

# 2016 DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT



## PROTECTING THE WATER SUPPLY

The Port of Vancouver ensures that the water supply is safe to drink by taking proactive steps to protect your drinking water. For example, the port performs tenant audits to identify proper chemical management and disposal practices. In addition, the port retrofitted all existing domestic and fire protection connections with backflow prevention devices and installed the highest level devices for all vessel connections at shipping berths. Furthermore, the port developed an Environmental Management System for the wellhead area, which port staff use to help identify and implement ways to continue protecting water quality.

## QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

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. You may also reach us at [info@portvanusa.com](mailto:info@portvanusa.com) or visit our website at [www.portvanusa.com](http://www.portvanusa.com).



## IT'S YOUR PORT. GET TO KNOW US BETTER.

If you are interested in learning about the port and seeing it first-hand, sign up for a public tour. Our free, two-hour tours are held several times a year and are family-friendly. To make a reservation or for more information call 360-693-3611 or visit [www.portvanusa.com](http://www.portvanusa.com).

Port commission meetings are held at 9:30 a.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at the port's administrative office (3103 NW Lower River Road, Vancouver, WA 98660) and are open to the public. Meetings are also broadcast on Clark Vancouver Television (CVTV) cable channels 21 and 23, and online at [CVTV.org](http://CVTV.org).

We're social! Connect with us on LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter (@portvanusa).

## ABOUT THE PORT OF VANCOUVER USA

The Port of Vancouver USA is one of the major ports on the Pacific Coast. Its competitive strengths include available land, versatile cargo handling capabilities, vast transportation networks, a skilled labor force and an exceptional level of service to its customers and community. The Port of Vancouver is in the midst of expanding its rail system and developing new industrial and maritime facilities, leading to vital short term and long term job creation and economic growth. As a major contributor to local and state job generation, the port generates funding to the tax base for its own community and the state of Washington. The port is committed to sustainable business practices and environmental stewardship through a commitment to reduce waste, use renewable energy, preserve wetlands and create enhanced wildlife habitat. For more information, please visit us at [www.portvanusa.com](http://www.portvanusa.com).

*This Drinking Water Quality Report contains useful information about the quality of drinking water provided to your organization by the port. As documented within this report, the port consistently meets or exceeds federal and Washington state drinking water quality requirements.*

## PORT'S GROUNDWATER SUPPLY

The Port of Vancouver draws its water from the Troutdale Aquifer using three 100-foot-deep wells. Two of the wells are primary wells and another is used for backup in the unlikely event of an emergency. All three wells are located within the eastern portion of port property. The port also has two reservoirs that can hold a combined 200,000 gallons of drinking water. The reservoirs are used to temporarily store water after its pumped from the wells.

## PORT DRINKING WATER CUSTOMERS AND WATER USE

The Port of Vancouver's water system provides clean drinking water for approximately 400 people daily, including industrial tenants, marine vessels, irrigation and fire protection. Additional water necessary for port operations is provided by the city of Vancouver. If you or your organization received this Drinking Water Quality Report, you are drinking or using water provided by the port while you are on port property.

Port of Vancouver water may be used for domestic purposes (e.g. drinking, bathing, toilets), industrial processes, facility and vehicle wash down, and irrigation. Ships may also use port water to supplement their potable water supplies.

## GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT WATER QUALITY

Sources of drinking water (both tap 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. In some cases, water may also pick up radioactive material and substances resulting from human activity or the presence of animals.

Source water contaminants may 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 storm water 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, urban storm water runoff and residential uses;
- 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 storm water runoff and septic systems;
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and/or the Washington State Board of Health prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration and/or Washington State Department of Agriculture regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

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 800-426-4791 or visiting [epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/safe-drinking-water-hotline](http://epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/safe-drinking-water-hotline).

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing.

When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to two minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

## IMMUNO-COMPROMISED PERSONS

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/Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available through the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

## WATER QUALITY RESULTS 2016

The Port of Vancouver tested samples for more than 75 individual contaminants in 2016. The table below summarizes the levels of regulated substances detected. All detections were below levels allowed by federal and state agencies. The water quality information presented in the table is from the most recent round of testing performed according to regulations. All data shown were collected during the last calendar year unless otherwise noted.

Contaminant	Units	Minimum Detected	Maximum Detected	MCL	MCLG	Likely Contaminant Source
<b>Required testing at groundwater source</b>						
Nitrates (total)	ppm	2.4	3.3	10	10	Fertilizers, septic systems, animal waste products
Trichloroethylene	ppb	< 0.50	< 0.50	5	0	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
<b>Required testing within distribution system</b>						
Coliform Bacteria (total)	colony	0%	0%	< 5%	0	Naturally occurring bacteria used as an indicator of water quality
Copper	ppm	<.0200	.053	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of domestic plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Lead	ppm	<.0010	<.0010	0.015	0	Corrosion of domestic plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

## WATER TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

The port maintains a "Group A" Non-Transient/ Non-Community (NTNC) potable water system which is regulated under Washington Administrative Code (WAC) Chapter 290 by the Washington State Department of Health (WDOH), Division of Drinking Water. As a precautionary measure, all drinking water supplied by the port is treated with chlorine to help remove some potential contaminants. For more information about groundwater, contact the WDOH at 800-525-0127.

### MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL (MCL)

The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.

### MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL GOAL (MCLG)

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

ppb – Parts per billion

ppm – Parts per million

