

# Maintaining Public Confidence In The Port Townsend Water System

Herbicide Use In the  
Vicinity of the  
Municipal Watershed



# Public Perception and Utility Actions

- Watershed protection
- Communication with Pope Resources
- Public protest
- Outreach to regulatory authorities
- Sampling
- Communicating results to public
- Risk to municipal water supply



Peninsula Daily News

# City Lake Watershed Protection

Surface Water Treatment Rule (1989) – required control of watershed if unfiltered watershed.

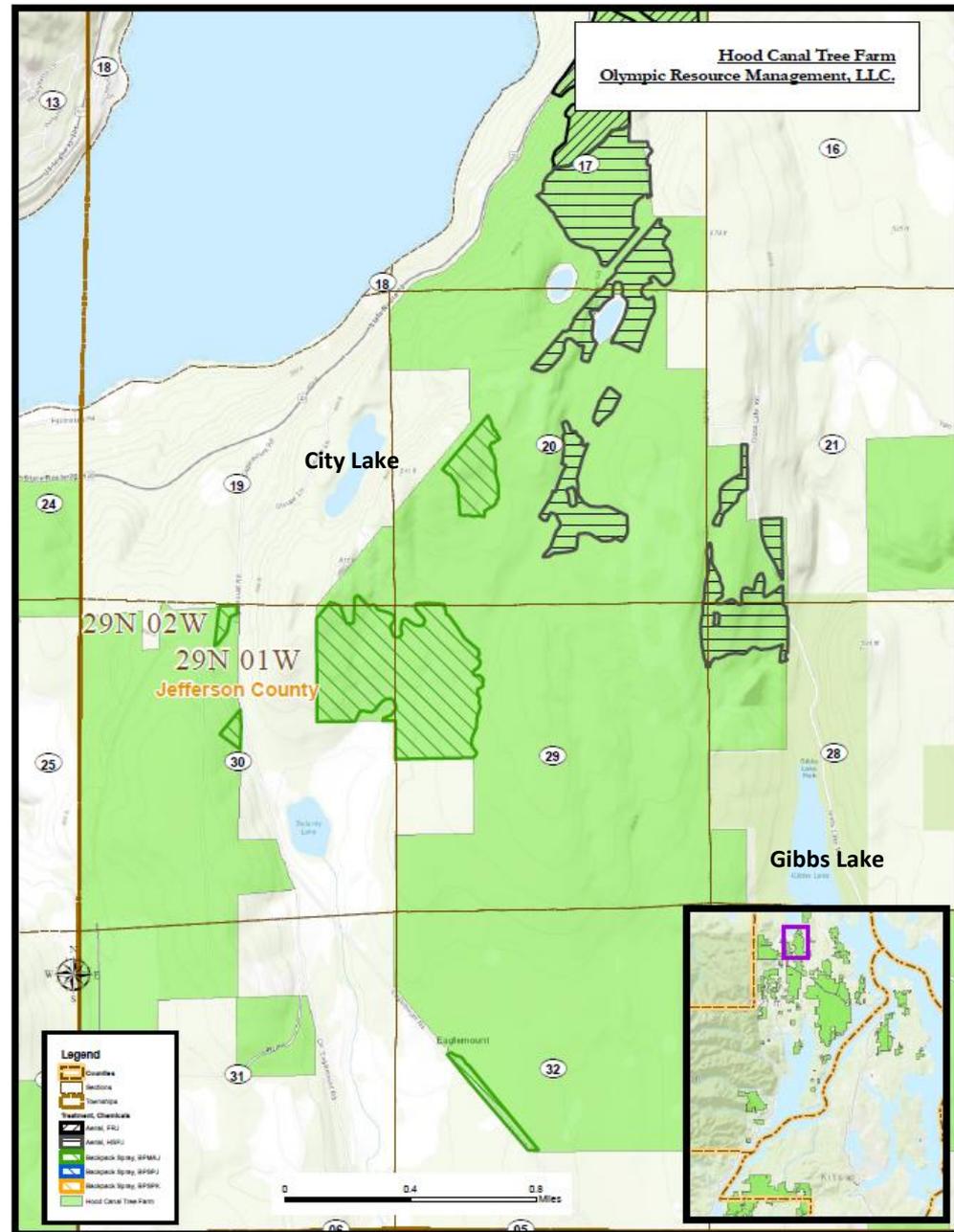
- Property draining to City Lake purchased from Pope Resources in 1990s for control of drainage to reservoir.



