

# Water Quality Report 2008

The **Port of Vancouver USA** is happy to provide its water consumers with a report of the drinking water quality for calendar year 2008. The port maintains a "Group A" Non-Transient/Non-Community (NTNC) potable water system which is regulated under WAC Chapter 290 by the Washington State Department of Health (WDOH), Division of Drinking Water.

The port's water supply system consists of three wells located within the eastern portion of port property. These wells are approximately 100 feet deep and draw ground water from the Troutdale aquifer. As a precautionary measure, all port drinking water supplied by the port wells is treated with chlorine.

The Port of Vancouver's water system provides potable water for industrial tenants, water for ships, wash down, irrigation and fire protection. Water for the remainder of port operations is provided by the City of Vancouver.

The port's drinking water system meets or exceeds Federal and Washington State requirements and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has determined that the port's water is **SAFE TO DRINK**.

## BACKFLOW PREVENTION

Backflow devices are one of the most important elements used to ensure clean potable water. All new connections installed since 1984, have had backflows installed. In 2001, port management made resources available to retrofit all existing domestic and fire protection connections with appropriate backflow devices.

The port has installed the highest level backflows for all vessel connections at the shipping berths to prevent any water from re-entering the water system from a vessel.

Port staff managing and operating the water system are licensed to test backflow devices and operate the water.



## Proactive Approach

The wellhead's proximity to an active industrial area has influenced the port's decision to take a proactive approach in protecting our wellhead area.

Tenant environmental audits are conducted annually to help tenants identify proper chemical management and disposal practices that protect our ground water.

In 2006 the port implemented an Environmental Management System (EMS) within the wellhead area to further ensure that potential risks to the wellhead are prevented and properly managed.



# WATER QUALITY SUMMARY: 2008

The port collects samples for more than 100 individual contaminants each year, the table below summarizes the levels of regulated and non-regulated substances detected. All detections are below levels allowed by federal and state agencies.

Contaminant	Units	Range of Levels Detected	Highest Allowable (MCL)	MCGL	Likely Contaminant Source
<b>EPA Regulated</b>					
Nitrates	ppm	0.44-1.54	10.0	10.0	Fertilizers, septic systems, animal waste products
Coliform Bacteria	Colony	ND	Less than 5%	0%	Naturally occurring bacteria used as an indicator of water quality
Trichloroethylene	ppb	<0.0005	5.0	5.0	Degreasing chemical
Total Trihalomethane (TTHM's)	ppb	0.0005-0.00732	80.0	0.0	Chlorination by-product caused by the reaction of chlorine with organic matter
<b>EPA Unregulated</b>					
Chloroform	ppb	0.5-4.09	NA	NA	
Bromodichloromethane	ppb	0.5-2.26	NA	NA	
Chlorodibromomethane	ppb	0.5-2.36	NA	NA	



## WATER TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

### Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)

The level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk.

### Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)

The highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water.

### Action Level (AL)

The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements a water system must follow.

**ppb** – Parts per billion

**ppm** – Parts per million

**ND** – No contaminants detected

**NA** – Not applicable

**EPA** – Environmental Protection Agency

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND CONTACTS

All 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 the water poses a health risk. Some people may be more vulnerable than the general population to contaminants in drinking water. Immuno-compromised people, such as those undergoing chemotherapy, organ transplants, HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, elderly and

infants may be particularly at risk from infection. These people should seek advice from their health care provider about drinking water. Guidelines from the EPA and Centers for Disease Control, on appropriate means for lessening risks of infection by bacterial contaminants, are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

If you have any questions regarding drinking water or these results, please call Patty Boyden, Port of Vancouver director of environmental

services at 360-693-3611, [info@portvanusa.com](mailto:info@portvanusa.com) or visit our website at [www.portvanusa.com](http://www.portvanusa.com). If you wish to participate in a public meeting, the Port of Vancouver holds commission meetings on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, beginning at 9:30 a.m., located in the Commission Room at the Port Administrative offices, 3103 NW Lower River Road, Vancouver, WA 98660.