

Three Lakes Water District Annual Update & CCR Report

Spring 2020


Dear Three Lakes Water District Water User:

Your Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) for the year is attached.

Tip: If you only read the bold type you will get the gist of the whole report in less than one minute.

Annual Update/Summary

The public Three Lakes Water District strives to meet or exceed all water quality, and regulatory requirements. **Current local precipitation numbers are slightly below normal, and the water table at our wells continues to indicate low readings so we all need to be very careful with outside water use this year.** (Visit threelakeswater.com for a link to current precipitation charts). We can't pump it out of the ground and supply it to you if it isn't there. As always, we ask that you never waste water; and since the even - odd outdoor watering rules have really helped with system pressures they have been made permanent.



The District is comprised of three “working” commissioners and a certified water operator who works under contract. We have no employees. In the interest of succession planning, and in order to avoid hiring paid staff (which means increasing rates), we are seeking someone who is interested in becoming a commissioner. The normal workload is 8 hours per month, and compensation is available for work done above and beyond the base Commissioner stipend. If you, or someone in your family, is interested in helping out, please attend one of our monthly meetings or call or email a commissioner for more information.

Even - Odd Outdoor Watering Rules

1. **Even / odd outdoor watering rules.** - People whose street address ends in an even number (0,2,4,6,8) are to water outside on even numbered days of the month, and people whose street address ends in an odd number (1,3,5,7,9) are to water outside on odd numbered days of the month.
2. **Don't water during the heat of the day (11:00AM - 5:00PM).** - People with automatic sprinkler systems are to water at night (sometime between Sundown and Sunup). People who water manually are to water in early morning, or late evening.
3. **Adjust your outdoor watering based on need.** If you are not adjusting your outdoor watering based on need (i.e. checking and adjusting at least weekly based on temperature and rainfall) then you are probably not using your water efficiently.

The Three Lakes Water District exists to provide potable (drinkable) water to its users, but outdoor watering is by far the biggest water use in our district. (About 70% of our water usage is outside use.) If everyone will be careful with their outdoor watering, we anticipate no need for additional water restrictions.

Legislative Update / Water Use Efficiency Rules

There are numerous laws that affect the use of drinking water in Washington State. Basically the laws say that all water belongs to the state and the state will decide how the water is allocated. Most of the newer laws have to do with: Managing Water Use (dictating the way water is used), Improving Water Usage Efficiency (forcing reduced usage), Reducing Leakage (mandating reduced loss), Reporting Requirements (requiring reporting), and additional usage fees. Water Districts are required to develop a plan for meeting these goals, and provide an annual progress report to the state. The Three Lakes Water District has committed to the overall goal to remain within our water use permit limits, and meet all other requirements, even through the continued build out of our service area. **Our goal is for all water users to use within the bottom tier of our logarithmically tiered rate structure.** If you would like additional details, feel free to attend any of our regularly scheduled monthly meetings held on the second Tuesday of each month, at 5:30PM at 2898 West Malaga Road, Malaga, WA 98828 (The old fire station near the main entrance to Three Lakes.) These meetings are always open to the public. Our website is *threelakeswater.com*, and the Washington State web site is *www.wa.gov*. The Water District may see additional expenses or additional user fees from the federal, state, or local, governments; if so, water rates will need to rise to cover those expenses.

Affiliations

Note: The Three Lakes Water District is a small public utility that is not affiliated in any way with the Three Lakes Maintenance Corporation, the Three Lakes Maintenance Board, the Three Lakes Golf Course, the Malaga Water District, The Three Lakes Water Users, or the Three Lakes Water Association.

Bottled Water

If you are purchasing and using bottled water, we suggest you obtain a complete water analysis from your bottled water supplier and compare it to our water analysis in this CCR Report. We think you will find that our water, out of the tap, compares very favorably to any bottled water on the market.

A reminder about septic tanks

Everything that goes down your drain goes into your septic tank and is injected under your lawn through your drain field. It all has the potential to eventually get into the ground water and our drinking water aquifer. So please be careful about what you may be adding to our aquifer. For example, it may be better to throw those old medicines in the trash, rather than flush them down the toilet. And is having soft water really worth injecting a big bag of salt into the ground water every month or two? (Contamination is the biggest threat to our water, after government permitting.)

Emergencies

In an emergency (e.g. fire, earthquake, power outage, etc.) stop all nonemergency outdoor water usage to free up water for the emergency. The reason for this is that our tank holds almost 3 days' worth of water with only inside usage, but less than 8 hours' worth of water with high summer irrigation. Also, if the red light on top of our well house is flashing, it means we are having a problem with our system. You should immediately eliminate all outdoor water usage, and visit our web site *threelakeswater.com* for any possible emergency instructions.

