

Water Quality Report

For Year 2023

Pole Road Water Association
6912 Hannegan Road #105
Lynden, WA 98264

Annual Report

The purpose of this report is to inform you about the quality of your drinking water. This report is required by the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). Our mission is to provide you with safe, reliable drinking water while maintaining operational and financial health. This report is a summary of the quality of water provided in 2023 and includes details about where your water comes from and how it compares to stringent standards set by regulatory agencies. If you want to learn more, you are encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting scheduled to be held on the first Monday of June at 7:00 pm at our conference room located at 6912 Hannegan Road #105, Lynden, Washington 98264.

YOUR WATER IS SAFE TO DRINK As you can see in the table on page 3, our system had no violations in 2023. While we have learned through our monitoring and testing that some substances have been detected, the EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels. We are proud to report that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State water quality standards.
The Board of Directors

SUMMER WATER SCHEDULE							June 1—September 30	Between 8 PM and 6 AM
<u>Sunday</u> Odd	<u>Monday</u> No Watering	<u>Tuesday</u> Even	<u>Wednesday</u> Odd	<u>Thursday</u> Even	<u>Friday</u> Odd	<u>Saturday</u> Even		

If customers do not voluntarily reduce water demand during these months, further conservation measures may be necessary including more outdoor water use restrictions and water rate increases.

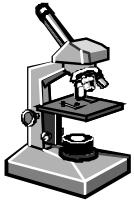
Water Conservation Tips

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference—try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers—a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
- Visit www.epa.gov/watersense for more information.



Your Water Source Your water comes from two well fields consisting of seven wells located on the Pole Road. These wells draw from a shallow, unconfined aquifer underlain by glacial sand and gravel. The water in the aquifer generally flows in a northerly direction toward the well fields. We monitor these wells regularly for potential contamination and maintain a wellhead (source) protection plan in conjunction with a Comprehensive Water System Management Program.



Tested for Quality. In order to ensure that your tap water is safe to drink the Pole Road Water Association routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. This monitoring includes testing for naturally occurring contaminants as well as pesticide and chemical contaminants resulting from human activities. We have also monitored for lead and copper in homes with copper plumbing and/or lead solder joints.

How Pure is Pure? All drinking water, *including bottled water*, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It is important to remember that the presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses 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: 1-800-426-4791.**

Corrosion Control. The EPA has special requirements for water systems when lead or copper levels at the tap exceed Action Levels. In 2008 the two new treatment facilities effectively reduced the corrosion in plumbing through adjusting the pH of the water. The Association now meets EPA's requirements by having reduced the lead and copper levels to within the acceptable levels that are determined to be safe by the EPA. We will continue to monitor for lead and copper to ensure that the treatment system is working properly.

Water conservation plays a big part in keeping water rates as low as possible because we must design and maintain the system to handle the highest use day of the year. The Association is required to set water conservation goals for demand side use by customers and supply side use due to unaccounted or lost water between the source and the customer meters. Our demand side goal is to reduce customer use by 1% or 3.5 gallons per day over 5 years. In 2011 we met our goal with customer use down by about 3%. As a reminder please avoid setting automatic sprinklers to start at 7 pm or midnight so everyone does not water their lawn at the same time. Our supply side goal is to reduce unaccounted for water to <5% in 5 years. Our unaccounted for water in 2023 was 8.3% which is below the State's requirements of 10%. We ask that customers continue to help by reporting unusual wet areas, especially during the dry season when leaks are easy to spot.

People With Health Problems. 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. More information about contaminants and the potential health effects can be obtained from the **Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791.**

Special Health Situations. Any health or special situations (dialysis, etc.) you are asked to please notify our office to help us avoid interruptions in your water service.



What You Should Know About Lead & Copper In Your Water

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than adults. Lead levels at your tap could be higher than at other homes because of plumbing materials. If you are concerned about lead levels in your water, you may wish to have your water tested.

Lead & Copper sampling at select residential water taps indicated that some homes on our system with copper plumbing may have elevated lead or copper levels. Samples were collected after the water had been standing in plumbing at least 6 hours. The detection of Lead and Copper at the source was negligible. Therefore the results indicate that our water is naturally corrosive due to the low pH and may leach metals when water stands in plumbing systems. Our new treatment facility raises the pH to minimize lead and copper contamination in residences and designed to bring us in compliance with Department of Health water quality standards.

You can reduce your lead and copper exposure by:

Flushing home plumbing if water has been standing in the pipes for more than 6 hours. Run the water until it is cold (about 30 – 60 seconds).

- Using only cold water for cooking, drinking, and making baby formula.
- Using only lead-free solder when making plumbing repairs.
- If you replace plumbing, use lead-free faucets and plumbing components. The US Safe Drinking Water Act requires faucets and plumbing components sold after August 6, 1998 to be "lead-free".

Year 2023 Water Quality Data

The table below lists the health related drinking water contaminants we detected during 2023. If we were not required to test for the contaminant during 2023, the most current results are listed.

Unless otherwise noted, the tables below show the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st of 2023. The State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than yearly because concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. We are not required to list contaminants for which there were no detections.

System ID # 68350C

Primary Contaminants Regulated at the Water Source

Detected Substance	Test Date	PRWA Detected Level	Action Level	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Unit Measurement	Violation ?	Typical Source of Contaminant
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (Site 1)	2023	4.53 – 5.7	5.0	10.0	ppm	No	Runoff from fertilizer
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (Site 2)	2023	3.24				No	

Primary Contaminants Regulated at Customer Tap

Detected Substance	Test Date	PRWA Detected Level	Action Level *	PRWA 90th Percentile	Unit Measurement	Violation ?	Typical Source of Contaminant
Copper (See Note #1)	9/2022	.0328-.679	1.3	1.6	ppm	No	Corrosion of plumbing
Lead (See Note #1)	9/2022	ND - .0051	0.015	.008	ppm	No	Corrosion of plumbing
THM - Total Trihalomethane	7/2023	.5	80.0	N/A	ug/l	No	Disinfection By Products
HAA (5) - Halo-Acetic Acids	7/2023	ND	60.0	N/A	ug/l	No	Disinfection By Products

Other System Specific Water Quality Parameters

Detected Substance	Test Date	PRWA Detected Level	Action Level	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Unit Measurement	Violation ?	Typical Source of Contaminant
Asbestos	8/5/15	.1190		7.0000	MFL	No	Decay of asbestos cement in water mains; Erosions of natural deposits.
Iron	7/2022	ND	0.3	0.3	ppm	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Manganese	7/2022	ND	0.05	0.05	ppm	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits

Terms and Abbreviations

MCL - Maximum Contaminant Level - 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.

AL - Action Level - The concentration level of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

ppm - parts per million - corresponds to one minute in 2 years or a penny in \$10,000.

MFL- millions of fibers per liter.

Note #1 - Ten sites were sampled. * Action Level—90% of samples must be below this level. The water quality to within EPA health standards.

Current Directors and Officers

Allen VanderVeen	President
Dan Noteboom	Vice President
Alene Parish	Secretary
Kendi Benson	Treasurer
Rory Routh	Director
Alex King	Director
Dan Turner	Director

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EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline
1-800-426-4791