Water Quality Report

For Year 2024

Visit us at www.joelouiewater.com

Joe Louie Water Association
P.O. Box 684,
Everson, WA 98247

The purpose of this report is to inform you about the quality of your drinking water. **This report is required by the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).** Our mission is to provide you with safe, reliable drinking water while maintaining operational and financial health. This report is a summary of the quality of water provided in 2024 and includes details about where your water comes from and how it compares to stringent standards set by regulatory agencies. If you want to learn more, you are encouraged to attend our regularly scheduled Annual Meeting held on the 1st Tuesday in May at 7:00 pm at the JLWA office conference room at 6912 Hannegan Road, Suite 105, Lynden, Washington 98264.

YOUR WATER IS SAFE TO DRINK As you can see in the table on page 3, our system had no violations in 2024. While we have learned through our monitoring and testing that some substances have been detected, the EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels. We are proud to report that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State water quality standards.

Board of Directors

SUMMER WATER SCHEDULE June 1—September 30 Between 8 PM and 6 AM

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Odd	**No Watering**	Even	Odd	Even	Odd	Even

If customers do not voluntarily reduce water demand during these months, further conservation measures may be necessary including more outdoor water use restrictions and water rate increases.

Water Conservation Tips

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 250 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference—try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers—a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
- Visit www.epa.gov/watersense for more information.

Your Water Source

Your water comes from a well field consisting of three wells located on the Mission Road south of the city limits of Everson. These wells draw from a shallow, unconfined aquifer underlain by glacial sand and gravel. The water in the aquifer flows in a northerly direction toward the well field. We maintain a wellhead (source) protection plan in conjunction with a Small Water System Management Program.

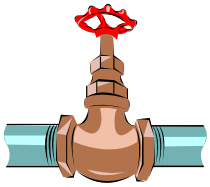
Tested for Quality. In order to ensure that your tap water is safe to drink the Joe Louie Water Association routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. This monitoring includes testing for naturally occurring contaminants as well as pesticide and chemical contaminants resulting from human activities. We have also monitored for lead and copper in homes with copper plumbing and/or lead solder joints.

How Pure is Pure? All drinking water, ***including bottled water***, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It is important to remember that the presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the 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: 1-800-426-4791.**

Water Use Efficiency. Water Associations are required to prepare a Water Use Efficiency Program which includes setting goals for wise use of water. The Association demand side goal to reduce customer use by 1% or 3.5 gallons per day over six years has been reached. The Association has set its supply side goal to reduce unaccounted for water to 7% over six years. In 2024 we were at 2.9%. Unaccounted for water is primarily attributed to undetected leaks. The Association continues to work on reducing unaccounted for water.

Special Health Situations. Any health or special situations (dialysis, etc.) you are asked to please notify our office to help us avoid interruption in your water service.

People with Health Problems. 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. More information about contaminants and the potential health effects can be obtained from the **Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791.**



What You Should Know About Lead & Copper In Your Home. Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than adults. Lead levels at your tap could be higher than at other homes because of plumbing materials. If you are concerned about lead levels in your water, you may wish to have your water tested.

Lead & Copper sampling at select residential water taps indicated that some homes on our system with copper plumbing may have elevated lead or copper levels. Samples were collected after the water had been standing in plumbing at least 6 hours. The detection of Lead and Copper at the source was negligible. Therefore the results indicate that our water is naturally corrosive due to the low pH and may leach metals when water stands in plumbing systems. Our new treatment facility raises the pH to minimize lead and copper contamination in residences and designed to bring us in compliance with Department of Health water quality standards.

You can reduce your lead and copper exposure by:
Flushing home plumbing if water has been standing in the pipes for more than 6 hours. Run the water until it is cold (about 30 – 60 seconds).

- Using only cold water for cooking, drinking, and making baby formula.
- Using only lead-free solder when making plumbing repairs.
- If you replace plumbing, use lead-free faucets and plumbing components. The US Safe Drinking Water Act requires faucets and plumbing components sold after August 6, 1998 to be “lead-free”.

PFAS Substance Monitoring Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are known as “forever chemicals” because of their persistence in the environment. This is a concern as PFAS are shown to have negative impacts to human health. Drinking water regulations have recently focused on assessing PFAS levels in the nation’s water supplies. In 2024 our system began monitoring Per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). No detections were found.

The technology to find these compounds in very low levels is improving, though for PFAS, there really is no safe level. Our priority is to stay informed, to confirm no presence of PFAS in our drinking water, and to continue to take steps necessary to protect our community’s health. For more information you can visit the DOH WEBSITE: https://doh.wa.gov/community-and-environment/contaminants/pfas

Year 2024 Water Quality Data

The table below lists the health related drinking water contaminants we detected during 2024. If we were not required to test for the contaminant during 2024, the most current results are listed.

Unless otherwise noted, the tables below show the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st of 2024. The State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than yearly because concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. We are not required to list contaminants for which there were no detections.

Primary Contaminants Regulated at the Water Source

System ID 29014Y

Detected Substance	Test Date	JLWA Detected Level	Action Level	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Unit Measurement	Violation ?	Typical Source of Contaminant
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	4/2024	1.44	5.0	10.0	ppm	No	Runoff from fertilizer use

Primary Contaminants Regulated at Customer Tap

Detected Substance	Test Date	JLWA Detected Level	Action Level *	Unit Measurement	Violation ?	Typical Source of Contaminant
Copper	8/2022	.0857-.811	1.3	ppm	No	Corrosion of plumbing
Lead	8/2022	ND-.0018	0.015	ppm	No	Corrosion of plumbing

Other System Specific Water Quality Parameters

Detected Substance	Test Date	JLWA Detected Level	Action Level	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Unit Measurement	Violation ?	Typical Source of Contaminant
Iron	4/2021	0.3700	0.3	0.3	ppm	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Manganese	4/2021	0.0660	0.05	0.05	ppm	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
PFOA, PFOS, PFHxS, PFNA, PFBS	8/2024	No Detections were Found			Ppt	No	

Joe Louie Water Association routinely monitors for the presence of total Coliform bacteria in the water supply. The presence of total Coliform bacteria is an indicator of contamination from the environment such as soils and plants. When total Coliform bacteria is present in the water supply follow up samples are collected within 24 hours to determine if there are any harmful bacterial present. In July we had a sample show presence of total coliform bacteria but follow up samples confirmed that no harmful bacteria was present. All other coliform samples were satisfactory.

Terms and Abbreviations

MCL - Maximum Contaminant Level - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLG as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
AL - Action Level - The concentration level of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
ppm - parts per million - corresponds to one minute in 2 years or a penny in $10,000.
ppt - parts per trillion

Officers and Directors

Shane Heeringa	President
Alison Til	Vice-President
Joanne Larson	Secretary
Paul Assink	Treasurer
Rachel Sturgeon	Director

Certified Operator

Dave Olson 360-966-2922

EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline 800-426-4791