

# Consumer Confidence Report

June 2010

## Graham Hill Mutual Water Company, Inc. Consumer Confidence Report

A publication of  
The Graham Hill  
Mutual Water Company, Inc.  
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The Office is located at  
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249th ST E, Graham

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East, Graham.

Office hours are 8:30 am to  
11:30 am, Monday through  
Thursday

### **Please get Involved with Your Water Company.**

You are more than  
welcome to attend any of  
our regularly scheduled  
board meetings.

They are held on the third  
Tuesday of each month, 7  
PM, at the water company  
office which is located at  
9922 249th ST E, Graham  
98338.

## Water Quality Report For Calendar Year 2009

We're pleased to present to you our 12<sup>th</sup> annual water quality report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water distribution system and protect our water.



2009 - The 50th Anniversary of  
The Graham Hill Mutual Water Company, Inc.

### **Is my water safe?**

In 2009, we conducted tests for 76 contaminants. We detected 2 of those contaminants, and found only 1 at a level higher than the EPA allows. As we told you at the time, our water temporarily exceeded drinking water standards. (For more information see the section labeled Violations at the end of the report.) This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

### **Do I need to take special precautions?**

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 (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

### **Where does my water come from?**

Our water sources are deep wells at the top of Graham Hill (adjacent to SR-161 between 243rd & 250th St. E.) that draw groundwater from the aquifer that flows northwest from the Eatonville/Kapowsin area of Pierce County, WA. We have a detailed Water System Plan (May 2006) which includes a well-head protection plan available in our office that provides more information such as potential sources of contamination. The Water System Plan will be updated in 2012.

# Water Quality Report for 2009

## Source water assessment availability.

The Washington State Department of Health (WADOH) carried out a Sanitary Survey of our water system in June of 2004. We used the assessment to guide us in our update of our Comprehensive Water Plan (approved May 2006). The WADOH also carried out a full Sanitary Survey on January 14, 2009 which addressed the present state of the water system (“Overall, it appears that the system has been well maintained and the operations appear to be appropriate and effective.”). A copy of the 2004 and 2009 Sanitary Surveys, including the December 16, 2008 “Special Purpose Investigation,” are available for review in the office.

## Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

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 Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water 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 and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from septic systems, farm/domestic animals and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from stormwater runoff, domestic wastewater discharges and farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals and can come from gas stations, stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

## On-Line Links to Drinking Water Information

- **Federal** (US Environmental Protection Agency, EPA) [www.epa.gov/safewater/](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/)
- **State** (WA State Department of Health, WADOH) [www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/](http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/)
- **Local** (Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department) [www.tpchd.org/](http://www.tpchd.org/) (Search on “Drinking Water”) Water Resources Program - 253 798-6470

## Other Information

The Washington State Department of Health has granted the water company a waiver from the requirement to monitor our sources (wells) for synthetic organic compounds herbicides, insecticides, pesticides, etc.). Previous well water tests have not detected these compounds and our wells have a low susceptibility to contamination from these chemicals which are commonly found on the land surface.

## Water Quality test results for Calendar Year 2009

The table on the next page shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2009. The table lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2009 calendar year. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA and/or the State allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

## 2009 Water Quality Data Table

<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>MCL</u>	<u>Your Water</u>	<u>Range</u> <u>Low</u> <u>High</u>	<u>Sample Date</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
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**Inorganic Contaminants: In our well water.**

Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	2.5	2.3 2.5	2009	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
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**Microbiological Contaminants: In our distribution system.**

Total Coliform (positive samples/month)	0	1	3	NA	2009	Yes	Naturally present in the environment.
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<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>AL</u>	<u>Your Water</u>	<u>Sample Date</u>	<u># Samples Exceeding AL</u>	<u>Exceeds AL</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
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**Inorganic Contaminants: In representative household water taps.**

Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.5	2008	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	11	2008	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

**Unit Descriptions**

<u>Term</u>	<u>Definition</u>
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
positive samples/month	positive samples/month: Number of samples taken monthly that were found to be positive
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected

**Important Drinking Water Definitions**

<u>Term</u>	<u>Definition</u>
MCLG	MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
MCL	MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

## Violations and Exceedances

### Total Coliform (2009 Detections)

Coliform are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliform were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems. No potentially-harmful bacteria, such as E. Coli, were found in any Routine or Repeat samples.

### Total Coliform Detections with one (1) Non-Acute MCL Violations

One (of two) Routine October 1, 2009 samples exceeded the MCL of one (1). Two of the Repeat samples were coliform positive. All required Repeat samples were satisfactory by November 6, 2009.

The suspected source(s) of the coliform bacteria may have been particles of dirt or pollen in the distribution system and/or contamination on the outside of the sampling station faucets. The water system was inspected and additional water samples were collected. The additional water samples were satisfactory.

The water company provided public notification of the Non-acute MCL violations by distributing a notice, "IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT YOUR WATER SYSTEM: Coliform Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) Exceeded: Non-Acute MCL," with the customer water bills in November 2009.

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## Water Use Efficiency Program

Washington State Department of Health: Office of Drinking Water  
<http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/Programs/wue.htm>

"The Water Use Efficiency (WUE) program increases awareness about how the efficient use of water strengthens the relationship between the reliability and safety of our water supplies. Using water efficiently is a "proactive approach" to protecting public health."

Visit the WADOH-ODW WUE website for information on state and federal water use efficiency programs such as:

- The Washington State *Cash for Appliances Program*. Rebates will be paid to Washington residential consumers who purchase eligible ENERGY STAR® refrigerators and clothes washers and recycle their resource-wasting appliance, and
- The Federal *EPA WaterSense Program* where you will find a simple calculator to estimate how much water you can save by installing WaterSense labeled products in your home.



### Welcome to the Graham Hill Mutual Water Company's Web Site.

This Web Site is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water distribution system and protect our water resources.

[WWW.GRAHAMHILLWATER.ORG](http://WWW.GRAHAMHILLWATER.ORG)