



# CITY OF BINGEN

Where We Live, Work, and Play

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2020

## Water Conservation

The City of Bingen adopted an ordinance providing guidelines for water shortages. We do not anticipate a drought this summer. However, we want to provide information to our residents in case a water shortage is declared for other reasons.

### Stage I - Anticipated Water Shortage

#### *Internal Preparations*

- Public education efforts will be conducted regarding the benefits and necessity of water conservation.

### Stage II - Serious Water Shortage

#### *Limited Outdoor Restrictions*

- Irrigation of lawns and gardens will be restricted to the hours of 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on all days. Irrigation of lawns and gardens using timer systems will be restricted to the hours of 4:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

### Stage III - Critical Water Shortage

#### *Outdoor Restrictions*

- Irrigation of lawns and gardens will be restricted to the hours of 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Irrigation that is on a timer system will be restricted to the hours of 4:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Properties with "even number" addresses will be permitted to irrigate only on "even number days." Properties with "odd number" addresses will be permitted to irrigate only on "odd number days."
- Vehicle washing is prohibited, except for commercial/industrial vehicles where washing takes place on commercial/industrial property and is necessary for vehicle maintenance. Licensed and permitted car washes are allowed to operate.
- Driveway, sidewalk, etc. flushing is prohibited.
- Orchard irrigation is prohibited.
- Filling wading pools, swimming pools, and hot tubs is prohibited.

### Stage IV - Extreme Water Shortage

#### *Outdoor Usage Prohibited*

- All lawn, garden and orchard irrigation is prohibited.
- Vehicle washing is prohibited, except for commercial/industrial vehicles where washing takes place on commercial/industrial property and is necessary for vehicle maintenance. Licensed and permitted car washes are allowed to operate.
- Driveway, sidewalk, etc. flushing is prohibited.
- Orchard irrigation is prohibited.
- Filling wading pools, swimming pools, and hot tubs is prohibited.
- Water consumption is permitted for essential indoor purposes only.

### Stage V - Maximum Emergency

#### *No Water Use*

- All indoor and outdoor water usage shall be prohibited until the emergency is lifted.

**We encourage all residents and businesses to think of ways they can conserve water this summer. Early water conservation may help prevent the declaration of water restrictions.**



## Water Use Efficiency Report

Bingen adopted two water use efficiency goals in 2016 which we are still working toward.

The city provides information to customers through this newsletter and through its utility bills about water conservation and its importance.

**A copy of the city's 2019 Water Use Efficiency Report is available at city hall or on the city's web page.**

**Goal 1:** Reduce lost and unaccounted for water (distribution system leakage) to 10 percent or less of total source production. The reported distribution system leakage for 2019 was 19.8%. The 3-year average is 11.9% compared to 12.01% in 2018 and 12.08% in 2017.

**Goal 2:** Reduce water consumption by 10 percent over the 20-year planning period. The city continues to identify potential sources for leakage. Water consumption increased in 2019.

## City of Bingen 2019 Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report

The Environmental Protection Agency and the Washington State Department of Health require community water systems to report to their customers about the quality of water they drink. Details are provided about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards. We are committed to providing you with information.

For more information about your water, contact Public Works Superintendent David Spratt at 509-493-1348. Additional information can be obtained by attending City Council meetings. The City Council meets the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of each month at 7:00 p.m. via teleconference. Please visit [www.bingenwashington.org/agendas-and-minutes](http://www.bingenwashington.org/agendas-and-minutes) for more information.

### Where does our water come from?

The City of Bingen's water comes from three municipal wells sunk approximately 300 to 360 feet into an underground source of water. After the water comes out of the wells, it is aerated and disinfected to protect you against microbial contaminants. In addition, the City of Bingen purchases water from the City of White Salmon. Copies of White Salmon's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report are available at Bingen City Hall and White Salmon City Hall.

### Contaminants that may be present in source water before we treat it 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 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 and residential uses.

**Radioactive contaminants**, which are naturally occurring.

**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.

Last year, your tap water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards. The City of Bingen vigilantly safeguards its water supplies and once again we are proud to report that our system has not violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard. The decision makers for your water system (the city council) reside within the city limits and use water from your water system.

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. People should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. Environmental Protection Agency and Center for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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 (1-800-426-4791).

