



*Northeast Sammamish Sewer and Water District
Summer 2009 Newsletter
2008 Water Quality and Water Use Efficiency Report*

May 2009

Water Use Efficiency

In September 2003, the Washington State Legislature passed the Municipal Water Supply Efficiency Requirements Act. The Water Efficiency Rule requires all municipal water suppliers to set water efficiency goals and provide annual performance reports on achieving these goals to customers and the Washington State Department of Health.

The District has adopted the following water use efficiency goals:

- Achieve a reduction in water use per ERU of five percent by the year 2021, with the average of years 2001 through 2005 as the base. This reduction will result in an average demand reduction from 270 to 257 gallons per day per ERU by 2021.
- Increase awareness among all water users of the value and importance of



conserving water and of the methods available to achieve reductions in water use.

The goals were adopted in April 2008. The 2006 through 2008 average cubic feet per month per residential equivalent decreased nearly 9% from the 2001 through 2005 average. The District continues to fund education programs, print conservation tips in our newsletters, have an increasing block rate structure, provide rebates for water efficient clothes washers, meter sources and customer services, provide customer bills showing a consumption history, provide water conservation kits to our customers and maintain a low leakage rate.

Help Prevent Clogged Sewer Pipes and Pumps and Protect Your Home

The District sewage system consists of many pipes and pumps station. One of the biggest maintenance problems the District has is clogged pipes and pumps. Clogged pipes and pumps can result in sewage backups into homes. Clogs occur when garbage is placed in the sewer system. Customers can help by not disposing of garbage such as disinfectant wipes, paper towels, dental floss, diapers, feminine hygiene products, contraceptives, rags and other solid materials into toilets.

Application for 2009 Senior Low Income Discount

The District offers a Senior Low Income Discount Program, which provides reduced sewer and water rates for customers meeting the income guidelines for the Seattle/King County area published by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). If you are at

least 62 years of age and your total 2008 combined income was less than amounts shown below, you may qualify for the reduced rates.

Size of Family	Total Household Income Not to Exceed
1	\$ 29,500
2	\$ 33,700
3	\$ 37,950
4	\$ 42,150

Applications will be received during the month of May and the discount period begins June 1st. Applications received after June 1st will be effective with the next billing period following receipt of the application.

Forms are available at the District office or you may download the application from our web page at www.nesswd.org and click on forms. Forms must be returned along with a copy of your 2008 tax return and a copy of photo identification.

If you have any questions, please contact the District office at 425-868-1144.

Backflow Device Testing

Customers are reminded that their annual backflow device testing reports are due in the District's office by May 31st.

Water conservation

With summer fast approaching, the District's water usage will rise dramatically. We will pump more water in the summer months than the other eight months of the year. Increased water usage is mainly due to customers watering their lawns and plants. Customers are reminded of our conservation oriented rate structure,

which has escalating rates for higher usage. Here are a few tips on watering wisely

Outdoor:

- Do not water during the sun's hottest hours - roughly 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Three quarters of your water is lost to evaporation. It can also harm plants.
- If you have an automated sprinkler system, make sure the controller is properly set to achieve minimum watering levels.
- Make sure your sprinkler system is in good repair. Fix leaks and adjust sprinkler heads to eliminate any over-spray on paved areas or buildings.
- Mix compost into the soil when planting. Good soil absorbs water easily, drains well and retains moisture.
- Do not water when windy.
- Use a mulching lawn mower. Leave clippings on the lawn.
- Mulch root areas to help retain moisture around plantings.

Indoor:

- Run dishwasher only when full.
- Check laundry water level. Don't use full water level for half loads.
- Do not leave water running when brushing teeth and shaving. . If the water is running, roughly five gallons per minute is wasted. Two minutes brushing teeth and three minutes shaving is 25 gallons down the drain.
- Check toilets for leaks.
- Install water-saving shower heads.
- Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator.
- Check faucets for leaks

Water Quality

Northeast Sammamish Sewer and Water District is proud of the fine drinking water it provides. This water quality report shows the source of our water, lists the results of our tests, and contains much important information about water and health. Northeast Sammamish Sewer and Water District will notify you immediately if there is any reason for concern about our water. This report is provided annually in conformance with a federal regulation requiring water utilities to provide this information. The report is technical in nature and we have tried to present it in a clear format.

Service Area

The District is bordered by Lake Sammamish on the west, the Redmond Fall-city Road on the North and approximately 239th on the east. Northeast Sammamish Sewer and Water District (NESSWD) overlaps with Sammamish Plateau Water and Sewer District (SPWSD) at the southern border. NESSWD's southern water boundary is approximately NE 20th while its southern sewer boundary varies from approximately NE 9th to NE 16th. Customers in this overlapping area receive a sewer bill from NESSWD and a water bill from SPWSD. The overlap exists because when the developments in this area were originally built, neither District had both water and sewer available in the area. In order for the customers to have both water and sewer, each District provided one of the utilities. This letter is being sent to all of the District's customers including customers in the overlapping area that receive water from SPWSD.

The water system's service area is 99% residential with no commercial accounts except for a couple condominium complexes, one school, Sahalee Country Club and the Sahalee Maintenance Association. There are no industrial customers in the District.

Water Sources

In 2008, the District distributed approximately 282 million gallons of water. The District is supplied entirely by ground water pumped from five wells. The District has three wells in the Evans Creek Valley Wellfield and two on the Plateau. These wells serve approximately 3,250 connections or about 10,400 people. The water is untreated.

