2014 Consumer Confidence Report

Farmington Water Department

ID# 0811010

Introduction

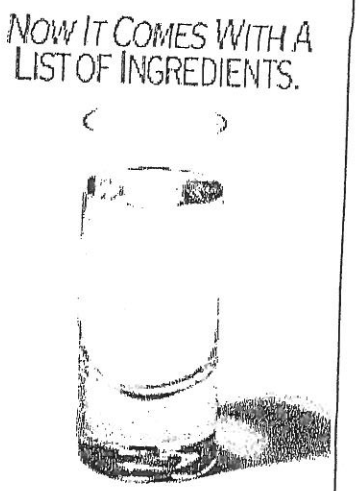
Like any responsible public water system, our mission is to deliver the best-quality drinking water and reliable service at the lowest, appropriate cost. Aging infrastructure presents challenges to drinking water safety, and continuous improvement is needed to maintain the quality of life we desire for today and for the future.

In 2013 we laid 300+ feet of 8 inch main on Orange St. to connect two dead end lines and added one fire hydrant. In 2014 we will continue with more water distribution improvements and have Well #5 cleaned to restore its capacity. We will also begin GIS data collection of the distribution system for mapping.

These investments along with on-going operation and maintenance costs are supported by user rates. When considering the high value we place on water, it is truly a bargain to have water service that protects public health, fights fires, supports businesses and the economy, 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).



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 synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts 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 Farmington Water Dept. obtains its drinking water from three gravel packed wells. Well #4 produces 250gpm, Well #5 produces 200gpm, and 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 line.

The water is chlorinated. There is no fluoride added to the water.

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 *12/30/2002*, are noted below.

- Well #4, (2) susceptibility factors were rated high, (2) were rated medium, and (8) were rated low.
- Well #5, (1) susceptibility factor was rated high, (1) was rated medium, and (10) were rated low.

Well #6, (3) susceptibility factors were rated high, (3) were rated medium, and (6) were rated low.

Note: This information is over (11) 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 Dept. office at 14 Baldwin Way. For more information, call *Dale Sprague at 755-4883* 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 primary operator, 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 meeting.

Violations and Other information: *There were no violations of any MCL's in 2013.*

Definitions:

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 Disinfection 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 Disinfection Level Goal or MRDLG: 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.

Abbreviations

ND: Not Detectable at testing limits

ppb: parts per billion

ppm: parts per million

TTHM: Total Trihalomethanes

THE FOLLOWING APPLIES if these contaminants are present - see table for detected levels.

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 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 http://water.epa.gov/drink/info/lead/index.cfm

System Name: Farmington Water Department EPA ID: 0811010

2013 Reporting Year

DETECTED WATER QUALITY RESULTS

Contaminant (Units)	Level Detected (*date sampled if prior to current reporting year*)	MCL	MCLG	Violation YES/NO	Likely Source of Contamination	Health Effects of Contaminant
Inorganic Contaminants						
Barium (ppm)	Average=0.004 Range=ND-0.0083	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.
Chlorine (ppm)	Average=0.44 Range=0.05-1.57	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.
Copper (ppm)	90th percentile=0.52 Range= ND-0.904 #of samples above AL=0 11/30/2011	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)	90th percentile=10 Range= ND-11.0 # of samples above AL=0 11/30/2011	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=0.102 Range= 0.053-0.15	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						
Haloacetic Acids (HAA) (ppb)	Average=0.65 Range=ND-1.3	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.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (Bromodichloro-methane Bromoform Dibromomethane Chloroform) (ppb)	Average= 10.4 Range= 1.8-19.0	100/80	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.