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University of Rhode Island

2017 Water Quality Report

THE QUALITY OF YOUR DRINKING WATER

We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the water quality and services that we, the University of Rhode Island (URI), delivered to you in 2017. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water.

We are proud to inform you that your drinking water meets or exceeds all federal and state requirements. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Bob Bozikowski, Water System Manager, URI Facilities Service Department at (401) 874-4203. We do not have regularly scheduled customer meetings, but welcome any comments or questions. You can also visit our website at www.uri.edu/facilities and click on the Utilities tab.

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THE SOURCE OF YOUR DRINKING WATER

The University of Rhode Island, Kingston Campus owns and operates its own water system. The system draws from three high volume wells, located in the Chipuxet ground water aquifer. The wells are numbered #2, #3, and #4. We disinfect the drinking water through chlorination and adjust pH. From the wells and associated pump stations, treated water is pumped into the distribution network. Treated water to meet demand is also stored in an elevated storage tank. Three interconnections exist between the campus and our neighboring water system, Kingston Water District, providing added reliability to both systems.

The RI Department of Health, in cooperation with other state and federal agencies, has assessed the threats to URI's water supply sources. The assessment considered the intensity of development, the presence of businesses and facilities that use, store and generate potential contaminants, how easily contaminants may move through the soils in the source water protection area, and the sampling history of the water.

Our monitoring program continues to assure that the water delivered to you is safe and wholesome. However, the assessment found that the water source is at MODERATE RISK of contamination. This rating is primarily based on land use in and around the aquifer. Monitoring and protection efforts are necessary to assure continued water quality. Our active source protection program routinely surveys, monitors and protects the aquifer. The complete Source Water Assessment Report is available from the University of Rhode Island or the Department of Health at (401) 222-6867.

SUBSTANCES THAT WE TEST FOR IN SOURCE WATER INCLUDE:

MICROBIAL - such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

INORGANIC - 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 & HERBICIDES - which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

ORGANIC CHEMICAL - 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 - which can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

WHAT'S 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. EPA sets limits for over 133 contaminants.

The sources of drinking water (both tap 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.

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.

IMPORTANT LEAD INFORMATION

Testing showed the amount of lead in our drinking water is below EPA allowed levels. If present in elevated levels, 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.

When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or 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.

2017 TEST RESULTS-UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

ALL test results were non-detects except for the following:

Contaminants	Violation Y/N	Level Detected			Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
		Well 2	Well 3	Well 4				
Gross Alpha	N	ND	ND	ND	pCi/l	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined radium	N	NA	NA	ND	pCi/l	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium	N	0.003	0.007	0.027	ppm	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	N	0.83	ND	0.36	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	N	1.41	3.76	1.92	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Volatile Organic Compounds	N	ND	ND	ND	ppb	3	3	Discharge from industrial facilities
Synthetic Organic Compounds	N	ND	ND	ND	ppb	0-500	2-700	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Dalapon	N	0.45	ND	ND	ppb	200	200	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops

DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM TEST RESULTS

Microbial Contaminants	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria	N	0% Positive Samples	% of Positive Samples	0	5% of monthly samples are Positive	Naturally present in the environment
Chlorine	N	RAA*:0.153 Range: 0.05-0.47	ppm	MRDLG =4	MRDL= 4	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA)	N	RAA* 1.7 (1.4-2.0)	ppb	N/A	60	Byproduct of water chlorination
Total Trihalomethanes	N	RAA*5.2 (3.3-7.2)	ppb	0	80	Byproduct of water chlorination
Copper** (1/1/13-12/31/15)	N	0.519	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Lead** (1/1/13-12/31/15)	N	8.8	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits

UNDERSTANDING OUR WATER QUALITY TEST RESULTS

In 2017, 815 samples were collected and tested to ensure your safety. Our water is tested for over 133 contaminants. The presence of a substance in the water does not necessary indicate that it poses a health risk.

Unless noted, the data presented in the table is from 2017. For those substances monitored less frequently the most recent test results are listed.

ADDITIONAL TESTING

Our water system has sampled for a series of unregulated contaminants. Unregulated contaminants are being researched by EPA for potential future standards. As our customers, you have a right to know that this data is available. If you want to learn more please contact Bob Bozikowski at 401-874-4203.

NOTES, UNITS & DEFINITIONS

The State of Rhode Island requires the following additional testing for Sodium: Well 2 at 8.12 mg/l, Well 3 at 12.2 mg/l, Well 4 at 29.8 mg/l.
All samples collected in 2017 unless noted.
**Reported results are the 90th percentile value (the value that 90% of all samples are less thank). Of the 30 samples collected for lead, we had only 1 AL exceedance. Repeat testing resulted in ND. Our resulting 90th percentile for lead still meets acceptable AL of 15 ppb.
Action Level (AL) - The concentration of a contaminant which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. A violation will occur only if the supplier fails to take corrective action.
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.
ND=Not detected. Laboratory analysis indicated the contaminant was 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.
RAA (Running Annual Average) is the average of all monthly or quarterly samples for the last year at all sample locations.

ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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 and the 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 Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

THE
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SYSTEM UPGRADES AND IMPROVEMENTS

The University of Rhode Island over the past 10 years has undertook a number of system improvement projects including upgrading our supply wells and treatment systems, improving our automated control and monitoring systems and replacing water mains and building services. These projects have improved water quality, provided for system redundancy and made the system more resilient.

PROGRAMS TO PROTECT WATER QUALITY

In addition to water quality testing, the URI Utilities Department performs the following programs to maintain and protect water quality 1) source water protection program, 2) construction inspection, 3) water main flushing program to remove pipe sediment and 4) annual testing and repair of backflow prevention devices.

PLEASE PASS IT ON

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 share this report with all of the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly. You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.