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.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA regulates the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

## 2019 Water Quality Data Table

The water quality information presented in the tables is from the most recent round of testing done in accordance with the regulations. All data shown were collected during the last calendar year unless otherwise noted in the tables. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentration of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old.

### Important Drinking Water Definitions:

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

**TT:** Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**ppm:** Parts per million, or milligrams per liter

**ppb:** Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter

**Variance and Exemptions:** State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL, an action level, or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

**SRL:** State Reporting Level: the minimum reporting level established by the Washington State Department of Health.

Inorganic Contaminants	MCLG	MCL	Your Water	SRL	Sample Year	Violation	Typical Source
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	<0.05	0.5	2019	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks; sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	1	1	<0.05	0.1	2019	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	0.1	1.4	2017	No	Erosion of natural deposits, Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production waste
Antimony (ppb)	6	6	0.21	3	2017	No	Discharge from petroleum refineries; Fire retardants; Ceramics; Electronics; Solder
Barium (ppm)	2	2	.001	0.1	2017	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Beryllium (ppb)	4	4	0.1	0.3	2017	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Cadmium (ppb)	5	5	0.1	1	2017	No	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from metal refineries; Runoff from waste batteries and paints

Inorganic Contaminants	MCLG	MCL	Your Water	SRL	Sample Year	Violation	Typical Source
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	0.1	7	2017	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Cyanide [as free Cn] (ppb)	200	200	<10	10	2017	No	Discharge from plastic, fertilizer, and steel steel/metal factories
Mercury (ppb)	2	2	<0.2	0.2	2017	No	Erosion and natural deposits; Discharge from refineries and factories; Runoff from landfills and cropland
Selenium (ppb)	50	50	<0.5	2	2017	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries and mines; Erosion of natural deposits
Thallium (ppb)	0.5	2	0.1	1	2017	No	Discharge from electronics, glass; Leaching from ore-processing sites; Drug factories
Fluoride (ppm)*	4	4	0.27	0.5	2017	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive to promote strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

\*Neither the City of Bingen nor the City of White Salmon adds fluoride to its water.

Inorganic Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water (sample range)	SRL	# of Samples > AL	Sample Year	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.00067 - 0.01	0.02	0	2017	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppm)	0	0.015	0.0003 - 0.00126	0.001	0	2017	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, Erosion of natural deposits

Disinfectant Contaminants	MCLG	MCL	Your Water	SRL	Sample Year	Violation	Typical Source
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	1.28	15	2018	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	NA	80	2.39	0.5	2019	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Radioactive Contaminants	MCLG	MCL	Your Water	Sample Year	Violation	Typical Source
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	0	5	Not Detected	2017	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Volatile Organic Contaminants	MCLG	MCL	Your Water	SRL	Sample Year	Violation	Typical Source
Naphthalene (ppb)	NA	NA	<0.50	0.5	2019	No	By-product of industrial activities

**The following contaminants were tested for but not detected:**

Vinyl Chloride, Dichloroethylene, Trichloroethane, Carbon Tetrachloride, Benzene, Dichloroethane, Trichloroethylene, Dichlorobenzene, Dichloromethane, Dichloropropane, Toluene, Trichloroethylene, Chlorobenzene, Ethylbenzene, Styrene, Trichlorobenzene, Total Xylenes, Chloroform, Bromodichloromethane, Chlorodibromomethane, Bromoform, Total Trihalomethanes, Chloromethane, Bromomethane, Tetrachloroethane, Bromobenzene, Trichloropropane, Chlorotoluene, Fluorotrichloromethane, Bromochloromethane, Trimethylbenzene, Butylbenzene, and Dichlorodifluoromethane

**Additional Information for Arsenic and Lead**

Your drinking water currently meets EPA’s revised drinking water standards for arsenic. However, it does contain low levels of arsenic. There is a small chance that some people who drink water containing low levels of arsenic for many years could develop circulatory disease, cancer, or other health problems. Most types of cancer and circulatory diseases are due to factors other than exposure to arsenic. EPA’s standard balances the current understanding of arsenic’s health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water.

