Town of La Conner Water Department
Consumer Confidence Report

January 1 - December 31, 2015

Introduction: In 1996, Congress re-authorized the Safe Drinking Water Act (**SDWA**) which requires the EPA to set regulations limiting the amounts of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. As a part of this we will be providing you, our customers with information on a yearly basis, regarding the types of testing done and contaminants that were detected during the previous year. The purpose of these reports is to provide consumers with information, which will allow them to make informed choices regarding their drinking water.

Service and Quality: The La Conner Water Department is committed to providing our customers with a safe and reliable supply of high-quality drinking water, along with superior customer service. Together with the Anacortes Water Department and various governmental agencies, we are working to utilize the latest information and technologies to provide you with safe drinking water. In 2015, the Town of La Conner Water Department had no violations of EPA water quality standards.

Sources: The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water moves through the air, over the surface of the land and through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and in some cases, radioactive materials and can also pick up substances resulting from the activities of humans and the presence of animals.

Our water comes from a surface water source, originating at the City of Anacortes water treatment plant on the Skagit River near Mount Vernon. The Skagit River basin covers over 3,100 square miles from British Columbia, Canada to Skagit Bay near La Conner. It passes through portions of Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom counties, and through dams, forests, farms and several cities and towns with numerous businesses and industries along the way.

The La Conner water system extends from the Farmhouse Inn at SR 20, along La Conner-Whitney Rd. to La Conner, and provides water to the Skagit Beach community as well as wholesale water to Shelter Bay community. Our system has 20.9 miles of piping ranging from 1½-inches to 14 inches in diameter. We have a 1.5 million gallon reservoir which provides fire protection, pressure balancing and up to 3 days of water supply under normal conditions in the event of a disruption of water from Anacortes.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:
Microbial contaminants: such as viruses and bacteria from sewage and septic tanks, livestock or wildlife;
Inorganic contaminants: such as salts and metals, that can be naturally occurring or resulting from urban storm-water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater, petroleum production, mining or farming;
Pesticides and Herbicides: that may come from residential, urban storm-water runoff and agriculture;
Organic chemical contaminants: including synthetic and volatile organic compounds, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, gas stations, urban storm-water runoff, and septic systems; and
Radioactive contaminants: that can be naturally occurring, or the result of petroleum production or mining activities.

Facts
Drinking water, both bottled and tap may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. **The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that your water poses a health risk.** More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's *Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA)* hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or their website: http://www.epa.gov/safewater/hfacts.html. Additional information can be found at www.doh.gov/ and www.awwa.org/. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. *The Food & Drug Administration (FDA)* establishes regulations for bottled water. A contaminant is defined as any substance or matter in water. Not all contaminants are harmful and some are of concern only above certain levels. The EPA has established both primary and secondary standards for drinking water.

In 2002, the La Conner Water Department began collecting two samples per month to test for the presence of coliform bacteria. The testing is completed by a laboratory certified by the state Health Department and results are forwarded to local and Washington State DOH. None of the 24 samples taken in 2015 showed the presence of coliform bacteria.

Definitions/Abbreviations

ADD: Average Day Demand (gallons/day/ERU)
AL: Action level, the concentrations of a contaminant, which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
DOH: Washington State Department of Health
EPA: Environmental Protection Agency, a federal agency
Finished Water: Treated water entering the distribution system
MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level, the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal, the level of a contaminant in drinking water below, which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.
MFL: Million Fibers per Liter: Decay of asbestos cement water mains; Erosion of natural deposits. Some people who drink water containing asbestos in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of developing benign intestinal polyps.
Microbiological: Potentially harmful microorganisms, which may be naturally occurring or introduced by humans or animals. Cryptosporidium and Giardia are microscopic organisms that when ingested, can cause fever, diarrhea, vomiting, and abdominal pain that can last from a few days to months, with onset of symptoms within 2 to 12 days after exposure. Ingesting the organism in contaminated water or food, person-to-person contact and other exposure routes can transmit the disease. The disease cryptosporidiosis can be fatal to young children, the elderly or immune-compromised individuals.
ppm: Parts per million, the approximate equivalent of one drop in 22 gallons
ppb: Parts per billion, the approximate equivalent of one drop in 22,000 gallons
Primary Standards: Mandatory standards established and enforced by the State of Washington Department of Health and the Environmental Protection Agency. These include maximum contaminant levels, and maximum contaminant level goals, action levels, and treatment techniques.
TT: Treatment technique, a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Questions and Answers

Is our water fluoridated? No, our water does not contain fluoride, the City of Anacortes fluoridates their water at the entrance to their system in Anacortes but La Conner does not.

What treatment is done to our water? Simply put, our water is filtered and chlorinated at the Anacortes Water Treatment Plant and no further treatment is done by La Conner Water Department.

