April, 2011
Vol.21

MT. VIEW-EDGEWOOD WATER COMPANY

11610 32nd Street East, Edgewood, WA 98372 www.mtvewater.com 253-863-7348

NEWS SPLASH

From the General Manager's Desk

With the arrival of Spring it is time to issue our annual Water Quality Report for last year (2010), and is a good time to update you on water company information. For those new members since our last newsletter, on behalf of the Board of Directors and staff I want to welcome you!

Since 1925 this community has worked together in building a member-owned utility to provide quality drinking water, and in sufficient quantity for fire protection. As a private company we are governed by our Bylaws, which require membership in the company before being allowed to receive water. Each membership represents equal ownership in the assets and liabilities of the company, and allows voting rights for the election of Directors and other company business.

Copies of the Bylaws are available at the office, and are also published on our website at www.mtvewater.com. Please take a moment and familiarize yourself with these Bylaws as it is each member's responsibility to know and comply with them.

As you know, we are a non-profit company that shares expenses between our members. Since we do not have large commercial accounts and economies of scale, the Board and staff work hard to reduce costs in every possible area. The rising costs of providing service (particularly with increased regulatory costs) requires us to annually adjust our rates accordingly. Despite having already approved a modest rate increase for 2011 and future years, the Board of Directors has voted to defer this increase due to current economic conditions.

If you are concerned about the rising cost of drinking water, you might consider letting your legislative representatives know that you are opposed to new legislation that increases drinking water costs. The current legislative session contains many bills that if passed will significantly increase your water rates. It is no secret that the State is looking for new sources of revenue, and judging from the more than *90 bills introduced during this legislative session that involve drinking water* it is apparent they see water ratepayers as a source for this revenue. Our legislators have ignored that water utilities statewide collectively paid more than **$45 million dollars in 2010 in taxes** (through combined excise tax), which is more than our fair share. To ask us for even more money disguised as fees (to fund non-water programs with the taxes already collected) is unfair and likely unconstitutional.

Customer account information: please keep Karen (Customer Service) apprised of your proper contact information. It is important that we have a your correct mailing address for ballots and newsletters, and your correct phone numbers so we can quickly notify you during emergencies and service disruptions. It is also a member's responsibility to inform the office within 30 days of a legal change in ownership of a property, as this affects voting and membership rights per the Bylaws.

Water System Plan - Capital Improvements

The Board of Directors and staff continue to be proactive and maintain our water system to insure many years of service at minimal cost. Because of our 85 year history we have worked diligently to replace aging infrastructure on an efficient time schedule and cost basis. We are currently updating our Water System Plan which is due for renewal at the end of 2011. This comprehensive plan describes the water system, future growth projections, and future capital improvement projects (and how they will be funded). MTVE staff are completing this plan in-house to improve plan accuracy, and to save money over hiring an outside consulting firm. In 2010 we converted all customer meters to Automated Meter Read (AMR) technology. Although the initial costs are significant, the payback is achieved in approximately 7 years despite a 20+ year life expectancy and benefit. AMR technology improves meter reading accuracy, frees staff to perform other critical functions, greatly improves staff safety, provides data that allows efficient system management, quickly identifies leaks, and improves customer service. Last year we added a 12" transmission main down 32nd St. (between 90th Ave. & 94th Ave). Also in 2010 we installed an emergency generator at the office to power our telemetry controls used to manage water flows to your home despite power outages.

The Meridian widening project will begin this summer. As DOT widens the road, they will be moving our water main that parallels Meridian from 24th St. north to 8th St. DOT contractors will be performing this construction, not Water Company personnel (although we will be inspecting the work).

We are happy to announce that we have been awarded a Federal Hazard Mitigation Grant for over $1 million for the seismic retrofit of our 2 steel tank reservoirs on 48th Street! The Hazard Mitigation Grant program provides federal dollars to replace or harden aging critical infrastructure before disasters occur such as Japan's earthquake. The point of the program is that it costs taxpayer's less money to prevent disasters than for FEMA to provide relief funds after a disaster. MTVE staff successfully documented the necessity and value of providing seismic protection for our critical storage reservoirs that provide the system pressure necessary for our entire system to function. Note that this is NOT Economic Stimulus Funding. The Federal Grant provides 75% of the funds, Washington State provides 12.5%, and the Water Company provides 12.5% (which can be labor or other in-kind dollars). Project work will start this summer.

Water Use Efficiency Information

We have completed our annual Water Use Efficiency (WUE) Performance Report for last year (2010), and submitted it to the Department of Health. We have gone to great lengths to improve the operating efficiency of your water system, and we hope you will take a few minutes to read our WUE Program on our website (www.mtvewater.com). In 2010 we achieved both our supply and demand water conservation goals.

Mt. View-Edgewood Water Company continues to operate efficiently and in an environmentally conservative manner with 7.7% leakage, once again exceeding the State standard of 10% leakage. Every water system has distribution pipes that leak underground, and has customers with plumbing leaks. Leaks not only waste water, but also waste electrical power needed to pump wells and fill reservoirs. Leakage increases customer costs, and wastes our most precious natural resource.

