

2006 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

Jamestown Water Department

Jamestown, RI
PWS ID#1858419

We are very pleased to provide you with this year's Consumer Confidence Report. This report provides you with information on the water and services that we delivered to you in 2006. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies.

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. There are no regularly scheduled meetings, therefore; if after reviewing this report you have any questions, or would like to know more about the Jamestown Water Department water system, please call Steven Goslee at (401) 423-7220.

The Quality of Your Drinking Water

Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. However, in July 2006 we found Total Coliform Bacteria at a level higher than the EPA allows and therefore our water temporarily exceeded drinking water standards. Please see the *Water Quality Test Results* and *Violations* sections at the end of this report for additional information. Also, we received a reporting violation for submitting our 2005 CCR requirements to the Rhode Island Department of Health after the July 1, 2006 deadline. The report was received by the Dept of Health via mail on July 3. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

The Source of Your Drinking Water

Our water source is North Pond and South Pond.

The RI Department of Health, in cooperation with other state and federal agencies, has assessed the threats to Jamestown Water Department water supply sources. The assessment considered the intensity of development, the presence of businesses and facilities that use, store or generate potential contaminants, how easily contaminants may move through the soils in the Source Water Protection Area (SWPA), and the sampling history of the water.

Our monitoring program continues to assure that the water delivered to your home is safe to drink. The assessment found that the water source is at LOW RISK of contamination. This does NOT mean that the water cannot become contaminated. Protection efforts are necessary to assure continued water quality. The complete Source Water Assessment Report is available from Jamestown Water Department or the Department of Health at (401) 222-6867.

Why Are There Contaminants in My Drinking 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 (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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

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:

- **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 the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Water Quality Test Results

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected through our water quality monitoring and testing. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from the January – December 2006 monitoring period. For those contaminants that are monitored less frequently the most recent test results are listed.

Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL's) are set at very stringent levels. The Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) is set at a level where no health effects would be expected, and the MCL is set as close to that as possible, considering available technology and cost of treatment. 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.

2006 TEST RESULTS								
Inorganic Contaminants	Violation Y/N	Level Detected			Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
		North Pond	South Pond	Well JR 1				
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	N	0.42	0.34	0.98	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM TEST RESULTS						
Microbial Contaminants	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria (July 2006)	Y	2 positive samples	Highest monthly # of positive samples	0	1 positive sample	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity*	N	0.99	NTU	NA	TT <0.3 for 95% of monthly samples	Soil runoff

*The lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting the turbidity limit was 96%. Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.

Inorganic Contaminants	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (2005)	N	0.17	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead* (2005)	N	15	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits

*Our water is sampled at 10 points throughout the system. There were two sites that exceeded the Lead Action Level. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791). **Lead:** Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

Volatile Organic Contaminants	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	N	Average 0.24 Range: 0.03 – 0.39	ppm	MRDLG 4	MRDL 4	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA)	N	Average* 6 Range: ND – 22	ppb	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
TTHM-Total Trihalomethanes	N	Average* 70 Range: 49 - 92	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination

*Running Annual Average

Non-Detects (ND) - Laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant 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 a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (ug/L) - One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

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

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

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.

Maximum Residual Disinfection Level Goal (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

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (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.

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

- **Sodium:** Sodium was detected at a range of 10.9 – 11.7 mg/L at the Entry Point of the Distribution System and was detected at 13 mg/L in Well JR 1.

For most people, the health benefits of drinking plenty of water outweigh any possible health risk from these contaminants. However, 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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

Violations:

Total Coliform Bacteria MCL Violation: In July 2006, two (2) of the eleven (11) water samples taken that month tested positive for coliform bacteria. We increased the chlorine level to provide a higher residual in the distribution system, flushed the entire system and distributed public notification. Subsequent tests were negative for Total Coliform. We also contacted FST, our consulting engineer, to help us determine what could have caused the positive tests. At the time of the positive hits the Treatment Plant's Chlorine system was operational and functioning properly. Most likely the water temperature, which was approximately 80 degrees, along with the new pipe in the distribution system had scoured debris from the old pipe and put it into the suspension system. The debris could have provided an environment for microbial regrowth. Test samples were taken from bath or kitchen taps at the Highway Garage and Fire Station so it is possible that the contamination could have been a due to a plumbing fixture or nozzle.

Total Coliform: Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present. When coliform bacteria are found, special follow-up tests are done to determine if harmful bacteria are present in the water supply. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.

We at Jamestown Water Department work to provide top quality water to every tap. We encourage all of our customers to conserve and use water efficiently and remind you to help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future. Please do not hesitate to call our office with any questions.