2023 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

Owned and Operated by the Town of Cathlamet Public Works Department DOH System ID 11850D

This report is provided to all system users and is designed to inform you about the quality of your drinking water for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2023. The Town of Cathlamet is committed to supplying you with safe and dependable drinking water that meets or surpasses State and Federal Standards and achieves the highest standards of customer service. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility or quality, please contact our **Public Works Department at 360-795-3732**. To learn more, please attend a regular Town Council meeting held on the first and third Mondays of each month at 6 p.m. in the meeting room of the Cathlamet Town Hall located at 25 Broadway Street and via Zoom Meeting ID 789 428 4989, passcode 418781 or Call-in (206) 337-9723.

Water Source: Your drinking water comes from the Elochoman River and gets treated at the Town's filtration plant. We provide all the treated water to consumers in Cathlamet, and via Wahkiakum PUD to Puget Island. The water supply from the Elochoman River is adequate for our current and projected future demand. The water plant is functioning well, our fluoridation equipment was replaced in 2018, and water quality is very good.

Water Quality: To ensure that your water is clean and safe, we test for contaminants all year long. Your water is treated with chemicals that help reduce the turbidity (amount of suspended material); chlorine to kill potentially harmful bugs and fluoride to promote healthy teeth. The Department of Health (DOH) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribe regulations that limit the number of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. **We are proud to report that your water meets or exceeds all state and federal regulations.** While some contaminants were found in the water, the EPA has determined that your water is safe at these levels for you and your family. Keep in mind that the presence of contaminants does not mean the water is unsafe. MCLs are set at very stringent levels. A person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a million chance of having the described health effect. **See the table on page 3 for the most recent water sampling results.**

Important Note: Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk; however, some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population, including infants, the elderly, and/or those with compromised immune systems. Those individuals should consult their health care providers for advice regarding drinking water. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants or for more information about contaminants and potential health effects please call the **EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.**

Water Use Efficiency: Water systems have a goal of having 90% of water production metered to customers. The 10% goal that is not metered includes leaks, fire hydrant use, and anything that is not sold to customers. For 2022 our loss was 25.1% and in 2023 this number slightly decreased to 24.2%. Our three-year rolling average stands at 26.6%. Our telemetry system continues to degrade as our means of communication between the reservoir and treatment plant ages. We are working on replacing the telemetry system, but it is an expensive, time-consuming process as it requires an overhaul of much of the hardware and software in each location. We repaired several large leaks out the Elochoman Valley last June that reduced our water loss from 32.2% (May) and 26.6% (June) to an average of 15.1% for the period July through October (this also coincides with the timeframe in which our telemetry operates without many issues). We experienced a major mainline break near the end of November in which we lost an estimated 750,000-1,000,000 gallons in a little over an hour's time. As a smaller water system, a single large break or a few smaller leaks can have a rather sizeable impact on our overall water loss. As part of our efforts to improve accuracy, we are transitioning from mechanical meters to ultrasonic meters, which also utilize acoustic leak detection to help us identify and pinpoint leaks on the Town's side of the utility lines. At this time, we have replaced 89% of the meters in the system with the new ultrasonic acoustic leak detection.

Water Operations: The Cathlamet Water System staff is dedicated to providing top quality water to every user. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future. Please be careful when disposing of chemicals, medicines, and petroleum products. Think before you pour anything on the ground, into the storm drains or into the sewer system.

Leaks. Please remember to check your meter periodically for possible leaks (Is it spinning? Is it dry out, but your box is full of water?). Thanks to the help of observant customers, we continue to find leaks around town which has helped to reduce the amount of water lost in our system and saves on wasted chemicals and energy – ultimately, saving the customer money too. While we are committed to repairing and/or isolating all leaks as fast as we can, but not all leaks are created equal, and some may take longer to fix than others. Please know that any and all leaks reported to us are investigated, so don't be shy in reporting suspected leaks!

Water is a valuable resource. You will be amazed at how a little drip adds up over time. This chart, from buffalowater.org shows the water loss from really small leaks.

WATER LOSS IN GALLONS					
Leak this Size	Loss Per Day	Loss Per Month	Leak this Size	Loss Per Day	Loss Per Month
.	120	3,600	●	6,640	199,520
•	300	10,800	●	6,964	209,520
•	693	20,790	●	8,424	252,720
•	1,200	36,000	●	9,585	296,640
•	1,920	57,600	●	11,324	339,720
•	3,095	92,880	●	12,750	361,600
•	4,295	128,880	●	14,952	448,560

Meters & Shutoff Valves. To help us be as efficient as we can, please take a moment to locate your water meter and shutoff valve. The Town's shutoff is located in the meter box prior to the meter – this is not the customer's shut off, so please don't utilize it as such. At a minimum, every customer should have at least one shutoff valve at your home. Test it. If your shut off does not work install a new one. If your meter box is filled with dirt, clean it out so you can find that valve. Please, I repeat, please, DO NOT BURY and/or cover your meter box or any other Town valve boxes/lids. Also, please help by keeping the box accessible to you and to Town staff by keeping the grounds maintained around it. While many services are now radio metered, it is crucial that you do not think it's now OK to bury or hide your meter box. In the event of a water emergency, neither the Public Works crew nor the homeowner will want to waste precious time probing for wherever your meter box may be located, and then have to dig out the area to gain access to the shutoff. If you need assistance locating your meter box location, please contact Public Works.

To save everyone some time and disruption, if you are replacing the line from your meter to the house, please let us know; perhaps we can do some work on our end at the same time. If you do replace your supply line, please make sure that you install a shut off valve in a place convenient for you.