While we use customer meters that meet or exceed industry standards, these meters by design under-register, particularly during low-flow conditions (such as a customer leak). The larger the meter, the more water is under-registered during low flow periods. This unmetered water is in effect a "leak" and is a significant part of our "leakage percentage." By replacing all meters last year, all members' meter accuracy is as equal as possible.

MT. VIEW-EDGEWOOD WATER COMPANY
2010 Water Quality Report

This report describes the Mt. View-Edgewood Water Company's drinking water sources and quality, and programs that protect the high quality of our water supply. It conforms to the federal regulation requiring water utilities to provide this information to their consumers annually and contains information with specified language and data that must be repeated each year.

Safe drinking water is an essential resource for our consumers. **The bottom line is this: our water is safe to drink. Our water quality meets or exceeds state and federal standards.**

The information in this report is also submitted to the Washington State Department of Health (DOH). Both DOH and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) monitor our compliance with the many regulatory standards and testing protocols required to ensure safe drinking water.

MT. VIEW-EDGEWOOD'S WATER SYSTEM

The Mt. View-Edgewood Water Company currently utilizes groundwater from 8 wells for its public water supply. In the central area, Wells #3 (S04), #6 (S06) and #7 (S07) draw water from a perched system aquifer. In the south and southwest areas wells #1R (S10), #5 (S05), #8 (S08), and #9 & #11 (S12) draw water from the Redondo-Milton aquifer. All wells are in deep aquifers making them less susceptible to contamination. Wells #1R and #11 were the most productive wells in 2010, and both are equipped with an emergency generator for operation during power outages. In 2010 we installed a generator and fuel storage for our telemetry controls, office, and shop.

There are two steel tanks in the southern part of our service area (referred to as the South Reservoirs) that provide a combined total of 1.2 million gallons of storage, and one steel reservoir (North Reservoir) that stores 1 million gallons in the north portion of the service area (and is equipped with an emergency generator).

Due to the high quality water provided by our groundwater sources we do not currently treat our water with any chemicals. Water quantity also continues to be excellent, with no future shortages anticipated!

In March of 2005 we completed a comprehensive Wellhead Protection Plan (WHPP). The WHPP identifies our well recharge area and potential sources of contamination. Wells 3, 6, and 7 have a low contamination susceptibility rating and wells 5, 8, 9, 11 and 1R have a moderate contamination susceptibility rating. The WHPP is available for viewing at our office and on our website.

DEFINITIONS:

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) - The level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
ND - Not detected
Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) - The unit of measure for turbidity (clarity or purity).
Part Per Million (ppm) - One part per million or one milligram per liter (mg/L) corresponds to one penny in $10,000.
Action Level (AL) - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers a treatment or other requirement which a water system must follow.
Picocuries per Liter (pCi/l) - A measure of radiation.

WATER QUALITY DATA

The following table lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentration of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old.

Not shown in the table are 29 inorganic chemicals, 81 synthetic organic chemicals, and 63 volatile organic chemicals which were tested for but not detected. Not shown are 137 microbiological samples taken throughout the distribution system. All compliance samples tested negative for total coliform bacteria.

Inorganic Contaminants	MCL	MCLG	Highest Level	Range of Detection	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source of Contamination
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	3.3	0.2 - 3.6	Aug 10	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Microbiological Contaminants							
Turbidity (NTU)	5	NA	0.3	N/A	Jul 10	No	Iron or Manganese particles.
Radioactive Contaminates							
Radium 228 (pCi/L)	NA	0	0	ND - 2	Sep 09	No	Decay of natural and manmade deposits.

Contaminants with action levels rather than MCL's							
Inorganic Contaminants	**AL**	**MCLG**	**Highest Level**	**Sample Date**	**# Samples Exceeding AL**	**Exceeds AL**	**Typical Source**
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.79	July 09	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead (ppm)	0.015	0	0.0009	July 09	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-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/Centers for Disease Control (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 (800-426-4791).

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 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). **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 and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. **Microbial contaminants,** such as viruses and bacteria, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife. **Inorganic contaminants,** such as salts and metals, can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming. **Pesticides and herbicides** may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses. **Organic Chemical Contaminants,** including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems. **Radioactive contaminants** can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that 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.

Additional questions or comments about the Water Company's water quality, water supply, or other general drinking water issues can be directed to the following contacts:

- Mt. View-Edgewood Water Company, 11610 - 32nd St E, Edgewood, WA 98372-2099, 253-863-7348, Mike Craig. System I.D. #568203.
- Environmental Protection Agency, Safe Drinking Water Hotline, 1-800-426-4791.
- State Department of Health, NW Drinking Water Regional Office, 20435 72nd Ave. So., Suite 200-K-17-12, Kent, WA 98032-2358, 253-395-6750.

The Board of Directors meet at 6 p.m. on the first Wednesday following the 10th of each month. Member comments and involvement are welcome. Comments, concerns, or other issues should be brought to the attention of the General Manager prior to the first of the month for scheduling purposes. Members are encouraged to participate by running for the Board of Directors. Please call our office at 253-863-7348 or consult our website at www.mtvewater.com for more information.