

April, 2014
Vol.24

MT. VIEW-EDGEWOOD WATER COMPANY

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

Awarded "Best Water In the Nation"



NEWS SPLASH

From the General Manager's Desk

With the arrival of Spring it is time to publish our annual Water Quality Report for last year (2013), and 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!

We are sad to say goodbye to long time Board Member and past President, David Weir, who has moved. Dave has served in excellent fashion for 23 years, always looking out for the members' best interests. Dave will be missed, and we wish him all the best!

We also welcome Dave's replacement, new Board Member Loren Pease! Loren will complete Dave's term through this October, at which time his and two other Board positions will be elected.

I am also happy to report that our Field Manager, Mike Craig, was recognized as the "Water System Operator of the Year" in a ceremony at City Hall on March 25. This highly coveted award presented by Evergreen Rural Water of Washington recognizes the top water system operator in the State of Washington for superior achievement.

Since 1925 this community has worked together in building a member-owned utility to provide quality drinking water and 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.mtviewwater.com. Please take a moment and familiarize yourself with these Bylaws, as it is each member's responsibility to know and comply with them.

Water meters, fire hydrants, valves, and other water utility facilities are in private utility easements and Rights-Of-Way. It is important to keep the area surrounding these facilities clear of vegetation, debris, vehicles, etc. within 2 feet of the outer perimeter of the facility for employee safety, and for operation during emergencies, especially at night, and adverse weather conditions. Please do not plant vegetation near these facilities, and please keep existing vegetation clear.

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.

Please take a moment and review our bill payment options on our website (<http://mtviewwater.com/rates/rates.htm>). Signing up for automated payment reduces costs and the chance of service interruption.

DIRECTORS

President

Larry Runge

Vice President

Don Nelson

Secretary

Steve Smith

Treasurer

Steve Ellison

Members

Beverly Strodz

Luke Meyers

Loren Pease

EMPLOYEES

General Manager

Marc Marcantonio

Field Manager

Mike Craig

Office Manager/ Accounting

Stephanie Christel-

Lewis

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. Our Capital Improvement Plan looks well into the future (25 years).

S. Reservoir Seismic Retrofit Project: During 2013 we completed seismically retrofitting our two steel tanks known as the South Reservoirs. Located on 48th Street, these 50 year old tanks control all water system pressure, and seismic damage was our biggest vulnerability prior to the retrofit. The cost of the retrofit (1 million dollars) was paid through a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant rather than through customer rates, and greatly protects these facilities from damage, ensuring continued safe and reliable drinking water for our members. We took this opportunity to also rehabilitate this aging infrastructure (inside and out), making both tanks better than new. This project has not resulted in service interruption, and was completed well under budget and ahead of schedule!

Meridian Main Relocation Project: The installation of a new water main as a result of the Meridian widening project is nearing completion. DOT relocated our water main which parallels Meridian between 8th Street and 24th Street in order to make room for widening Meridian. DOT contractors are performing this construction, and we are inspecting their work. The water company elected to take preventive measures by temporarily chlorinating our water prior to, during, and after the final connections of the new main to our system (completed in April of 2013). Contamination can occur during the connection process, and having residual chlorine in the water was prudent as a preventive measure.

122nd Ave. Main Replacement Project: Our water main along 122nd is being replaced per our Capital Improvement Plan due to age and condition. This project is being performed in four increments. We completed the first increment during the summer of 2013. The 5" steel water pipe was replaced with 12" Ductile Iron pipe between Caldwell and 35th St. This now provides better water flow and more reliable service. The second increment will be constructed during the summer of 2014 from 35th St. to 32nd St. The third increment will be 32nd St. to 29th St. scheduled for 2015, and then completing the project to 24th St. during 2016.

Legislative News: Did you know that you pay an "Excise Tax" to the State of Washington based upon every water utility bill? Annually water utilities (including Mt. View-Edgewood Water Co.) pay nearly 50 million dollars in combined excise taxes to the State. This tax revenue goes to the State General Fund where it is then disbursed for various purposes. Despite this significant revenue stream, water utilities continue to see a rapid rise in costs from the State and Federal Government for operating water utilities and compliance with new and existing regulations. We are doing our part to educate legislators that our tax dollars should be used wisely to support public drinking water programs, and consequently public health. Please visit our website for more information about legislative news and support by our representatives (31st Legislative District).

As of January 2014, the EPA has made it illegal to use standard brass fittings in drinking water distribution systems. This ruling is an attempt to reduce lead from leaching into public drinking water. Low levels of lead are typically added to brass so that it can be properly machined for reliability. Despite most water utilities having very low levels of lead in their drinking water (ours included), all existing brass inventories have to be scrapped. The new brass is about 25% more expensive (and still contains some lead), which significantly increases the cost of providing drinking water. Initially this law included fire hydrants (despite being isolated by valves from normal drinking water), but after considerable pressure the EPA backed off of this expensive requirement.



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

2013 Water Quality Report

This report describes our 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

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 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. Wells #11, #9, and #1R were the most productive wells in 2013, and both are equipped with an emergency generator for operation during power outages. In 2013 we performed a seismic retrofit of our two South Reservoirs, greatly improving our ability to withstand earthquakes, and we installed a backup server and backup telemetry controls.

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

Due to the high quality water provided by our groundwater sources, the desire by our members to remain chemical free, and our extraordinary water quality Best Management Practices, we do not 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. Included is our 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. MCLs 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 more than 160 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	0.05 - 3.3	Jul 13	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Microbiological Contaminants							
Turbidity (NTU)	5	N/A	0.3	N/A	Jul 10	No	Iron or Manganese particles.
Radioactive Contaminants							
Gross Alpha	15	N/A	ND	ND	Apr 11	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits.
Radium 228 (pCi/L)	5	0	ND	ND	Apr 11	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	0.90	July 12	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead (ppm)	0.015	0	0.011	July 12	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 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.mtviewwater.com for more information.