



City of Langley

2009 Consumer Confidence Report

June 2010

CONTENTS

- Water Saver Challenge
- 2009 Water Quality Report
- From the Desk of Mayor Paul Samuelson

Questions about this report?

Contact:

Challis Stringer
 Director of Public Works
 (360) 221-4246 ext.13
 pubwks@langleywa.org

**SIGN-UP BY
 FRIDAY, JULY 9th
 2010 Water Saver
 Challenge**

Join the 2010 Water Saver Challenge!

SEE IF YOU CAN USE LESS WATER THIS SUMMER than you used last year! The City of Langley's single largest electric expense is to pump and treat water. Join this summer's effort to reduce our city's energy footprint by taking part in the **2010 Water Saver Challenge**. Save money on your water bill at the same time! Sign up for the challenge; here is how it works:

1. **Sign up by Friday, July 9th** – Email your name and address to pubwks@langleywa.org or sign-up at the city hall front desk (M – TH, 9 AM – 5 PM). *If you and two of your neighbors sign-up together*, you will also be entered into the Neighbor-to-Neighbor category (send one email or have one person sign-up at the front desk with all the names and addresses).
2. **Save water this summer** – Save as much water as possible using the water saving tips and resources available at the web link below, and pick up a water conservation kit at City Hall. The Public Works Department will analyze your water usage this summer (July 9th – August 31st) to calculate the percent reduction in gallons used from the previous summer.
3. **Be Recognized** – All participants will be recognized, with special recognition for the top three water saver individuals and Neighbor-to-Neighbor participants. Recognition will be given on the city website, at a city council meeting, and in the newspaper.

Check out the **Top 5 Water Saving Tips** on the city website:

www.langleywa.org/whats-new.html

Water Turn On/Off at Your Meter

Remember to contact the Public Works Department for water turn-on and turn-off at your water meter. Call if you need your water turned off to repair a leak, because you are leaving for an extended period of time, or for other reasons. Turn off/on charges will apply in most cases:

- During city business hours \$10
- After city business hours \$30
- Penalty for non-City approved turn on/off \$50

Before turning off/on your water contact Public Works!

(360) 221-4246



Challis digging a trench to repair a water leak

2009 Water Quality Report

The City of Langley is pleased to present the 2009 Annual Water Quality Report. This report informs you about the quality of the water that the City of Langley provided last year. Included are details on where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards. This report covers state required information and is a valuable service to our water customers who depend on the City's water system.

Your drinking water is highly regulated by the EPA and is tested regularly. Keeping pace with upgraded water testing and more stringent federal standards is a challenge but one that the City of Langley strongly supports. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe source of drinking water.

Our Water System

The City of Langley is a water utility of 987 connections. Our water system consist of 3 wells, an additional emergency well and a storage tank, which are located west of Island County Fairgrounds, in our watershed area well field. After the water is drawn from the wells we add disinfectant (chlorine) to protect you against microbial contaminants. The Mayor and City Council Members work with a Director of Public Works and the Utility Supervisor, who are certified water operators, to bring you good quality water.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the City's water utility, your water, or this report, please contact the Public Works Department. In a water emergency, please call 911.



Rob repairing a water leak.

Presence of Contaminants in Drinking 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or looking on the website at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/>

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, radio-active material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water before it is chlorinated include:

- Microbial contaminants, 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 stormwater 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 and residential uses.
- Radioactive contaminants, which are naturally occurring.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

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. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations.

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/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.



City of Langley water leak.

*EPA's Safe
Drinking Water
Hotline*

1-800-426-4791

Website:

[www.epa.gov/
safewater/](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/)

Water Quality Data

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2009 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1 through December 31, 2009. The state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old.



Tim getting ready to flag

Inorganic Contaminants	MCL	MCLG	Langley Water	Range of Detections	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Sources of Contaminant
Nitrate as nitrogen (ppm)	10	10	2.38	ND - 2.38	2009	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use
Arsenic (ppb)	10	0	9.2	9.2	2009	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards
Lead & Copper	MCL/AL	MCLG	Langley Water	Range of Detections	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Sources of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	15	0	.82	ND-5	2008	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing system
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	.30	.036-.52	2008	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing system

Terminology

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's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

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

AL (Action Level): the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

ND (Not Detected)

ppm (parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)): about the same as 1/2 an aspirin tablet dissolved in a bathtub full (50 gallons of water).

ppb (parts per billion or micrograms per liter): about the same as 1 dissolved aspirin in a 100,000 gallon swimming pool).

Additional Information

Why does the taste and odor of the water sometime differ? Water naturally varies in taste and odor at different times of the year. Taste and odor problems can also come from new or old pipelines, plumbing fixtures or changes in water quality. Customers may notice changes during severe winter storms, when reservoirs are low, or during hot weather. The City of Langley closely monitors such changes to ensure they do not affect the safety of the water.

Water Security: While Washington State's Division of Drinking Water has never been lax regarding this issue, they have implemented more stringent guidelines to be sure that all that can be done is being done to protect your water quality. Four topics the State is focused on are: 1) Emergency Response, 2) Sanitary Surveys, 3) Operator Certifications, and 4) Enforcement. The City of Langley supports the Department of Health in these efforts and continues to do all we can to maintain good quality water.

Water Use Efficiency

In 2009 the City gave out fifty free Water Conservation Kits. The kits included: toilet leak detection tablets, low-flow shower heads, low-flow kitchen sink faucets, and a low-flow faucet adapter for a non-kitchen faucet. We also went from a 16% loss of unaccounted water in 2008, to only 5% unaccounted water loss in 2009.

Conclusion

Through water monitoring and testing we have learned that some elements have been detected. The EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels. Every month our system is tested for Fecal Coliform Bacteria. All water samples came back from the lab with a good report. We are proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements.

Department of Health
Drinking Water website:
www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/



Bryan investigating a water leak



112 2nd Street
PO Box 366
Langley, WA 98260

FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
LANGLEY, WA
PERMIT NO. 18

IMPORTANT INFORMATION INSIDE

- 2010 Water Saver Challenge!
- 2009 Water Quality Report

VISIT US ON THE WEB
www.langleywa.org

From the Desk of Mayor Paul Samuelson Behind the Scenes at City Hall

Behind the scenes, 24/7, the Public Works Department manages the City's water, sewer and stormwater systems, streets, parks and buildings. Even for a small city it is a big job. The Director of Public Works, Challis Stringer, has been working with her staff to make improvements in managing the city's utilities. Some of the 2009 highlights are:

- **In-house water system management:** Bringing the management of the city water system in-house is saving the city money and provides more day-to-day control of the system. All public works staff have obtained water department manager certifications. This level of cross-training means a quicker response to emergencies and routine service needs.
- **Improving Water Chlorination Safety:** The City Council recently approved a

proposal to change the water chlorination system from gas to tablet. Given the close proximity of the water pump house to the Fairgrounds and the Langley Middle School, this change provides a safer environment.

- **Water Testing Lab Accreditation:** The City's water testing laboratory has been accredited by the Washington State Department of Ecology to test drinking water for bacteria. It is the only accredited laboratory on Whidbey Island and will be able to generate revenue through its testing services.
- **2009 Wastewater Treatment Plant Outstanding Performance Award:** For the second year in a row, Langley has achieved full compliance with the state discharge permit standards. Less than 30% of the plants statewide received this honor. Congratulations and thanks!

MAYOR'S SUMMER TIP

**Join the
2010 Water Saver
Challenge**

**Look inside to find out
how to sign-up in the
Neighbor-to-Neighbor
category!**



Randi repairing a service line