# Spray Areas Around City Lake Municipal Watershed

Pope Resources initiated voluntary backpack spraying in the vicinity of City Lake to minimize possibility of drift.

Glyphosate has no significant vapor pressure and is unlikely to volatilize.



# Public Concern and Misstatements

“This is important! The Eaglemount Spray site will be near City Lake which is the Port Townsend City water reservoir. Many people will be affected by this poisoning of our communities.”

“Contact the mayor and city councilors for Port Townsend and let them know that the area around City Lake, the City of Port Townsend drinking water reservoir is about to be sprayed.”

“The spray went all the way to Gibbs Lake and over the area that drops down into City Lake.”

“Again, I and others observed the helicopter spray falling over the tree line and down toward City Lake. There is a 300 foot granite wall that drops down into City Lake from the Pope property.”

“After reading the above, and the article on the front page of yesterday’s paper, I conclude that you two knew much more about this than you chose to mention in our conversation. I also assume that once pesticide or herbicides are discovered in a State and Federally regulated public drinking water supply, law mandates that testing for those substances must begin at whatever intervals are mandated by that law. So I understand that you would not want to open this can of worms. But, your apparent lack of concern about the dangers of Glyphosate is worrisome to me. What I would hope is that the people who are protecting and certifying the purity of the water I drink, you, would be all over this. Apparently not. “

# Glyphosate in the News



## Port Townsend samples water in response to herbicide spraying

Public works director expects results this week

By [Brian McLean](#)

Wednesday, August 21, 2019 3:23pm | [NEWS](#) [CITY COUNCIL](#) [JEFFERSON COUNTY](#)



PORT TOWNSEND — City officials collected a sample at the water treatment facility Tuesday to test for the chemical glyphosate after concerned residents flooded the Port Townsend City Council with public comments this month.

About 30 people addressed council members during comment periods both Monday night and on Aug. 5 in response to their concern about aerial spraying of herbicides on Pope Resources timberland.

Many said glyphosate, the active ingredient in the aerial spray, was getting into the watershed, including City Lake, the reservoir that provides Port Townsend with drinking water.

# Washington Department of Health

No significant risk to water supply that would necessitate additional testing for herbicides.

Pope Resources is working with the Department of Natural Resources to follow best industry practices to minimize the risks of herbicide application.

Buffer between the spray areas and City Lake seems adequately protective and taking additional precautions such as hand spraying in sensitive areas.

Spray areas are outside the City Lake watershed so the contamination risk is low.



# Port Townsend Routine Herbicide Sampling Schedule



Generated on: 10/08/2019

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## Water Quality Monitoring Schedule

### Source Monitoring

- Collect 'source' chemical monitoring samples from a tap after all treatment (if any), but before entering the distribution system.
- Washington State grants monitoring waivers for various test panels /analytes. Please note that we may require some monitoring as a condition of some waivers. We have granted complete waivers for dioxin, endothal, glyphosate, diquat, and insecticides.
- Nitrate, arsenic, iron, and other individual inorganics are included as part of a Complete Inorganic (IOC) analysis when it is collected.

Source S01	BIG QUILCENE RIVER	Surface	Use - Permanent	Susceptibility - High		
<u>Test Panel/Analyte</u>	<u># Samples Required</u>	<u>Compliance Period</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Last Sample Date</u>	<u>Next Sample Due</u>	
Complete Inorganic (IOC)	1	Jan 2011 - Dec 2019	waiver - 9 year	04/23/2013		
Iron	1	Jan 2017 - Dec 2019	standard - 3 year	09/04/2019		
Manganese	1	Jan 2017 - Dec 2019	standard - 3 year	09/04/2019		
Volatile Organics (VOC)	1	Jan 2014 - Dec 2019	waiver - 6 year	03/14/2017		
Herbicides	1	Jan 2014 - Dec 2022	waiver - 9 year	09/04/2013	Sep 2022	
Pesticides	0	Jan 2017 - Dec 2019	waiver - 3 year	07/08/2003		
Soil Fumigants	0	Jan 2017 - Dec 2019	waiver - 3 year			

