

Water Quality Report – 2009

Farmington Water Department

<p>What is the source of my drinking water? The Farmington Water Department obtains its drinking water from three gravel packed wells. Well #4 produces 250gpm, Well#5 produces 200gpm, Well #6 produces 350gpm. Wells #2 and #3 have been shut down and no longer pump to the Town. Wells #4 and #5 are located by Rite Aid and Well #6 is located near the Rochester town line.</p>
<p>How can I get involved? If you have any questions about this report or the water system in general, please call Dale Sprague at 755-4883. You may also attend any scheduled Board of Selectmen’s meeting where water related issues are discussed by calling the Selectmen’s office at 755-2208 to obtain a date, time and agenda for the next meeting.</p>
<p>Why are contaminants in my water? Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of 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 US Environmental Protection Agency’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).</p>
<p>Violations and Other information: none</p>
<p>Do I need to take special precautions? Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons, such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ trans-plants, 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 <i>Cryptosporidium</i> and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).</p>

Definitions:

MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal, or 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.

MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. They are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

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

MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfectant level goal or the level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG’s do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants(for water systems that use chlorine).

MRDL: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level or the highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that the addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants (for water systems that use chlorine)..

Abbreviations:

ppm: parts per million **ppb:** parts per billion **pCi/L:** pico curies per liter **nd:** not detectable at testing limits **AL:** Action Level

Sample Dates: The results for detected contaminants listed below are from the most recent monitoring done in compliance with regulations ending with the year 2008. Results prior to 2008 will include the date the sample was taken. The State of New Hampshire allows water systems to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Thus some of the data present, though representative, may be more than one year old.

DETECTED WATER QUALITY RESULTS

Contaminant (Units)	Level Detected	MCL	MCLG	Violation YES/NO	Likely Source of Contamination	Health Effects of Contaminant
Inorganic Contaminants						
Barium (ppm)	Average = 0.0020 Range = 0.0013-0.0027 Date = 7/11/07	2	2	NO	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits	Some people who drink water containing barium in excess of the MCL over many years could experience an increase in their blood pressure.
Copper (ppm)	90 th percentile = 0.4418 Range = 0.0655-0.4890	AL=1.3	1.3	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives	Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor.
Lead (ppb)	90 th percentile = 7.7 Range = nd-8.1 Number of samples above the AL of 15 ppb were 0	AL=15	0	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits	Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. 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 (800-426-4791).
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	Average = 0.178 Range = 0.086-0.27	10	10	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits	Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.
Volatile Organic Contaminants						
Chlorine (ppm)	Average = 0.40 Range = 0.04-1.06	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	NO	Water additive used to control microbes	Some people who use water containing chlorine well in excess of the MRDL could experience irritating effects to their eyes and nose. Some people who drink water containing chlorine well in excess of the MRDL could experience stomach discomfort.

Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	Average = 0.55 Range = nd-1.1	60	N/A	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection	Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
TTHM (Bromodichloromethane Bromoform Dibromomethane Chloroform) (ppb)	Average = 4.9 Range = 1.8-8.0	80	N/A	NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination	Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Description of Drinking Water Contaminants:

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 United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Radon: Radon is a radioactive gas that you can't see, taste or smell. It can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in the foundation. Radon can also get into indoor air when released from tap water from showering, washing dishes, and other household activities. It is a known human carcinogen. Breathing radon can lead to lung cancer. Drinking water containing radon may cause an increased risk of stomach cancer. Presently the EPA is reviewing a standard for radon in water.

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 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 your tap for at least 30 seconds before using water for drinking or cooking. Don 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 <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Source Water Assessment Summary:

The NH Department of Environmental Services has prepared a Source Water Assessment Report for the source(s) serving this community water system, assessing the sources' vulnerability to contamination. The results of the assessment, prepared on (date(s)), are as follows:

Well #4 received (2) high susceptibility ratings, (2) medium susceptibility ratings, and (8) low susceptibility ratings.

Well #5 received (1) high susceptibility ratings, (1) medium susceptibility ratings, and (10) low susceptibility ratings.

Well #6 received (3) high susceptibility ratings, (3) medium susceptibility ratings, and (6) low susceptibility ratings.

The complete Assessment Report is available for review at the Water Department office at 14 Baldwin Way. For more information call Dale Sprague at 755-4883 or by e-mail at pubwks@metrocast.net or visit NH Department of Environmental Services Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau web site at

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/index.htm>.