Water Theft

The Three Lakes Water District is a 100% metered system. Meter readings lead us to believe that we may have one or more illegal water connections connected on to our system. Any unauthorized water connection, or unauthorized use is theft. If you are aware of, or even suspect, that someone is using our water without authorization, we would appreciate you letting us know. Theft of water is a crime. The Three Lakes Water District is offering a reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone stealing water from the water district.

Chlorination

For years the Department of Health has required water systems that get some or all of their water from surface water sources to treat their water. The Department of Health now encourages systems that get some or all of their water from ground water sources that may be influenced by surface water, to treat their water. As a result, the Three Lakes Water District chlorinates at low levels.

Excess Water Usage Charges

The Three Lakes Water District has a tiered logarithmic rate structure (doubling at each step) that makes excess water users pay increasingly more for their water once they exceed state guidelines for water usage. The far majority of our water users use water within the lowest tier, and will see no additional excess water usage charges. But; **if you are one of the few that have gotten a letter from the water district telling you that you are using an excessive amount of water then you probably need to reduce your water usage to avoid additional excess water usage charges.**

Looking To the Future

If you are familiar with water systems and would be interested in occasionally doing work for the water district as an independent contractor please contact us. Many states expect to face water shortages within the next five years. There is a saying, “If we don’t change our direction, we will end up where we are headed”. No one knows what the future holds, but we can guess, based on where things are headed. As there are more and more demands for potable (drinkable) water, the government will increase the restrictions on its use. We should all probably plan on that continuing. Every time there is talk in Olympia of a shortage of potable water, the idea comes back up of a ban on the use of potable water for any type of irrigation. That is an idea that could pop up again at any time. It behooves us all to keep this in mind and use water outside as efficiently as possible. In the long run we should all be working on ways to reduce our outdoor water usage. The fact is we really don’t know how much longer we will be allowed to supply potable (drinkable) water that is also used for irrigation.

Your Water Usage

Our normal water user used 133,500 gallons of water last year. If you would like to know how your water usage compares, or would like to temporarily borrow a device that will allow you to easily monitor your water usage, you can contact commissioner Greg Kardos at (970) 568-2503(9AM-8PM). **Also, please contact us if you ever notice anything unusual with your meter box (deterioration, covered with gravel or dirt, tampering, etc.).**

Three Lakes Water District Consumer Confidence Report

Spring 2020

Dear Three Lakes Water District water user,

The Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) law requires water districts to give their customers a report annually explaining how their water system works, and what water tests are being done, to instill in the water user confidence that the water they are being provided is safe. (Hence the “Consumer Confidence Report” name, and this report.)

The Three Lakes Water District is a small Group A Public Water System in Washington State that provides potable (drinkable) water to 266 connections in the Three Lakes area. The water district has no full time employees and no office. The Chelan County Treasurer’s Office, P. O. Box 1441, Wenatchee, WA 98801 does the Water District’s billings and collections. The Water District has income and expenses of about \$123,000 a year and no debt. The Three Lakes Water District is administered by three publicly elected water commissioners who must reside within the Three Lakes Water District boundaries. The three commissioners’ base pay is set by the legislature and is currently \$130 / month. The commissioners meet once a month, on the second Tuesday of each month, at 5:30PM, at 2898 West Malaga Road, Malaga WA 98828 to conduct business. These meetings are always open to the public, so feel free to attend. **If you would like to provide input into the dealings of the water district feel free to attend any of our regularly scheduled monthly meetings.**

The Water District contracts out to a Licensed Water Operator (who also lives at Three Lakes) who operates and maintains the system. The Three Lakes Water District telephone number (509-663-2551) has a recorded message that provides the caller with the current telephone numbers for the different facets of the water district’s operation. If you ever have any questions or concerns about the water district, this is the place to start, but do not try to leave messages on this machine, as they are not picked up.