The District adopted a wellhead protection plan in 1995. The plan defined wellhead protection areas (WHPA) for each well or wellfield. Contaminant inventory and risk assessments were then conducted for each WHPA. The risk assessment determined that all identified potential contaminant sources were of low risk to the District's wells. The Washington State Department of Health has assessed a low contaminant susceptibility rating to wells 3 and 4. The well field was assigned a moderate susceptibility rating. The District continues to monitor for new risks that may arise.

Storage

The District has three storage tanks. The District has two half-million gallon underground reservoirs and one three million-gallon tank that is shared with the District to the south, Sammamish Plateau Water and Sewer. Both Districts pump water into the tank from their wells and withdraw the water as needed. As a result, customers in Northeast Sammamish Sewer and Water District also receive water from Sammamish Plateau's sources. Please call Sammamish Plateau Water and Sewer for Water Quality Information on their sources at 425-392-6256.

New Storage Project and Arsenic Removal

The District's construction of a .5 million gallon water reservoir, a booster pump station and arsenic removal facility is near completion.

The reservoir is underground and the booster station and arsenic treatment facility are located above ground, on top of the reservoir. The arsenic removal facility is necessary to meet EPA requirements. The allowable maximum contaminant level for arsenic was reduced from 50 parts per billion (ppb) to 10 ppb. The District's water from its wells 3 and 4 occasionally exceeds this level. Water from wells 3 and 4 will be filtered with iron-based media. As water is filtered through the media, arsenic particles passively adsorb or adhere onto the iron surface without the use of chemical additives.

In addition to the construction of the facilities, the District is rerouting the water from Wells 3 and 4 directly to the arsenic removal facility. The arsenic will then be removed from the water before the water enters the distribution system. Wells 3 and 4 are currently being modified to pump to the different pressure zone. Once the wells are modified the reservoir, booster station and treatment facility will be operational.

Keeping Your Meter Clear

Our District requires clearance of two feet around the meter and six feet above. In addition to needing access to read the meters, the District needs access for any repairs or maintenance. The District is in the process of replacing existing meters with radio read meters, so it is especially important that District staff be able to access meter. Please ensure that the District has proper access. If the District has problems accessing your meter, you will be notified of the need to clear around the meter. If the meter is not

subsequently cleared by the homeowner, the

District will perform the clearing at a cost of \$75.

Health Information

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes limits on the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water.

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 that 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 (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 radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants (coliforms), such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture,

stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organics which are by products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants which 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 which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than is 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 guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline



(800-426-4791).

Board Meetings

The Board of Commissioners meets the first and third Thursday of each month at 3:00 p.m. at the District Office located at 3600 Sahalee Way NE Sammamish Sewer and Water District. Customers are welcome to attend these meetings.

Water Quality Tables

The following tables present the results of our 2008 water quality monitoring. Where tests are required less than annually, the most recent results for the monitoring period are presented.

The first table shows results of testing of our sources (wells). The second table shows additional test results. For more information about this report, contact Laura Keough at 425-868-1144.

Source Water Testing Results

Detected Regulated Substance	Evans Creek Well Field	Well 3	Well 4	MCL	MCLG	In Compliance?	Major Sources in Drinking Water/ Comments
Radioactive – 06/2006, 12/2006							
No radioactive contaminants were detected							
Inorganic and Physical :							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Inorganic & Physical Tests - Wells 3 & 4 05/2004, Evans Creek Well Field 05/2007 • Arsenic - Well 3 – 4/08, 6/08, 9/08 and 10/08; Well 4 10/2007; Evans Creek Well Field 05/2007 • Nitrates & Nitrites – Wells 3 & 4 04/2008, Evans Creek Well Field 05/2008 							
Arsenic (ppm)	.003	.010	.009	.010	N/A	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes. See below discussion.
<p>Arsenic: While your drinking water meets EPA’s standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA’s standard balances the current understanding of arsenic’s possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems. The District is near completion of an arsenic removal facility for wells 3 and 4.</p>							
Nitrate (ppm)	.72	ND	ND	10	10	Yes	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Synthetic Organic Contaminants (SOC’s) 08/1994 and Volatile Organic Contaminants (VOC’s) Wells 3 and 4 08/2006, Evans Creek Well Field 05/2007							
None were detected.							
<p>No SOC’s have ever been detected in the District’s water supply. The State Department of Health waived SOC sampling requirements through 2007. The District is now required to take two samples every three years.</p> <p>No VOC’s have ever been detected in the District’s water supply. The State Department of Health reduced VOC sampling requirements to one test per three-year compliance period.</p>							

Other Water Testing Results						
Test Performed						
Microbiological (Coliforms)						
Regulated Substance	Amount Detected	MCL	MCLG	In Compliance?		
Total Coliform Bacteria	0	1	0	Yes – Purveyors are required to collect coliform samples from representative points throughout the distribution system at least once a month. The number of necessary sample is based on population served and the District is required to collect nine samples per month. No coliforms were detected during the District’s routine sampling in 2008.		
Asbestos – 8/1998						
No asbestos was detected.						
Lead and Copper – 09/2008						
	90th Percentile	MCL	MCLG	# of Homes Exceeding Action Level	Range of Results	In Compliance?
Lead (ppb)	ND	AL = 15	0	0	ND	Yes
Copper (ppm)	.23	AL = 1.3	1.3	0	ND - .37	Yes
In March 1994 the District was allowed to reduce sampling frequency to once per year and the sample size to 20. Samples are first draw from residential housing. In 1997 the District was able to reduce the frequency to once every three years.						
No homes tested in the District have ever exceeded the action levels for lead and copper.						

Footnotes to Tables:

MCLG or Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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.

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

AL=Action Level

MFL = Million fibers per liter

pCi/l= picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

ppm= parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)

ND – None detected

n/a – Not applicable

ppb – parts per billion or micrograms per liter