

2008 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

Saugatucket Springs

Hopkinton, RI
PWS ID#2980423

We are very pleased to provide you with our 2008 Consumer Confidence Report. This report provides you with information on the water and services that we delivered to you in 2008. Included are details on 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. If after reviewing this report you have any questions, or would like to know more about the Saugatucket Springs, Inc. water system, please contact Stephen Kearns at the Housing Opportunities Corporation (HOC), (401) 941-2900.

The Quality of Your Drinking Water

Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. However, in April and May of 2008 test results revealed Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate (DEHP) at a level higher than the EPA allows and therefore our water exceeded drinking water standards. **Please note, though DEHP was found in our well, the water quality test results from our distribution system were negative, which means at NO TIME were customers exposed to the contaminant in their drinking water.** Please see the *Water Quality Test Results* and *Violations* sections at the end of this report for additional information. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

The Source of Your Drinking Water

Our water source is one drilled well located on the premise. We treat our water with soda ash in order to control pH so we can reduce the corrosivity of the water. We have a second well but it is strictly used for fire protection and does not require water quality testing.

Our monitoring program continues to assure that the water delivered to your home is safe to drink. We have a wellhead protection area that covers a 2,638-foot radius surrounding the wells. Our 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. 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. We can all work to protect our drinking water by disposing of waste properly, not using excessive lawn or garden fertilizers or pesticides, properly storing household hazardous waste.

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 2008 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.

2008 TEST RESULTS						
Radioactive Contaminants	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Gross Alpha	N	3.11	pCi/L	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium	N	3.22	pCi/L	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
Synthetic Organic Contaminants	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Di(2-Ethylhexyl)Phthalate ¹	Y	Average 23 Range: ND - 40	ppb	0	6	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories

¹Please note this contaminant was only found in our raw water, NOT in our distribution system. **At no point were our customers exposed to this contaminant.** The average and range listed are from RIDOH test results, it does not include the additional monitoring completed by Northeast Water Solution during their investigation of the DEHP contamination.

DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM TEST RESULTS						
Inorganic Contaminants	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	N	0.11	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

Non Detect: Laboratory analysis indicated that 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.

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.

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).

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. Saugatucket Springs is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. 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>.

Violations

Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) Violation

In March and April of 2008 test results from our raw water found Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate (DEHP) at a level above the MCL. HOC immediately engaged the engineering firm Northeast Water Solutions, Inc. to investigate and rectify the problem. Follow-up samples taken at the Well in May detected DEHP but at significantly reduced levels. It is important to note that though DEHP was found in our wells, the water quality test results from our distribution system were negative. The engineering study showed that the DEHP, which highly insoluble in water, was captured in the water filter and piping system. **At no point were any customers exposed to the contaminant.** In order to eliminate the DEHP issue we will be implementing the action plan designed by NWSI. This will include upgrading the raw water pre-filtration, increasing the frequency of filter replacements, and replacing the torque arrestor in the well.

Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate: Some people who drink water containing Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate in excess of the MCL over many years may have problems with their liver, or experience reproductive difficulties, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

We at Saugatucket Springs, Inc. 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.