

# Consumer Confidence Report

## Town of Seabrook Water System

### 2014

#### 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).

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 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 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 Seabrook water system is supplied by groundwater from five gravel-packed wells and seven rock wells located in the western part of town. These wells supplied approximately 343 million gallons of water to the Town in 2013. The gravel-packed wells range from 50 to 125 feet deep. The rock wells are 500 feet deep.

The gravel-packed wells are chlorinated with sodium hypochlorite. The Water Treatment Facility (WTF) utilizes filtration to reduce arsenic, radon, iron and manganese concentrations to levels below regulatory limits. Raw

water extracted from the Town's seven rock wells and Gravel-Packed Wells 2 and 4 is pumped to the WTF and is treated with sulfuric acid which decreases the pH for optimum iron, manganese and arsenic removal. Sodium hypochlorite promotes oxidation of iron, manganese and arsenic. Ferric chloride absorbs oxidized arsenic. After water passes through the pressure filters, the filtered water flows through two aeration units to remove radon. After aeration, sodium hypochlorite can be added to the water for disinfection. The clearwell, a concrete basin located below the facility, stores the finished water until delivery to the water system. At this point, operators can add potassium hydroxide for final pH adjustment and to provide corrosion control for customer plumbing, if necessary.

**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 assessment for the wells in Seabrook was prepared on June 13, 2000 except for GPW #7 which was prepared on June 10, 2005. These results are noted below.

Source Assessment Information			
Source Name	Susceptibility Factors		
	Low	Med	High
GPW #1	4	5	3
GPW #2	5	4	3
GPW #3	3	6	3
GPW #4	4	5	3
GPW #7	6	4	2
RW #1	4	4	4
RW #2	4	4	4
RW #3	5	4	3
RW #4	5	5	2
RW #5	5	5	2

GPW – Gravel-packed well; RW – Rock wells

Note: This information is several 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 Department office. For

more information, call Primary Operator, George Eaton, at (603) 474-9921 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?

We encourage public interest and participation in our community's decisions affecting drinking water. The Primary Operator is available during normal business hours at the Seabrook Water Department Office, 550 Route 107 or by calling (603) 474-9921. Also, the Town Manager and Selectmen can be contacted at (603) 474-3311, if additional information is required. The Board of Selectmen/Water Commissioners meet every other Monday.

## Violations and Other Information:

No known violations.

## Definitions of Table Terms and Abbreviations

The definitions below are terms used in the Detected Water Quality Results Table.

**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.

## Abbreviations

ND: Not Detectable at testing limits

NA: Not Applicable

pCi/L: picocuries per liter

ppb: parts per billion

ppm: parts per million

TTHM: Total Trihalomethanes

HAA5s: Haloacetic Acids

UCMR: Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule

**Sampling Results:** The results for detected contaminants listed in the table are from the most recent monitoring done in compliance with regulations ending with calendar year 2013. The DES allows water systems to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because concentrations of the contaminants do not change frequently. Thus some data present, though representative, may be more than one year old.

## DETECTED WATER QUALITY RESULTS

Inorganic Contaminants	Units	MCL	MCLG	Max Level Detected	Range	Violation Yes/No	Likely Source of Contaminant
Arsenic	ppb	10	0	1.5	ND – 1.5	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (2012)	ppm	2	2	0.022	0.016 – 0.022	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	ppm	10	10	1.34	ND – 1.34	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

Inorganic Contaminants	Units	MCL	MCLG	90th Percentile	# of Sites Above AL	Violation Yes/No	Likely Source of Contaminant
Copper (2011)	ppm	AL=1.3	1.3	0.273	0 of 30 sites	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems

Radioactive Contaminants	Units	MCL	MCLG	Average Amount	Range	Violation Yes/No	Likely Source of Contaminant
Compliance Gross Alpha (2011)	pCi/L	15	0	0.2	0 – 0.6	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium	ppb	30	NA	0.37	ND – 1.1	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium (226+228) (2011)	pCi/L	5	0	0.7	0.4 – 1.2	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Volatile Organic Contaminants	Units	MCL	MCLG	Average Amount	Range	Violation Yes/No	Likely Source of Contaminant
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5s)	ppb	60	NA	3	1.3 – 9.3	No	By-product of chlorination
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	ppb	80	NA	13.6	8.2 – 20	No	By-product of chlorination

Disinfectant	Units	MRDL	MRDLG	Yearly Running Ave.	Range	Violation Yes/No	Likely Source of Contaminant
Chlorine	ppm	4	4	0.42	0.10 – 0.77	No	Water additive used to control microbes

Microbial Contaminants	MCL	MCLG	Max Level Detected	Range	Violation Yes/No	Likely Source of Contaminant
Total Coliform Bacteria	> 1 per month	0	1 of 15	0 – 1	No	Naturally present in the environment

Additional Testing Unregulated Contaminants	Units	MCL	MCLG	Average Amount	Range	Violation Yes/No	Specific Contaminant Criteria
Chlorate	ppb	Unregulated		74.5	ND – 184	NA	Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.
Hexavalent Chromium	ppb	Unregulated		0.064	ND – 0.11	NA	
Chromium, Total	ppb	Unregulated		0.27	ND – 0.48	NA	
Strontium, Total	ppb	Unregulated		179	135 – 244	NA	