Drought?
In March, Governor Jay Inslee declared that much of Washington was in drought conditions. This due to a lack of snowpack in the Olympics and Cascades. While our region has, largely, received a usual amount of precipitation it has come in the form of rain, not snow. Communities that depend on summer runoff could be in trouble this summer. Municipalities that have surface water reservoirs (like Seattle and Bremerton) have seen those filled as usual. The drought—really the result of a warm winter—will have less of an impact in those areas. Kitsap County is one of three counties in Washington that do not receive any runoff from mountain snowpack (can you guess the other two? See below). Beside Bremerton’s surface impoundment, all of Kitsap’s water is stored as groundwater, in aquifers. These aquifers have received a normal winter recharge. That said it is important—drought or not—that we continue to use water responsibly. Kitsap’s aquifers provide, not only our summer water, but summer streamflows on which fish and wildlife depend. Thank you for helping conserve Kitsap’s water resources.

Excellent…
Public water systems across the country are regulated by the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. This Act covers all aspects of water system management and is meant to ensure the water coming out of the nation’s taps is safe to drink. In Washington, the SDWA is administered by Washington Department of Health. This agency enforces—and helps systems comply with—requirements of the SDWA. Each year, the Department of Health recognizes individuals and organizations that help provide safe drinking water to Washington communities. On May 7, in celebration of national Drinking Water Week, the Department presented Kitsap PUD with its “Commitment to Excellence” award. This award recognizes KPUD’s long-standing commitment to provide safe, sustainable, drinking water to Kitsap communities. Clark Halvorson, Director of the Office of Drinking Water (above left) presented the award to KPUD’s General Manager, Bob Hunter (on right). In accepting the award, Bob thanked DOH for the role they play in ensuring the safety of Kitsap’s—and all of Washington’s—drinking water.

Consumer Confidence Reports
By July 1, annual Consumer Confidence Reports for KPUD’s Group A water systems (15 connections or larger) will be posted online. These reports, which are required by the Safe Drinking Water Act, report on the previous year’s water quality sampling results. They also provide information on the system’s source of supply and mandatory health effects language prescribed by the Environmental Protection Agency. With the CCR, customers of our Group A systems will find this year’s Water Use Efficiency report. This details system water usage over the past year. To view your system’s 2014 CCR go to: http://www.kpud.org/consumerConfidence.php
Getting to Know Your Public Utility District: Lloyd Berg, Commissioner

Last newsletter we met John Armstrong, PUD Commissioner for North Kitsap. In the issue prior to that we met Jim Civilla, PUD Commissioner for South Kitsap. In this edition we will meet Lloyd Berg, PUD Commissioner for Central Kitsap.

Lloyd has been a PUD Commissioner for 27 years; serving five consecutive terms. He has indicated this term, which ends in 2018, will—likely—he last.

Having been born and raised in central Kitsap County, Lloyd has witnessed first hand the growth and changes that have taken place in Kitsap over the past several decades. Lloyd’s grandparents homesteaded land where the Silverdale Olive Garden now sits. As a child, he played in the woods and fields that eventually became the Silverdale of today.

After graduating high school (CK High was then called Silverdale High), he joined the U.S. Air Force and moved away. After four years in the Air Force he became a police officer; serving first with the city of Santa Ana, California and—after returning to Kitsap—with the Port Orchard Police Department. In 1970, Lloyd bought Busby’s Marine and Honda which he ran for 20 years. In 1988, he was “convinced” to run for PUD Commissioner, a part-time gig he has held now for almost 30 years!

Beside stewarding Kitsap PUD through decades of water system growth, Lloyd became heavily involved in telecommunications when—in 2000—the Washington Legislature granted PUDs the authority to provide wholesale telecommunications services. He currently serves on the Board of NOANet, the Northwest Open Access Network.

Lead and Copper Sampling

During the summer months, Kitsap PUD conducts lead and copper sampling on our Group A water systems. Most of our systems are required to monitor for lead and copper once every three years. Every summer, then, some of our systems are due for sampling.

Lead and Copper samples are the only samples we rely on the customer to collect. The regulation requires these samples to be taken from inside the customers’ homes after a 6-12 hour “stagnation” period (time when water was not used). To meet this requirement, customers usually sample first thing in the morning or immediately upon returning home from work in the afternoon.

If you receive a bottle and letter asking you to collect a sample for lead and copper analysis, it is important that you follow the directions for sampling and stagnation time. Those customers that—correctly—collect their sample within two days of bottle delivery will be rewarded with a $10 credit on their next bill.

Kitsap PUD

2015 water rates

Kitsap PUD has a “tiered” rate structure. In this, the cost of water goes up with usage. A Basic Service Charge, together with Tiers 1 and 2 are meant to provide surety to water system operations while ensuring reasonable water usage remains affordable to Kitsap’s households. Tiers 3 and 4 are structured to encourage conservation and recoup additional capital improvement funds from high-water users.

Rates shown below are for a typical residential service.

Basic Service Charge

$24.00 (monthly)
$48.00 (per 2-month billing)

Commodity Charge

Tier 1 (0-1,400 cubic feet) $0.10 per 100 cubic feet*
Tier 2 (1,401—2,400 cubic feet) $1.50 per 100 cubic feet
Tier 3 (2,401—4,000 cubic feet) $2.25 per 100 cubic feet
Tier 4 (over 4,000 cubic feet) $5.00 per 100 cubic feet

*100 cubic feet of water is equal to 748 gallons.