A letter from Mayor Dan Pike

Pay Your Utility Bill Online

For information on how to get involved, visit the Lake Whatcom Management website at: www.lakewhatcom.whatcomcounty.org

Definite Substances

Distribution by Property Type

- Thirteen residential homes, 104 ppb.
- Nine of these homes have lead levels that exceed the Washington State Water Resource Center's (WRRC) MCL of 20 ppb.
- Three of these homes have lead levels that exceed the mandatory MCL of 10 ppb.

Average: 10 ppb
Average: 104 ppb
Average: 20 ppb
Average: 10 ppb

The Lake Whatcom watershed is within the city limits, which today leaves the majority of the watershed less protected. The health of this resource continues to be tremendously important to the County. The health of this Reservoir is the source of drinking water for nearly 96,000 residents of Whatcom County. Rollingstone resident Al S. writes to mayor Dan Pike: ‘We are in the heart of this problem, which means our residents are in the production and distribution phase of water. We need to take immediate action to protect the lake by following water quality guidelines at the household and community levels. Spillage of water that affects our safety and health is not acceptable in our community. We need to protect this essential resource.

More information about contaminants and potential health effects:

- Barium: not detected
- Chlordane: below MCL
- Chloroform: below MCL
- Chromium: below MCL
- Copper: below MCL
- Cyanide: below MCL
- Dinitrophenol: below MCL
- Ethylene glycol: below MCL
- Formaldehyde: below MCL
- Lead: MCL of 15 ppb
- Manganese: below MCL
- Mercury: below MCL
- Nitrate: below MCL
- Nitrous oxide: below MCL
- Organochlorine pesticides: below MCL
- Perfluorooctane sulfonate: below MCL
- Perfluorooctanoic acid: below MCL
- Polychlorinated biphenyl: below MCL
- Sulfate: below MCL
- Teflon: below MCL
- Tyzzer's bacterial infections: below MCL
- Tungsten: below MCL
- Uranium: below MCL
- Volatile organic chemicals: below MCL
- Xylenes: below MCL

Definitions

- Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant that is allow by EPA drinking water regulations
- Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that exposure to this level of a contaminant may pose a risk to health
- Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The highest level of a contaminant that the EPA believes is achievable through the best available treatment technology
- MCLs: The level of a contaminant in drinking water that health experts believe is safe for human consumption over a lifetime of exposure

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, may be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater, agricultural practices, and septic systems.

• Barium: not detected
• Chloride: 1,500 ppb
• Chloroform: below MCL
• Copper: 6 ppb
• Cyanide: below MCL
• Dinitrophenol: below MCL
• Ethylene glycol: below MCL
• Formaldehyde: below MCL
• Lead: 15 ppb
• Manganese: below MCL
• Mercury: below MCL
• Nitrate: below MCL
• Nitrous oxide: below MCL
• Organochlorine pesticides: below MCL
• Perfluorooctane sulfonate: below MCL
• Perfluorooctanoic acid: below MCL
• Polychlorinated biphenyl: below MCL
• Sulfate: below MCL
• Teflon: below MCL
• Tyzzer's bacterial infections: below MCL
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More information about water quality contact: Supervisor Peg Weddell at 710-7809

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The City of Bellingham is committed to providing clean, safe drinking water to its residents. Ensuring clean, safe drinking water is a top priority for the City of Bellingham.

But the City cannot do this alone. Community responsibility that depends on the involvement of individuals, businesses and other governmental agencies.

As you can see, the data show that we, as an entire community, have work to do to protect the source of our drinking water.

A Troubling Upward Trend

Above: Chlorophyll in Lake Whatcom as published 5/2011

###chlorophyll###

####2010 Water Quality Report####

This report is a requirement of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. It provides you with a summary of drinking water monitoring results that show the City meets drinking water standards established by federal and state laws to protect human health.

Clean, Safe Drinking Water

In 2010, the City of Bellingham took more than 7,800 samples from our water—the Lake Whatcom Reservoir—analysis, it becomes more difficult and costly to meet these standards.

One of many things we measure to determine the health of the lake is chlorophyll.