



P.O. Box 128
Longview, WA 98632-7080
www.ci.longview.wa.us

DATE

Subject: Wellhead Protection Area - Mint Farm Wellfield

Dear Property or Business Owner:

You are receiving this letter to inform you your property is located within the Wellhead Protection Area of the City's new municipal water supply at the Mint Farm Wellfield. This new groundwater source will supply drinking water to City of Longview customers in and around Longview, to Beacon Hill Water and Sewer District customers north of Longview and Kelso, and periodically to City of Kelso customers. We are asking for your help to protect our communities' drinking water.

The City has conducted extensive study to determine the location and capacity of the deep underground aquifer that will provide a long-term supply of high quality drinking water to our community. Seventeen monitoring wells were drilled in and around the Mint Farm in an effort to learn more about the aquifer. Water samples from these wells are regularly collected and analyzed to confirm the groundwater supply is safe and of high quality, and to provide an early warning of potential contaminant migration toward the wellfield. With appropriate treatment to remove naturally occurring iron and manganese, the groundwater meets all state and federal drinking water standards. Together with a Wellhead Protection Plan, regular sampling of select monitoring wells will continue as part of our ongoing efforts to safeguard the groundwater supply.

Using information developed during our investigation, our city council established a Wellhead Protection Area and will soon adopt an ordinance to manage the risks of certain activities within our jurisdiction. An inventory was conducted to identify all facilities within the Wellhead Protection Area which could be *potential* sources of contamination based on the nature of their operation and prior spill events, if any. Your business was identified in that inventory as a potential source of contamination and we are requesting that you and your employees properly store, use and dispose of all potentially hazardous materials. Common types of materials which have the potential to contaminate groundwater include paint, cleaning supplies, gasoline, degreasers, antifreeze, pesticides, herbicides, batteries and numerous chemicals.

Preventing contamination is easier and less expensive than the clean-up effort required to remove contaminated soil and groundwater. You can help prevent contamination in a number of ways:

- Use and store the smallest amount of chemicals needed at one time
- Store unused chemicals in a contained area with an impervious floor
- Avoid using or storing chemicals where spills can reach soils or stormwater drains
- Promptly dispose of waste chemicals properly

Waste Control Recycling provides a collection program for hazardous materials. If you have questions about waste management or hazardous waste disposal, please contact Waste Control Recycling at 360.425.4302 or Gregg Hannon, Solid Waste Manager at 350.442.5222.

The Mint Farm aquifer is a critical resource which must be protected in order to safeguard the future of our community. By alerting you that your business is located within the Wellhead Protection Area, we hope to raise awareness and reinforce the importance of taking preventative measures every day to ensure your activities do not impact the quality of our drinking water supply. If you have questions or would like additional information about Wellhead Protection, or feel you have received this letter in error, please contact Amy Blain, Project Manager, at 360.442.5206.

Sincerely,

Jeff D. Cameron, P.E.
Public Works Director