Backflow Prevention Devices. If you have a system to automatically water your grass or livestock, by plumbing code you MUST have a backflow prevention device and most of these are required to be certified annually. If there is any potential of water flowing back into our system (think siphon or a hose draped into any water source that could flow back to the mains with a loss in pressure) then you need that backflow device. These range from simple air gaps to engineered devices. Most are fairly common and thus relatively inexpensive.

Water Deposits. Rarely something will happen that may cause deposits on the inside of our water main supply lines to become agitated and color your water at home. Usually, such changes in color are a result of high flow usage from a fire hydrant or leak. Rest assured, although the water looks unpalatable, it is OK. Please let us know if this happens in your home and we will investigate. Some of these particles are so fine that water can take days to settle out. Often the quickest solution is to call us, and we can flow hydrants and/or let your water run until clear.

Lead. There has been much concern nationally about lead in drinking water. In Cathlamet and most of Washington State, lead in drinking water comes primarily from materials and components used in household plumbing. The more time water has been sitting in pipes, the more dissolved metals such as lead, it may contain. Elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially in pregnant women and young children.

To help reduce potential exposure to lead: for any drinking water tap that has not been used for 6 hours or more, flush water through the tap until the water is noticeably colder before using for drinking and/or cooking (30 seconds to two (2) minutes.) You can use the flushed water for watering plants, washing dishes, or general cleaning. Most new houses and remodeled homes will have no lead in the plumbing systems. Only use water from the cold-water tap for drinking, cooking, and especially for making baby formula. Hot water is likely to contain higher levels of lead. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water is available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or online at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Fluoride. In 2016 the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) for drinking water was amended to lower the amount of fluoride that is added to our water. The reason for this is that fluoride is available from other sources now, like toothpaste, mouthwash, and products made from fluoridated water. Science shows it is crucial to the development of strong teeth that children have fluoride and water is the best source of this. Children should

never swallow toothpaste (a pea sized amount is enough to brush teeth, despite what the commercials show being placed on a toothbrush.) In large water systems the public health savings are that each dollar spent in fluoridation saves $38 in dental care and the cost of an entire lifetime of fluoridation is less than the cost of a single cavity. The only way to remove fluoride from your drinking water is with a reverse osmosis filter: think long before making that investment.

TEST RESULTS						
Contaminant	**Violation**	**Level Detected**	**Unit**	**MCLG**	**MCL**	**Typical Sources**
Total Coliform Bacteria	**N**	**Present - 0; Absent - 24**	**Count**	**0**	**Presence/ Absence**	**Tested twice per month for 24 tests per year**
Total Organic Carbon	**N**	**Low = < .50; High = 1.80; Avg = 0.82**	**ppm**	**N/A**	**N/A**	**Organic materials in source water**
Pesticides	**N**	**ND**	**ppm/ ppt**	**0**	**Not detected**	**Herbicides & pesticides used industrially or on private homeowner's property.**
Chlorine	**N**	**Low = 0.50; High = 2.93; Avg = 1.24**	**ppm**	**MRDLG = 4**	**MRDL = 4**	**Water additive used to control microbes**
Fluoride	**N**	**Low = 0.79; High = 1.36; Avg = 1.00**	**ppm**	**4**	**4**	**Erosion of natural deposits; water additive to promote strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer & aluminum factories**
Lead (2022)	**N**	**Low = <.001 High = .003**	**ppb**	**0**	**15**	**Corrosion of household plumbing systems: erosion of natural deposits.**
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	**N**	**0.79**	**ppb**	**10**	**10**	**Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits**
Volatile Organic Compounds	**N**	**ND**	**ppt**	**n/a**	**varies**	**Byproduct of industry discharge, etc.**
Haloacetic Acids (HAA)	**N**	**14,400**	**ppt**	**n/a**	**MCL = 60,000**	**Byproduct of drinking water disinfection**
TTHM (trihalomethanes)	**N**	**26,000**	**ppt**	**n/a**	**80,000**	**Byproduct of drinking water disinfection**
Turbidity	**N/A**	**Max: .10; Avg: .03**	**NTU**	**n/a**	**0.3**	**Cloudiness of water 0.03 NTU represents the highest average monthly turbidity measured every 4 hours of filter production.**

Non-Detects (ND) - laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

Parts per million (ppm) - one part per million (or 1 drop in 1 million gallons), ppb is parts per billion (or 1 drop in 1 billion gallons), ppt is parts per trillion (or 1 drop in 1 trillion gallons)

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) - a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity > 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) - the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) - the highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) - the level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment & are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present. If coliforms were found in more samples than allowed this would be a warning of potential problems.

Total Organic Carbon (TOC) has no health effects. However, TOC provides a medium for the formation of disinfection byproducts (see Volatile Organic Compounds). A higher TOC level can result in more opportunity for VOC levels to rise which in turn can cause health impacts.

Herbicides/Pesticides: May come from a variety of sources such as agriculture urban storm water runoff & residential uses.

Chlorine. Some people who use water containing chlorine well in excess of the MRDL could experience irritating effects to their eyes & nose. Some people who drink water containing chlorine in excess of the MRDL could experience stomach discomfort.

Fluoride. Some people who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the MCL over many years could get bone disease, including pain & tenderness of the bones. Children may get mottled teeth.

Lead. Infants & children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development, including slight deficits in attention span & learning abilities. Adults who drink water with excess lead over many years cold develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

Nitrate. Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath & blue-baby syndrome.

Volatile Organic Compounds: Including synthetic & volatile organic chemicals which are by-products of industrial processes & petroleum production, & can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, & septic systems.

Haloacetic Acids (HAA). Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes). Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, & may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Turbidity. Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection & provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, & parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea & associated headaches.

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