

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2001
Jamestown Water Department
 Jamestown, RI
 PWSID 1858419

We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. We are pleased to report that our drinking water meets federal and state requirements.

This report informs you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water sources are North Pond and South Pond. We also occasionally buy water from the Town of North Kingstown. North Kingstown's water is drawn from ten wells located in the town. The water we receive from North Kingstown is drawn from well #3, #4, #5, #7, and #8.

There are no regularly scheduled meetings, therefore; if you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Steven Goslee at (401) 423-7220. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility.

By 2003, we will have a source water assessment completed for our system. This will identify potential threats to our water source, and outline a protection plan. We can all work to protect our drinking water by disposing of waste properly, not using excessive lawn or garden fertilizers or pesticides, properly storing household hazardous waste such as paints, solvents and pool supplies, and by supporting the efforts of your water supplier and town government. Education is the best protection for our drinking water. For more information, contact Clay Commons at HEALTH (401) 222-7769.

Jamestown Water Department routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This report shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2001. The contaminants fall into two categories: regulated, where enforceable standards or MCLs have been established, and unregulated, where only health advisory levels have been set. Some contaminants are tested for less frequently. The most recent results are reported along with the date the sample was taken. A table of "Testing Results" identifies those constituents that were detected in Jamestown Water Department's water sources.

The sources of drinking water include rivers, lakes, ponds and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and radioactive material and can pick up substances resulting from human or animal activity. All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. 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 stormwater 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 synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

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

Testing Results								
Regulated Constituents (constituents with an MCL):								
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected			Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
		North Pond	South Pond	North Kings.				
Radioactive Contaminants								
Beta/photon emitters (9/25/01)	N	3.28	3.47	2.71 1.21-3.96	pCi/l	0	50*	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Alpha emitters (9/25/01)	N	0.56	0.08	0.62 .16-1.26	pCi/l	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits

Combined radium (9/25/01)	N	0.62	0.55	0.44	pCi/l	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
Inorganic Contaminants								
Chromium (8/22/00)	N	0.006	0.006	ND	Ppb	200	200	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
Fluoride (2001)	N	ND	ND	.23 (.2-.25)	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (2/21/01)	N	0.09	0.29	2.22 .69-4.3	ppb	100	100	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Distribution System Testing								
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCL G	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination		
Radioactive Contaminants								
Beta/photon emitters (9/25/01)	N	2.24	PCi/l	0	50*	Decay of natural and man-made deposits		
Alpha emitters (9/25/01)	N	1.52	pCi/l	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits		
Combined radium (9/25/01)	N	0.5	pCi/l	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits		
Inorganic Contaminants								
Copper (2001)	N	0.07	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives		
Lead (2001)	N	0.008	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits		
TTHM [Total trihalomethanes] (2001)	N	Ave. 49.3 range 19 to 65	ppb	0	100	By-product of drinking water chlorination		

***The EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.**

Non-Detects (ND) - laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or 1 penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or 1 penny in \$10,000,000.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

Action Level (AL) - concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Treatment Technique (TT) - A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) -The MCL is 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 (MCLG) - The MCLG is 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.

The State of Rhode Island requires testing for other compounds not regulated by the US EPA. The following compounds were detected in Jamestown Water Department's water.

Sodium: Sodium was detected at 21.4 mg/L in South Pond, and at 13.5 mg/L in North Pond on 3/22/01. If sodium is detected at 20 mg/L, the RI Department of Health notifies physicians in the area. If sodium is detected at 100 mg/L, your system is required to notify its customers through a public notice. This is done for the benefit of those who, on advice of a physician, are on a low sodium diet.

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. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

All 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 the 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. MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day,

as recommended by health professionals, at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect. For most people, the health benefits of drinking plenty of water outweigh any possible health risk from these contaminants.

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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

We at Jamestown Water Department work to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future. Please call our office if you have questions.