Chemical Contaminants Rules - Phase V – 1994, includes Glyphosate

< Detect level with waiver – sampling on 9 year interval based on contaminant use or susceptibility

# Event Sampling

## Sampling Protocol

Turn around time and cost

3 weeks - \$156/sample

5 days - \$234/sample

3 days - \$312/sample

Non-detect on both samples



**Burlington, WA Corporate Laboratory (a)**  
1620 S Walnut St - Burlington, WA 98233 - 800.735.8285 - 360.757.1400  
**Bellingham, WA Microbiology (b)**  
805 Orchard Dr Ste 4 - Bellingham, WA 98225 - 360.715.1212

**Portland, OR Microbiology/Chemistry (c)**  
9150 SW Pioneer Ct Ste W - Wilsonville, OR 97170 - 503.682.7802

**Corvallis, OR Microbiology/Chemistry (d)**  
1100 NE Circle Blvd, Ste 130 - Corvallis, OR 97330 - 541.753.4946

**Bend, OR Microbiology (e)**  
20332 Empire Blvd Ste 4 - Bend, OR 97701 - 541.639.8425



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## ORGANIC COMPOUNDS IN DRINKING WATER

Client Name: **Port Townsend Water Quality**  
250 Madison St Ste 2R  
Port Townsend, WA 98368

Reference Number: 19-32528  
Project: 547/Glyphosate

Date Collected: 8/26/19 13:14  
System ID Number: **69000R**  
Lab Number: **046-63150**  
Sample Location: Standpipe (1 Million Gallon Reservoir)  
Sample Purpose: Investigative or Other  
Sample Composition: Blended Sample  
Date Extracted: 547\_190828  
Approved By: nml  
Authorized By:

*Patrick Miller*  
Patrick Miller, MS  
QA Officer

Field ID:  
System Group Type: A  
System Name: PORT TOWNSEND, CITY OF  
County: Jefferson  
Source Number: 96 - Blended Sample  
Multiple Sources: 0102  
Date Received: 8/28/2019 9:20:00AM  
Date Analyzed: 08/28/19  
Date Reported: 9/4/19  
Sample Type: D - Drinking Water  
Sample Collected By: Theresa  
Sampler Phone: 3603795001

### EPA Method 547 For State Drinking Water Compliance

DOH#	COMPOUNDS	RESULTS	UNITS	SRL	Trigger	MCL	Lab		Analyst	COMMENT
	<b>Synthetic Organic Chemicals (SOCs)</b>									
152	GLYPHOSATE	ND	ug/L	6	6	700	a		ELW	

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 28, 2019

### City of Port Townsend releases water testing results for Glyphosate

Glyphosate, a chemical used in herbicides, was recently applied to private lands in an area near City Lake, a water supply lake for the City of Port Townsend. The city subsequently sent a water sample in for testing.

Results of the test were received today, and glyphosate was not detected in the city's drinking water.

City crews routinely test drinking water for a host of constituents to meet state and federal requirements. Results of these tests can be found on the city's website at <https://cityofpt.us/publicworks/page/water-resources> in the annual water report. At times, such as this circumstance, the city may test beyond the required routine tests to ensure safe drinking water.

A water sample was taken Tuesday, August 20, 2019 and sent to Edge Analytical, a certified water testing facility in Burlington, WA. Edge Analytical has the equipment and expertise necessary to run the required EPA testing procedure for glyphosate. The city received the results today to learn the lab did not detect glyphosate.

"As with any water sample, results concluding 'not detected', are good results", said Greg Lanning, Public Works Director.

# Water Treatment

Residue level of glyphosate in natural water is expected to be low due to its strong soil binding properties and degradation by microorganisms in soil and natural water.

Ultrafiltration membranes are not effective for the removal of glyphosate or other herbicides.

Glyphosate is expected to degrade rapidly at water disinfection aqueous chlorination conditions and totally degrade to small molecules common to the degradation of naturally occurring substances in raw water.

Oxidation effectiveness for combinations of herbicides and surfactants is unknown.

Only some home filter systems provide effective treatment.



# Lessons Learned

Public and official messaging

City caught in the middle with  
no regulatory authority

Proactive testing required to  
get ahead of issue

Responding to Council and  
public

Public health agency  
assistance



# Questions

**Ian Jablonski** | Public Works Operations Manager – Water Resources

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