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. The City of Bingen is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. 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 <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

**Hydrogen Sulfide in Water**

The City of Bingen’s water contains hydrogen sulfide which can have a sulfur or sometimes a “sewer” smell. Hydrogen sulfide is formed by sulfur bacteria that may occur naturally in water. These sulfur bacteria do not cause disease, but their presence can cause a bad taste or odor. Filling a pitcher of water and letting it set for a period of time helps dissipate the bad taste and/or odor. The water produced by the three Bingen wells is safe to drink.

**Hydraulic Connection**

One of the city’s source wells is in hydraulic connection with surface water, the source is not considered to be directly influenced by surface water.

**City of White Salmon Results**

The City of White Salmon monitors its treated water using laboratories certified by the Washington Department of Health. Copies of the full City of White Salmon Water Quality Report for the Year 2019 are available at Bingen City Hall and on the City of Bingen’s web site <http://www.bingenwashington.org>



## Free Swim Program

The City of Bingen has provided free swim passes and paid for swimming lessons for its city residents every year since 2011.

Last year, the White Salmon City pool was decommissioned, so the City of Bingen worked with the Hood River Aquatic Center and continued to provide free swim passes.

This year, COVID-19 has closed recreational facilities in both Washington and Oregon, but the Hood River Aquatic Center has reopened as of June 25, 2020.

**Please contact the City of Bingen at (509) 493-2122 to be approved for the free swim program. Proof of residency required.**

**Once approved, please follow rules and instructions from the Hood River Aquatic Center and reserve a time to swim.**

<https://hoodriverparksandrec.org/pool-schedule>

## 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration Cancelled

Since 2004, the Port of Klickitat has hosted a do-it-yourself fireworks event at Bingen Point the evening of July 4 with assistance from the cities of Bingen and White Salmon, the Klickitat County Sheriff's Office, Fire District 13, and others. Quickly becoming an annual tradition and popular with locals and visitors alike, the fireworks event has drawn crowds from around the area.

However, 2020 will mark the first time in fifteen years the Port has canceled the event—a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. “Crowds of over 50 people are not permitted until Klickitat County has reached a point where it can reopen under Phase 4,” explained Marc Thornsby, the Port’s Executive Director. “It is our understanding the County is in Phase 2 and could not enter Phase 4 until July 6, even under perfect conditions.”

A jump in new cases that appears to be the result of activities occurring on another holiday, Memorial Day, has also given the Port Commission reason to be cautious. “The County has been doing well in limiting the spread of the virus, but we don’t want to become complacent and end up going backward,” said Port Commissioner Wayne Vinyard. “In addition, we have to consider the well-being of our partners, first responders, and volunteers.”

“With everything else people have been asked to forego this year, we waited to make the decision to cancel the event until it was clear there was no viable alternative,” added Thornsby. “We recognize this decision will be a disappointment to many, but it does not signal the end of the event and we look forward to playing host again in 2021.”

**As a reminder, the Port of Klickitat prohibits the use of fireworks anywhere on its properties and violations may result in removal from Port property.**

City of Bingen  
PO Box 607  
Bingen WA 98605

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## **Bingen YEAR-ROUND Burn Ban**

**Exceptions are made for charcoal and gas barbecues.**

**Agricultural burns must have a permit from the WA Department of Ecology.**

**Absolutely NO fireworks are allowed within Bingen City Limits. Law enforcement personnel will be enforcing the city ordinance banning fireworks.**

Este boletín está disponible en español en el Ayuntamiento y en línea en <http://www.bingewashington.org>

## **Bingen Council Members and Staff**

Betty J. Barnes, Mayor  
Ryan O'Connor, Council Member  
Phil Jones, Council Member  
Catherine Kiewit, Council Member  
Isolde Schroder, Council Member  
Joseph O'Sullivan, Council Member

Cheyenne Pantoja Wright, City Clerk  
Dena Riggleman, Deputy Clerk  
David Spratt, Public Works Superintendent  
Jay Hicks, Public Works Maintenance  
Mike Solomon, Public Works/Animal Control  
Tom Hons, Treatment Plant Manager  
James Buckland, Treatment Plant Operator  
Marlon Morat, Building Official

City of Bingen  
P.O. Box 607, 112 N. Ash  
Bingen, Washington 98605  
Telephone: 509-493-2122  
Fax: 509-493-1391  
E-mail: [cityhall@bingenwashington.org](mailto:cityhall@bingenwashington.org)  
[www.bingenwashington.org](http://www.bingenwashington.org)