



Forks Municipal Water
City of Forks
2019
Report to Consumers on Water Quality
PWS ID #26000E

Dear Customer:

We are pleased to present a summary of the quality of the water provided to you during the year 2019. The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires that utilities issue an annual "Consumer Confidence" report to customers in addition to the other notices that may be required by law. This report details where our water comes from, what it contains, and the risks our water testing and treatment are designed to prevent. Forks Municipal Water is committed to providing you with a safe and reliable supply of water. Informed consumers are our best allies in maintaining safe drinking water.

The bottom line: Does Forks City water meet all federal and state regulations for drinking water? Absolutely.

We encourage public interest and participation in our community's decisions affecting drinking water. Regular city council meetings occur on the second and fourth Mondays of each month, at City Hall at 7:30 p.m. The public is welcome.

Find out more about Forks Municipal Water at www.forkswashington.com.

Overview

In 2019 Forks Municipal Water distributed just over 171.2-million gallons of water to the Forks area.

Water conservation: It is important to conserve water when possible. In 2017, 2018, and 2019 we implemented voluntary water restrictions, but 2015 and 2016 water restrictions were mandatory.

Call Before You Dig: It is very important to call 811 before you dig. We have had water mains broken by construction equipment in past years when people forgot, or chose not, to call 811 to have utility lines located. Those water-main breaks resulted in a considerable amount of water storage loss.

Cross connections: A cross connection is an actual or potential link between the potable water supply and a source of contamination (sewage, chemicals, gas, or any non-potable water). The most common cross connections around the house are caused by garden hoses. If a water main is broken, it can result in a phenomenon known as backsiphonage. Backsiphonage occurs when a partial vacuum is created in a piping system and causes flow in the opposite direction of normal flow. If a property owner has a hose hooked up to a potable water source and the opposite open end is submerged in a contaminant (chemicals, pond, pool, hot tub, fertilizer or soap sprayer, etc.), that contaminant could be siphoned back into the water system if a water main is broken. There have been many cases of the public becoming ill due to cross connections. Commercial properties often have backflow preventers installed and regularly inspected. If you are concerned about a possible cross connection, please contact the City.

Water leak repair: We understand that emergencies occur, but it is always best to have the City turn off water at the meter for leak repairs. Turning off water incorrectly may cause damage to the meter, valve, or pipes. Property owners or residents can protect themselves from any liability or costly repairs associated with such damage by having the City turn off the water for them. The Water Department can be reached at 360-374-5412, ext. 238 during normal business hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. M-F). For after-hours emergencies call 360-374-2223, ext. 4.

Water main installation: Water mains are replaced or added throughout the year due to age and City growth. Please use caution around construction zones. One of our goals is always to limit the impact of such work on home and business owners as much as possible, but unforeseen circumstances do occur. Please feel free to contact the Water Department with any concerns. We will do our best to address them in a timely manner.

Water tank rehabilitation: In 2018 the City of Forks received a USDA loan for water tank rehabilitation. The work began in November 2018 and was completed in September 2019. The 1,000,000- and 750,000-gallon tanks were resurfaced and new telemetry was installed on the 750,000-gallon tank. Telemetry tells the pumps to turn on when the water level in the tank drops to a specified level.

2019 projects: In 2019 several projects were completed and started. The City has repaired water leaks responsible for 1,801,422 gallons of lost water. The Fern Hill Road/Main Street water main was completed. This project consisted of replacing 800 feet of 1½" galvanized water line with new 6" C900 water line. Well house 4 was also rebuilt after being damaged by a fallen tree. The City also received a drought-relief grant from the Department of Ecology to add an emergency well to our system and to purchase a new water trailer with tanks that will be used to deliver water in bulk to smaller water systems in emergency conditions. The work on the new emergency well began in December.

Our water comes from five wells—well #1 AHM638 WW (S01), well #2 AHM642 WW (S02), well #3 AHM639 WW (S03), well #4 AHM640 WW (S04), well #5 AHM641 WW (S05); Wells 1, 2, and 3 make up Wellfield S06 while Wells 4 and 5 make up Wellfield S07—that are located from the Forks water compound at 300 Lupine Ave. to the radio station at 190 Cedar Ave. The susceptibility rating for our wells is classified as moderate by the Washington State Department of Health (DOH). Our water passes all state health standards for potable water as it is pumped from the ground. To ensure that it stays clean and safe, we add a very small amount of chlorine to kill any bacteria that may have entered the system accidentally, such as when a water main breaks or a backflow incident occurs. Chlorinated systems are required to maintain just a trace of chlorine throughout the distribution system. We try to maintain a minimum of .2 parts per million (ppm), which is comparable to one inch in 80 miles or one minute in ten years. In addition, we take at least six routine water samples per month and have them tested by an accredited lab for contamination by microbes such as E. coli and other coliforms. According to lab tests performed in February 2018, the water we pump from the ground has .05 mg/L of naturally occurring fluoride. Until May 15, 2020, we also added very small amounts of fluoride. The Washington State Department of Health states in **WAC 246-290-460**, "Where fluoridation is practiced, the optimal fluoride concentration is 0.7 mg/L." The City's objective has been a fluoride level between .5 and .7 mg/L. We tested the fluoride level in the water every day at two different locations, and sent two water samples to an accredited lab each month to ensure compliance with all federal and state fluoride regulations. The City of Forks, under the approval of the Mayor, discontinued fluoride treatment on May 15, 2020. The system is getting harder to maintain due to age and inconsistent distribution. We will re-evaluate at a later date to determine whether the City will treat the public water supply with fluoride in the future. Additional testing includes annual tests for nitrate contamination. Once every three years we test for over 60 volatile organic chemicals (VOCs), including styrene, butylbenzene, and trihalomethanes such as chloroform, as well as 45 synthetic organic chemicals including naphthalene, pyrene, and PCBs. We further have our water tested for a minimum of 24 inorganic chemicals such as nickel, iron, and sodium once every nine years.