The Three Lakes Water District supplies 100% groundwater and has two wells located on Tract B near the main entrance to Three Lakes, a 110,000 gallon totally enclosed concrete reservoir located on the higher ground South of West Malaga Road, and a gravity feed loop distribution system that provides the water to the users. The Water District owns and is responsible for maintaining the wells, the reservoir, and the distribution system up through and including the individual user’s water meter. **The individual property owners are responsible for everything on the usage side of the water meter, including backflow prevention if required.** (Generally speaking, backflow prevention is required if: You have an alternative source of water, if you have any kind of system where you can add chemicals to the water, if you have a swimming pool, or if you have any other connection with back flow potential.) **If you have required backflow protection then you are required to provide the water district with copies of the backflow equipment certifications annually.** Individual home owners are responsible to maintain free access to the water meter by not covering it up with dirt, fencing, or shrubbery. Please do not tamper with the water meter box or its contents. If the home owner damages the water meter or box, they can be charged for the repair. All customer irrigation systems need to be connected outside the meter box. Any connections within two feet of the meter box must be inspected and approved by the water district.

If you have any questions or concerns about this report, or the water district, feel free to attend any of our regular monthly meetings or contact one of the commissioners.

We have a webpage at *threelakeswater.com*; our email is: *3lakeswater@charter.net*; our permanent mailing address is 2898 West Malaga Road, Malaga WA 98828; and the telephone number is (509) 663-2551. **If we need to change our internet service provider or phone #, we will put the info on our telephone recorded message and website.**

WATER CONSERVATION

- As always we request all of our users to never waste water.
- We want to thank our users who are already voluntarily conserving our precious natural resources and express our appreciation of your efforts. (The far majority of our users are conscientious.)
- Information on ways to conserve water, including Xeriscaping, and using indigenous plants is available on our web site at threelakeswater.com.

WATER PRESSURE

The Three Lakes Water district system is a gravity feed loop system. The Water District does not adjust your water pressure; your water pressure is fixed by the position of the tank on the hill, but is affected by you and your neighbors' water usage. The more water being used at any one time the lower the pressure will be at your water meter. If you move your high water usage out of high use times into a low use time your water pressure will be higher.

REQUIRED INFORMATION:

The sources of drinking 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 radioactive material and can pick up substances resulting from human or animal activity. The Three Lakes Water District owns the land around the wells and the reservoir and restricts activities that can contaminate them. The state periodically assesses our source water for susceptibility to contamination.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain very small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily mean 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 (800) 426-4791.

Contaminants that may be present in raw or source water before it is treated are microbial contaminants, inorganic contaminants, pesticides and herbicides, radioactive contaminants, and organic chemical contaminants.

- 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 water 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 agricultural and residential uses.
- Radioactive contaminants, which are naturally occurring.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

Some people may be more vulnerable to drinking water contaminants than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, such as people 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/Center for Disease Control 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.

Additional statement required to be added to all water systems CCR reports

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 Three Lakes Water District 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 drinking 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 the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791 or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Three Lakes Water District - CCR Report Spring 2020 Lab testing results								
NONE OF THE FOLLOWING SUBSTANCES TESTED EXCEEDED THE TRIGGER, AL OR THE MCL.								
INORGANIC CHEMICALS REPORT FOR NITRATES 5/6/19								
DOH #	ANALYTES		RESULTS	UNITS	TRIGGER	MCL	MCL in CCR units	Results in CCR units
114	Nitrite-N	<	0.07	mg/l	0.5	1	100	<7
20	Nitrate-N		0.50	mg/l	5	10	100	5.0
161	Total Nitrate/Nitrite		0.50	mg/l	-	10	100	5.0
NONE OF THE FOLLOWING SUBSTANCES TESTED EXCEEDED THE TRIGGER, AL OR THE MCL.								
INORGANIC CHEMICALS REPORT 6/10/2019 (excepting color)								
DOH #	ANALYTES		RESULTS	UNITS	TRIGGER	MCL	MCL in CCR units	Results in CCR units
4	Arsenic		0.004	mg/l	0.01	0.01	10	4.1
5	Barium		0.007	mg/l	2	2	1000	7
6	Cadmium	<	0.0001	mg/l	0.005	0.005	5	0.1
7	Chromium	<	0.001	mg/l	0.1	0.1	100	1.0
11	Mercury	<	0.0002	mg/l	0.002	0.002	2	0.2
12	Selenium	<	0.0005	mg/l	0.05	0.05	50	0.5
110	Beryllium	<	0.0001	mg/l	0.004	0.004	4	0.1
111	Nickel	<	0.0001	mg/l	0.1	0.1	100	0.01
112	Antimony	<	0.0001	mg/l	0.006	0.006	6	0.1
113	Thallium	<	0.0007	mg/l	0.002	0.002	2	0.7
116	Cyanide	<	0.01	mg/l	0.2	0.2	200	10
19	Fluoride		0.39	mg/l	4	4	40	3.9
20	Nitrate-N		0.35	mg/l	5	10	100	3.5
161	Total Nitrate/Nitrite		0.35	mg/l	-	10	100	3.5
114	Nitrite-N	<	0.07	mg/l	0.5	1	100	7
8	Iron	<	0.0097	mg/l	0.3	0.3	300	9.7
10	Manganese	<	0.0003	mg/l	n/a	0.05	50	0.3
13	Silver	<	0.0001	mg/l	n/a	0.1	100	0.1
21	Chloride		8.2	mg/l	n/a	250	250	8.2
22	Sulfate		10.5	mg/l	n/a	250	250	10.5
24	Zinc	<	0.0121	mg/l	5	5	500	1.2
14	Sodium		24.9	mg/l	--	n/a		
15	Hardness		155	mg/l	--	n/a		
16	Conductivity		400	umhos/cm	n/a	700	700	400
17	Turbidity	<	0.18	NTU	--	n/a		
18	Color		4	color units	n/a	15	15	4
26	Total Dissolved Solids		190	mg/l	n/a	500	500	190
9	Lead	<	0.0006	mg/l	0.015	N/A	15	0.6

