray future rate impacts.

## TEST RESULTS

Contaminant	Year Tested	Violation	Level Detected	Units	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria	2022	No	Absent	Absent or Present	0	Presence of coliform bacteria in 5% of monthly samples	Naturally present in the environment
Nitrate	2022	No	<0.10	ppm	5	10	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Gross Alpha	2022	No	1.6	pCi/L	3.0	15.0	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228	2022	No	None Detected	pCi/L	1.0	5.0	Erosion of natural deposits

Note: In this table you will find terms and abbreviations. To help you better understand these terms we have provided the following definitions:

**Parts per million (ppm):** one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

**Parts per billion (ppb):** one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

**Pico Curies per liter (pCi/L)** – A measure of radioactivity. EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles

**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 treatment technology. MCLs 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.

## Significance of Contamination

### Microbiological Contaminants:

**Total Coliform** - Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. When coliform bacteria are found, special follow-up tests are done to determine if harmful bacteria are present in the water supply. If this limit is exceeded, we must notify the public by newspaper, television or radio, and take action to find the source of the problem and disinfect the system.

### Volatile Organic Contaminants:

**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.

**VOCs [Volatile Organic Compounds]** - Because there are so many types of VOCs, potential health effects are varied. In addition, not much is known about what health effects occur from the levels of organics typically found in the home. According to the EPA, exposure to VOCs can cause eye, nose, and throat irritation; headaches, loss of coordination, nausea; damage to liver, kidney, and central nervous system.

**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.

### Inorganic Contaminants:

**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. Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the *Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791)*. Lead in drinking water is rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning, but it can add to a person's total lead exposure. All potential sources of lead in the household should be identified and removed, replaced or reduced.

**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.