In 2019 Forks Municipal Water tested the drinking water for the following at two separate and isolated locations: nitrates, VOCs, inorganic chemicals, and disinfection by-products. All tests performed passed with good results.

The Washington State Department of Health reduced the monitoring requirements for inorganic (IOC), volatile organics (VOC), and synthetic organics (SOC) because all sources are not at risk of contamination. The last samples taken for IOC were 2017, VOC were 2015 and 2016, 2013 for herbicides (SOC), and 2001 and 2006 for pesticides (SOC). The state also granted waiver for soil fumigants, dioxin, endoathal, glyphosate, diquat, and insecticides.

An important question about water—Is water that meets federal drinking water standards absolutely safe?

Safety is relative not absolute. For example, an aspirin or two may help a headache, but taking an entire bottle at once could result in death. So, is aspirin safe? When setting drinking water standards, federal regulatory agencies use the concept of **reasonable risk**, not no risk. Completely risk-free water would cost too much. Therefore, the answer to the original question must be no, drinking water is not *absolutely* safe. However, the likelihood of becoming sick from drinking water that meets federal standards is typically as low as one chance in a million.

One difficulty the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has when trying to determine reasonable risk relates to the concept known as **susceptible population**. Not all people who drink water are the same in terms of health. Some people are more susceptible to illnesses than others. For example, only babies three months old or younger are affected by nitrates in drinking water, so for that contaminant babies are considered a susceptible population. They are more likely to become ill from high nitrate levels in their drinking water. The standard for nitrates, therefore, was selected to protect these infants. It is not always easy to identify populations susceptible to various contaminants. The elderly, those undergoing cancer treatment, babies, and those who are HIV positive, for example, are often considered susceptible populations. Federal regulatory agencies must balance the risks to all these groups with the cost of water treatment to arrive at standards that protect as many people as possible and can be afforded. This policy is commonly described as "the greatest good for the greatest number".

REQUEST

Please do not plant trees or large shrubs over water mains or near water meters. We have had numerous water-main breaks caused by tree roots. These repairs are costly and time consuming, and often result in damage to lawns and other landscaping.

Distribution Water Quality

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Ranges of levels detected in 2019	Unit measurement	MCLG	MCL	Typical source
Total coliform bacteria	No	There were no coliforms present in the 73 samples taken in 2019	Present/ Absent	0	Zero	Naturally present in the environment
<i>E. coli</i>	No	There was no <i>E. coli</i> detected in the 73 samples taken in 2019	Present/ Absent	0	Zero	Human and animal fecal waste
Total trihalomethanes (chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane, bromoform)	No	3.1	ppb	NA	Total sum of 80	Typical by-products of chlorine disinfection of drinking water
Fluoride Residual	No	0.52–0.82	ppm		4	Naturally occurring or added
Chlorine Residual	No	SO6 .11–.48 SO7 .05–1.75	ppm	MRDLG 4	MRDL 4	Water additive used to control microbes

Source Water Quality

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Your water	Unit measurement	MCLG	MCL	Typical source
Nitrate – S06	No	0.69	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate – S07	No	0.73	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

The tables above show results of water quality testing for 2019.

Lead and Copper

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Your Water	Unit Measurement	AL	90 th Percentile	Samples > AL	Typical Source
Lead	No	.001–.003	ppm	15	.003	0 out of 20	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Copper	No	.02–.74	ppm	1.3	.74	0 out of 20	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

The table above shows results of water quality testing in the distribution for 2018.

Key to terms used in the table and throughout this document

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 possible 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.

Minimum detection level (MDL): The minimum level of a contaminant at or above which the testing laboratory must report detection.

Maximum residual disinfectant level (MRDL): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that the addition of disinfectant is necessary to control 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.

AL: Action level

MFL: Million fibers per liter

ppm: parts per million

ppb: parts per billion

SDRL: State Department of Health minimum reporting level

Additional required health information

SWAP map data language

Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) data has been compiled for all community PWSs in Washington. SWAP data for our PWS is online at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/DrinkingWater/SourceWaterProtection/Assessment.aspx>. If you don't have access to the Web, we encourage you to use the Internet service available through the public library system.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes limits on the amount of certain contaminants that may be contained in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water. Drinking water, including bottled water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). 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 filters out naturally occurring minerals and radioactive material, and may pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- (A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- (B) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharge, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- (C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources, such as agricultural applications, storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- (D) Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organics, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and may also be released by gas stations, or come from urban storm water runoff and septic systems.
- (E) Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants that may be contained in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must meet the same protections for public health.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in their drinking water than is the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, those who have undergone organ transplants, those with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, as well as some elderly people and infants can be at particular risk from infections. These people should seek advice about their drinking water from their health care providers. EPA and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate ways of reducing the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). This report was prepared by Forks Municipal Water. For more information, call Forks Municipal Water at (360) 374-5412. Learn more about the Forks Municipal Water system at www.forkswashington.com.

Office of Drinking Water Lead Statement

In Washington State, lead in drinking water comes primarily from materials and components used in household plumbing. The longer water sits 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, flush water through any water tap that has not been used for six hours or more until the water is noticeably colder before using for drinking or cooking. The flushed water can be used to water plants, wash dishes, and general cleaning. 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 the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or online at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Este informe contiene informacion muy importante. Traduscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.