Do I need to boil my water after a temporary water disruption? No, following a disruption of service for repairs you do not need to boil your water. The La Conner Water Department is required to disinfect all pipes and materials used in repairs. In the event of a flood or other major catastrophe, you would be notified by the La Conner Public Works Department of any necessary precautions.

Where can I go for answers?
By telephone:

Regarding this report	Public Works Department	360-466-3933
Billing and/or water leaks/maintenance	Town Hall	360-466-3125

By mail: Town of La Conner PO Box 400 La Conner WA 98257
Water Conservation Hotline: Our water supply in droughts and floods 360-299-1973
Additional information is also available on our website at www.townoflaconner.org and City of Anacortes www.cityofanacortes.org under Public Works, Water Treatment Plant

For more information, or to discuss issues and get involved, the La Conner Town Council meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 6 PM in Maple Center located on Commercial St.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons undergoing chemotherapy, people with transplanted organs, people with AIDS/HIV or other immune system disorders, some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk for infections. These people should seek advice from their health care providers. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4971.

Test Results

Chlorine: 2015 Average chlorine residual was .44 ppm with the range of detection ranging from .10 - .75 ppm

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	MCL	Avg. Level Detected	Range of Detections	Violations	Date of Sample	Typical Source of Contamination
Lead (MG/L)		015	.001	ND - .004	**None**	2014	Corrosion of household plumbing. Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper (MG/L)	1.3	1.3	.148	.006 - .430	**None**	2014	Same as above, also leaching from wood preservatives.
Trihalomethanes (ppb)		80	8.1	3.1 – 13.8	**None**	2015	By-product of drinking water Chlorination. .
Halo-Acetic Acids (ppb)		60	7.58	3.8 – 10.8	**None**	2015	" "
Arsenic (ppb)		10	NA	0	**None**	2002	Leaching of mineral deposits, industrial activities, mining.
Asbestos (MFL)	7	7	ND		**None**	2009	Decay of asbestos cement mains.
Unregulated Contaminants			NA	0	**None**	2002	Industrial, Petrochemical, Production, Agriculture

In 2002, the EPA lowered the maximum allowable levels of Arsenic from 50 ppb to 10 ppb. There was no detectable level of Arsenic found in our water, from testing by both the Anacortes water department and ourselves. Arsenic is a known carcinogen and can cause circulatory problems and skin damage.

Water Conservation Goals

La Conner adopted 2 water conservation goals as a result of Washington State's 2007 Water Use Efficiency Rule (WUE Rule). The WUE Rule requires that the Town's goal be re-established at a minimum of every six years, and that progress towards the goal be reported annually to the State and to La Conner's customers.

In 2011, La Conner set WUE goals to keep distribution system leakage to less than 10%, and reduce ADD by 2% by the year end 2014. Re-establish Goals, Spring of 2016.

2015

TOTAL WATER PURCHASED	AUTHORIZED CONSUMPTION	DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM LEAKAGE
152,671,250 gal	143,395,662 gal	-6.08%

GOAL MET
(Distribution Leakage Standards)
<10%

2015 City of Anacortes Water Quality Data

Compounds and Units	Average Level Detected or Highest Result	Range of Detections	Violations
RAW WATER			
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	.86	.54 – 1.32	NONE
Cryptosporidium	N/D	N/D	NONE
FINISHED WATER			
Nitrate (ppm)	N/D	N/D	NONE
Total Coliform Bacteria	0%	N/D	NONE
Chlorine (ppm)	0.99 AVG	0.90 - 1.10	NONE
Halo-acetic Acids 5 (ppb)	13.28 AVG	7.60 – 19.00	NONE
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	14.48 AVG	9 – 30.10	NONE
Fluoride (ppm)	0.81 AVG	0.28 – 1.45	NONE
Turbidity (NTU)	.019	.008 - .030	NONE
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	.052	N/D - 0.62	NONE
Sodium (ppm)	5.9	N/A	NONE
Barium (ppm)	.007	N/A	NONE

Compounds and Units	90th Percentile Level	Homes Exceeding Action Level	Date of Sample
Lead (ppb)	7	0 out of 30	2013
Copper (ppm)	0.161	0 out of 30	2013

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PROTECTING THE PUBLIC HEALTH

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. A contaminant is defined as any substance or matter in water. However, not all contaminants are harmful and some contaminants are of a concern only above certain levels. The EPA has established primary and secondary standards for drinking water. All treatment plant operators are certified as required by Washington State Department of Health (DOH). All of the Wastewater Treatment Plants located above our river intake are regulated and permitted by the Department of Ecology (DOE). The Water Treatment Plant maintains good communication with the upstream Wastewater Treatment Plants to assure timely notification of any potential discharge concerns. Also, the DOE is aware of the need to protect our drinking water Intake Structure and assures this through the secondary standards that are incorporated into the wastewater permits.

Secondary Standards are non-enforceable guidelines that relate to the taste, odor, and appearance of drinking water