

# 2019 Consumer Confidence Report

## Rockingham County Engineering & Maintenance Services Water Quality Report 2019

PWS ID 0284010

For the period January 2018 – December 2018

### Introduction

Like any responsible water system, our mission is to provide the highest quality drinking water possible. Aging infrastructure presents challenges to drinking water safety, and continuous improvement is needed to maintain the quality of life we desire for today and for the future. In the past year the well line between wells 2 and 3 was replaced with 4 inch ductile iron pipe. When considering the high value we place on water, it is truly a bargain to have water service that protects public health, and provides us with the high-quality of life we enjoy.

### What is a Consumer Confidence Report?

The Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) details the quality of your drinking water, where it comes from, and where you can get more information. This annual report documents all detected primary and secondary drinking water parameters, and compares them to their respective standards known as Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs).

NOW IT COMES WITH A LIST OF INGREDIENTS.



**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.

**Contaminants that may be present** in source water 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 urban 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, urban storm-water runoff, and residential uses.

**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.

**Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

**In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink**, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

### What is the source of my drinking water?

The source of our water here at the Rockingham County Complex is from two gravel packed wells. Well # 2 and Well # 3 are located on County property, in the hayfield across the street from the Nursing Home, behind the Engineering & Maintenance buildings. The water is treated to remove iron and manganese, softened, aerated, disinfected, and the pH is raised to 8.0.

**Why are contaminants in my water?** 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 Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

**Do I need to take special precautions?** 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. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

### Source Water Assessment Summary

DES prepared drinking water source assessment reports for all public water systems between 2000 and 2003 in an effort to assess the vulnerability of each of the state's public water supply sources. Included in the report is a map of each source water protection area, a list of potential and known contamination sources, and a summary of available protection options. The results of the assessment, prepared on March 26, 2002 are noted below.

Well # 2 – two susceptibility factors were rated high, two were rated medium, and eight were rated low.

Well # 3 – Two susceptibility factors were rated high, two were rated medium, and eight were rated low.

Note: This information is over 17 years old and includes information that was current at the time the report was completed. Therefore, some of the ratings might be different if updated to reflect current

information. At the present time, DES has no plans to update this data.

The complete Assessment Report is available for review at the Water Treatment Facility Office. For more information, call the Switchboard at 679-5335 and ask for Jude Gates at extension 9375, or Tom Schulte at extension 9183, or visit the DES Drinking Water Source Assessment website at <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/dwspp/dwsap.htm>.

### How can I get involved?

For more information about your drinking water, please call the Switchboard at 679-5335 and ask for the Director of Engineering & Maintenance Director Jude Gates at extension 9375 or Water Treatment Facility Operator Tom Schulte at extension 9183. Although we do not have specific dates for public participation events or meetings, feel free to contact us with any questions you may have.

**Violations and Other information:** We have no violations. The water was found to be in compliance with all water quality standards. All contaminants but six were found to be below detection limits. Of these six, none were found at violation levels. The type and level of each contaminant is listed in this report. A "Sanitary Survey" was conducted in 2016 at the Water Treatment Facility by Rick Skarinka of the N.H. Department of Environmental Services. The facility was observed to be especially clean and well cared for with no deficiencies. The operators were commended for their competence and professionalism.

### Definitions

**Ambient Groundwater Quality Standard or AGQS:** The maximum concentration levels for contaminants in groundwater that are established under RSA 485-C, the Groundwater Protection Act.

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

**Level I Assessment:** A study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine, if possi-

ble, why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

**Level II Assessment:** A very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine, if possible, why an E.coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

**Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL:** 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.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG:** 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.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level or MRDL:** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal or MRDLG:** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

### Abbreviations

LRAA: Locational Running Annual Average

ng/l: parts per trillion

pCi/L: picoCurie per Liter

ppb: parts per billion

ppm: parts per million

TTHM: Total Trihalomethanes

mg/l : milligrams per liter

ug/l: micrograms per liter

### Drinking Water Contaminants:

**Lead:** 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 associat-

ed with service lines and home plumbing. This water system is responsible for high quality drinking water, but can not control the variety of materials used in your plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing cold water from your tap for at least 30 seconds before using water for drinking or cooking. Do not use hot water for drinking and cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. 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 800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>