23	Copper	<	0.0011	mg/l	1.3	N/A	130	0.11
404	Magnesium		14.2	mg/l				
405	Calcium		38.6	mg/l				
TTHM, HAA5 7/8/2019								
	TTHM		EPA Method	524.2	No trigger	80	80	ND
	HAA5		EPA Method	552.2	No trigger	60	60	ND
RADIONUCLIDE 5/28/15								
	RADIONUCLIDE		ANALYSES	REPORT	Method			
			Results			MCL	Lab MDA	
166	Radium 228		ND	pCi/L	# 904.0	5	0.5	
165	Gross Alpha		ND		#900		3.07	
VOLATILE ORGANIC CHEMICALS (VOC's) ANALYSIS REPORT EPA TEST METHOD 524.2 5/28/15								
Volatile Organic Chemical Analytes were tested and all were within limits.								
SYNTHETIC ORGANIC CHEMICALS (SOC's) ANALYSIS REPORT EPA TEST METHOD 531.2 10/09/05								
10 Synthetic Organic Chemical Analytes were tested and none were detected								
SYNTHETIC ORGANIC CHEMICALS (SOC's) ANALYSIS REPORT EPA TEST METHOD 515.1 10/30/14								
13 Synthetic Organic Chemical Analytes were tested and none were detected								
SYNTHETIC ORGANIC CHEMICALS (SOC's) ANALYSIS REPORT EPA TEST METHOD 525.2 10/09/05								
64 Synthetic Organic Chemical Analytes were tested and none were detected								
Bacteriological Samples were taken monthly.								
INORGANIC CHEMICALS (IOCS) LEAD & COPPER at residencies (90th percentile) 8/22/18								
EPA #	ANALYTES		RESULTS	UNITS	SRL	AL	AL in CCR units	Results in CCR units
200.7	copper		0.1640	mg/L	.02mg/L	1.3	13	2.51
200.9	lead		.0009	mg/L	.001mg/L	0.015	15	1.00
Definitions:								
<u>AL (Action Level)</u> : the concentration which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.								
<u>MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level)</u> : The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology								
<u>MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal)</u> : The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.								
<u>MDA (Minimum Detectable Amount)</u>								
<u>ND (Not Detected)</u> : in the results column indicates this compound was analyzed and not detected at a level greater than or equal to the SRL.								
<u>ppm=parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/l) ppb=parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/l)</u>								
The amounts of a contaminant allowed in drinking water are so small they are measured in ppm - equivalent to one penny in \$10,000; or ppb-equivalent to one penny in \$10,000,000.								
<u>SRL (State Reporting Level)</u> : indicates the minimum reporting level required by the Washington Department of Health (DOH)								
<u>Trigger Level</u> : DOH Drinking Water response level. Systems with compounds detected at concentrations in excess of this level are required to take additional samples								
<u><(0.001)</u> : Means less than a number. It also indicates that the compound was not detected in the sample at or above the concentration indicated.								

Did you know? **The Three Lakes Water District users use about a football field 50 feet deep worth of water each year. Around 70% of that is used outside.**

Estimated Faucet Leakage Rates (number of drips): 60 drops/minute = 192 gallons/month, 90 drops/minute = 310 gallons/month, and 120 drops/minute = 429 gallons/month. Additional water facts and ideas for water conservation are available at: doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/Pubs/331-450a.pdf.

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