

April, 2012  
Vol.22

## MT. VIEW-EDGEWOOD WATER COMPANY

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

*Awarded "Best Water In the Nation"*

Mt. View-Edgewood  
Water Co.



QUALITY ON TAP!

# 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 (2011), and update you on water company information. Your water won the title as "Best Water in the Nation!" Details are on page 2. 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 have sufficient quantity for fire protection. As a private company we are governed by our By-laws, 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](http://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.

Customer account information: please keep Laurie (Customer Service) apprised of your proper contact information. It is important that we have 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.

***See something, say something!*** Crime is on the rise, and water utilities are prime targets of metal theft, and potential terrorism. Did you know that tampering with water facilities is a Federal Offense? Our facilities are critical infrastructure and are protected as such. You are the best defense in protecting our facilities. If you see or hear anything suspicious, do not hesitate to call 911 and the Water Company office. If you see suspicious activity take immediate action, whether it be at a reservoir site, well site, office, shop, or at any other facility including customer meters, fire hydrants, and the green Sample Stations throughout our system.

Homes should have their own shut-off valve in case you need to interrupt your water for repairs, or during extended absences. Water meters are the property of the company, and our field crew are the only people authorized to close these valves. If you need the meter valve closed, call the office (24/7). It is also important to keep the area surrounding meter boxes clear of vegetation, debris, vehicles, etc. within a 2-foot radius.

#### DIRECTORS

**President**

*Luke Meyers*

**Vice President**

*Dave Weir*

**Secretary**

*Steve Smith*

**Treasurer**

*Steve Ellison*

**Members**

*Beverly Strodz*

*Don Nelson*

*Larry Runge*

#### EMPLOYEES

**General Manager**

*Marc Marcantonio*

**Field Manager**

*Mike Craig*

**Accounting**

*Stephanie Christel*

**Customer Service**

*Laurie Kennedy*

**Field Techs**

*Jon Young*

*Mike Gass*

*Gene Ryan*

## Water System Plan - Capital Improvements

The Board of Directors and staff continue to be proactive and maintain our water system to ensure many years of service at minimal cost. During 2011 we successfully completed the revision of our Water System Plan and received praise from the State Department of Health (DOH) for doing so in record time. Of even more significance, unlike other Water Utilities, we wrote the plan ourselves instead of hiring consultants, saving more than 60% of the total costs! This comprehensive plan describes the water system, future growth projections, and future capital improvement projects (and how they will be funded).

Last year our policies, practices, and facilities were inspected by DOH (Sanitary Survey) to ensure Public Health. I am proud to say we received the best possible rating, with laudatory comments. This achievement puts us in an "exceptional performer status," and saves us inspection fees due to less frequent future surveys.

The Meridian widening project is finally underway. 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 have begun the grant work to seismically retrofit both reservoir tanks on 48th Street. Since we will drain each tank to perform welding, we will utilize this opportunity to rehabilitate the 50 year old tanks inside and out. This major project will continue throughout the summer, and we anticipate no service disruption.

## Best Water In The Nation!

Having won the title as "Best Tasting Water in Washington State," our water was eligible to compete for "Best Water in the Nation" at the Great American Taste Test conducted on February 7-8, 2012 in Washington D.C. Mt. View-Edgewood Water was announced as having won 1st place in the National Competition!

To be eligible to enter the contest requires a violation free history, and compliance with all Department of Health requirements. A panel of five judges, including staffers from the House, Senate and Department of Agriculture, evaluated 38 state entries for taste, clarity, and aroma, narrowing the entries down to five finalists. Mt. View-Edgewood Water Company was awarded the gold medal for the best water in the nation!

Mt. View-Edgewood Water always knew they had the best tasting water, but it is nice to have it validated by others in the profession. This is very rewarding and the result of the teamwork provided by all in every aspect from setting policies to developing professional staff. We attribute this win to the hard work by the Board and Staff to keep our great, natural water source (ground wells in clean, glacial gravel) chemical free, sanitary, well-circulated, and rapidly consumed.

Help us market this award to increase revenue (and keep rates low)! If you know anyone wanting to use the best tasting water in the USA for business purposes, please inform them we won this award. Who wants to start a water bottling business? Who wants to start any type of business that utilizes water, and would benefit by marketing their product over the competition because it is made with the Best Tasting Water in the USA? If you have an idea, act on it. Your idea may help us continue to provide your water at lower than typical costs for similar size water utilities.

Water is Life! We work hard to provide our customers with the best quality possible. If you like your tap water you will drink it, which benefits your personal health.



# MT. VIEW-EDGEWOOD WATER COMPANY

## 2011 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, while tasting the "Best In The USA!"**

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 2011, and both are equipped with an emergency generator for operation during power outages. In 2011 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!

Our Water System Plan (Comp Plan) was approved in 2011. 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 108 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.
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>							
Turbidity (NTU)	5	NA	0.3	N/A	Jul 10	No	Iron or Manganese particles.
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>							
Gross Alpha	5	NA	ND	ND	Aug 11	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits.
Radium 228 (pCi/L)	NA	0	0	ND - 2	Sep 09	No	Decay of natural and manmade deposits.
<b>Contaminants with action levels rather than MCL's</b>							
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 meets at 6 p.m. on the first Wednesday following the 10<sup>th</sup> 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.mtviewwater.com](http://www.mtviewwater.com) for more information.