

Water, Water, Everywhere, Until It's Not!

May 6, 2024

Don Foot, presenter

Paul Carver, Public Works Supervisor for the City of Depoe Bay, addressed the following topics.

Where does our water come from?

Our water supply is pumped from Rocky Creek, about 1 mile south of LWC, along the west side of Hwy 101 to the North Depoe Bay Creek Reservoir, northeast of Depoe Bay.

How and where is the water filtered and treated?

The water is gravity-fed from the reservoir to the Collins Street water treatment facility where sediment is removed and the water is sanitized using a chlorination process monitored by the Oregon Health Authority.

How does the water get to the storage tanks?

After treatment the water is pumped to the 1.3 million gallon storage tank located on the hillside north of the treatment facility.

How does the water get to our homes?

The water is gravity-fed through the main supply pipes to Depoe Bay and LWC.

What happens when there is a power failure?

The City of Depoe Bay maintains generators at critical pumping locations that will operate

during a power failure. These pump stations will continue to support the flow of water through the complete system. Water will flow to LWC through the gravity-fed system because we are at a lower elevation than the water treatment plant. We are not dependent on the operation of these pumps during a power failure, therefore.

A physical disruption to the infrastructure of the water reservoir, the treatment facility, distribution pipelines, etc. will be a different issue.

Mr. Carver addressed the issue of the two wells on LWC property. One well has been declared inoperable due to the collapse of the well casing. The other well, located between the east border of The Pines and Hwy 101, is operational and could be used to pump water during a disruption to our water supply. A portable generator and setup work would be required to make it safe to operate off the grid,

however. The wells were signed over to the city when LWC came on their system.

Other Questions / concerns / tips
from audience members:

Does bottled water expire?

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) which regulates bottled water as a packaged food product, has determined that there is no limit to the shelf life of bottled water. The FDA does not require an expiration date for bottled water products, therefore.

The FDA states that unopened commercially bottled water is safe indefinitely if the bottles are properly sealed and not broken. They report that the look, smell, and taste of bottled water may change during long-term storage, but the water is still safe to drink.

How often should you change water stored at home for emergency purposes?

The Center for Disease Control (CDC), FEMA and Oregon's Be 2 Weeks Ready programs all state that water should be replaced every six months.

Tips for storing water at home:

Label container as “drinking water” and include storage date.

- Store containers at a cool temperature (50°F – 70°F).
- Keep containers away from direct sunlight.
- Keep containers away from areas where toxic substances, such as gasoline or pesticides are present.

Sanitizing drinking water: As with all issues related to potable drinking water, it is best to conduct your own research. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provides commonly accepted protocols re boiling water, using household bleach, etc. for [sanitizing drinking water](#).

Other tips:

Rod recommended pouring water that has been boiled into another container to aerate it and help mitigate the "flat" taste of boiled water.

"Deno" stated that all filtration systems will get clogged with residue over time, and will need to be backwashed.