

2023 Consumer Confidence Report

Ashland Water Department

PWS# 0101010

Introduction

As a responsible public water system (PWS), our mission is to deliver the best-quality drinking water and reliable service at the lowest cost that supports the maintenance of the Ashland Water System.

Aging infrastructure presents challenges for maintaining safe quality drinking water and continuous improvements are necessary. In the past year, we have begun/completed several hydrant replacement/repairs, service line replacement/repairs, mainline flushing. In the coming year we intend to continue scheduled routine water main maintenance and adjust to changing regulations.

These investments along with on-going operation and maintenance costs are supported by user rates. When considering the high value placed on quality drinking water, it is truly a bargain to have water service that protects public health, fights fires, supports businesses and the economy, and ensures high-quality drinking water is always available at your tap.

What is a Consumer Confidence Report?

The Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) details the quality of your drinking water, where it comes from, and how to get more information. This annual report documents all detected primary and secondary drinking water contaminants and 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 stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- **Organic chemical contaminants**, including per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, 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 prescribe 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 water is drawn from two town wells located on the former Avery property. Well #1 produces 600

gallons per minute. Well #2 produces 350 gallons per minute. The water is treated with Sodium Hypochlorite (Chlorine) and Sodium Hydroxide (to control pH). A Polyphosphate is added to reduce the effects of corrosion. The water is pumped through the system and the excess is stored in a one-million-gallon storage tank at the end of Avery Street. The pump cycles are controlled by the level of the water in the tank.

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

NHDES 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 September 10, 2001, are noted below.

- (First source name GPW 1, 0101010-004, 3 susceptibility factors were rated high, one was rated medium, and 8 were rated low.
- (Second source name GPW 2, 0101010-005, 3 susceptibility factors were rated high, one was rated medium, and 8 were rated low.

Note: Due to the time when the assessments were completed, some of the ratings might be different if updated to reflect current information.

The complete Assessment Report is available for review at the Town Office on Highland Street. For more information, call the Office at (603) 968-4002 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 Water Department through the Office at 603-968-4002* or *Andrew Benton, Superintendent at 603-968-7193* Although we do not have specific dates for public participation events, feel free to contact us with your questions.

Violations and Other information: See violation list in table below.

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..

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.

Treatment Technique or TT: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Abbreviations

BDL: Below Detection Limit

mg/L: milligrams per Liter

NA: Not Applicable

ND: Not Detectable at testing limits

NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Unit

pCi/L: picoCurie per Liter

ppb: parts per billion

ppm: parts per million

RAA: Running Annual Average

TTHM: Total Trihalomethanes

UCMR: Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule

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 associated with service lines and home plumbing. This water system is responsible for high quality drinking water but cannot 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 at 1-800-426-4791 or at [US EPA Basic Information about Lead in Drinking Water](#)