

# 2008 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

## Slatersville Public Supply

Slatersville, RI  
PWS ID#1615614

We are very pleased to provide you with this year's Consumer Confidence Report. This report provides you with information on the water and services that we delivered to you in 2008. Included are details about 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. There are no regularly scheduled meetings, therefore; if after reviewing this report you have any questions, or would like to know more about the Slatersville Public Supply water system, please call Manuel Alvarez at (401) 767-4006.

### The Quality of Your Drinking Water

Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. However, in 2008, we were issued a number of violations. In May, we were issued a monitoring violation after failing to sample for Sodium, a State requirement. In August, we received a violation when we found Total Coliform Bacteria at a level higher than the EPA allows and therefore our water temporarily exceeded drinking water standards. In addition, we received monitoring violation for failing to take and submit the proper number of follow-up Total Coliform samples after the Total Coliform MCL violation. In September, we received a violation for failing to distribute a Public Notice for the August Total Coliform MCL violation within 30 days of the initial violation. Please see the *Water Quality Test Results* and *Violations* sections at the end of this report for additional information.

### The Source of Your Drinking Water

We purchase all of our water from the City of Woonsocket. Woonsocket Water Division uses surface water from the Crookfall Brook and Harris Pond watersheds. The Crookfall Brook watershed extends over approximately 7.93 square miles. It is a protected, high-quality, and primary source of supply for the Woonsocket Treatment Plant. Harris Pond has a watershed area of approximately 33.3 square miles. This source is used as a supplemental source as needed. Woonsocket Water Maintenance an active watershed protection program and closely monitors the watershed land to protect water quality.

The RI Department of Health, in cooperation with other state and federal agencies, has assessed the threats to Slatersville Public Supply's water supply sources. The assessment considered the intensity of development, the presence of businesses and facilities that use, store or generate potential contaminants, how easily contaminants may move through the soils in the Source Water Protection Area (SWPA), and the sampling history of the water.

Our monitoring program continues to assure that the water delivered to your home is safe to drink. However, the assessment found that the water source is at MODERATE RISK of contamination. This means the water could one day become contaminated. Monitoring and protection efforts are necessary to assure continued water quality. The complete Source Water Assessment Report is available from Woonsocket Water or the Department of Health at (401) 222-6867.

### 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.

| <b>2008 TEST RESULTS FROM WOONSOCKET WATER</b> |                      |                            |                         |              |             |   |
|--|----------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|-------------|---|
| <b>Microbial Contaminants</b>                  | <b>Violation Y/N</b> | <b>Level Detected</b>      | <b>Unit Measurement</b> | <b>MCLG</b>  | <b>MCL</b>  | <b>Likely Source of Contamination</b>   |
| Total Organic Carbon (TOC) (removal ratio)     | N                    | 1.50<br>Range: 0.29 - 2.20 | ppm                     | NA           | TT          | Naturally present in the environment  |
| Turbidity*                                     | N                    | 0.49<br>Range: 0.05 – 0.49 | ntu                     | n/a          | TT          | Soil runoff   |
| <b>Disinfectant Contaminants</b>               | <b>Violation Y/N</b> | <b>Level Detected</b>      | <b>Unit Measurement</b> | <b>MRDLG</b> | <b>MRDL</b> | <b>Likely source of contamination</b>   |
| Chlorine                                       | N                    | 0.41<br>Range: ND – 1.12   | ppm                     | 4            | 4           | Water additive used to control microbes   |
| <b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>                  | <b>Violation Y/N</b> | <b>Level Detected</b>      | <b>Unit Measurement</b> | <b>MCLG</b>  | <b>MCL</b>  | <b>Likely Source of Contamination</b>   |
| Nitrate (as Nitrogen)                          | N                    | 0.54<br>Range: 0.07 - 0.54 | ppm                     | 10           | 10          | Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits                               |
| Barium   | N                    | 0.06<br>Range: 0.01 – 0.06 | ppm                     | 2            | 2           | Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits                                |
| Fluoride                                       | N                    | 0.98<br>Range: ND - 1.50   | ppm                     | 4            | 4           | Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories |

\*Turbidity is a measure of cloudiness of the water. It is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system. During the reporting year, a minimum of 99.36% of all samples taken to measure turbidity met water quality standards.

| <b>DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM TEST RESULTS FROM SLATERSVILLE PUBLIC SUPPLY</b> |                      |                       |                              |             |            |  |
|---|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|-------------|------------|--|
| <b>Microbial Contaminants</b>   | <b>Violation Y/N</b> | <b>Level Detected</b> | <b>Unit Measurement</b>      | <b>MCLG</b> | <b>MCL</b> | <b>Likely Source of Contamination</b>  |
| Total Coliform Bacteria (August 2008)                                   | Y                    | 2 Positive Samples    | Highest Monthly # of Samples | 0           | 1 positive | Naturally present in the environment   |
| <b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>   | <b>Violation Y/N</b> | <b>Level Detected</b> | <b>Unit Measurement</b>      | <b>MCLG</b> | <b>MCL</b> | <b>Likely Source of Contamination</b>  |
| Copper  | N                    | 0.05                  | ppm                          | 1.3         | AL=1.3     | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives |

### **Initial Distribution System Evaluation (IDSE) Data †**

| <b>Volatile Organic Contaminants</b> | <b>Violation Y/N</b> | <b>Level Detected</b>        | <b>Unit Measurement</b> | <b>Likely Source of Contamination</b>      |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Haloacetic Acids (HAA)               | N                    | Average 12<br>Range: ND - 24 | ppb                     | By-product of drinking water disinfection. |
| Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)         | N                    | Average 48<br>Range: 40 - 56 | ppb                     | By-product of drinking water chlorination  |

† In 2008, under the EPA Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule (DBPR) our water system was required to conduct an Initial Distribution System Evaluation (IDSE). The IDSE is a one-time evaluation to determine the levels of disinfection by-products (TTHM & HAA) in the distribution system for future regulations. Disinfection byproducts are the result of the disinfection of your drinking water. They form when the disinfectants combine with naturally occurring organic matter in the water. The IDSE data was not used for compliance by the Rhode Island DOH-Office of Drinking Water Quality, and test results were not required to meet the MCL of 60 ppb for HAA and 80 ppb for TTHMs. These test results are from 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2008.

**Non Detect (ND)**- 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.

**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.

**Treatment Technique (TT)** - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)**: Nephelometric Turbidity Unit is a measure of the clarity of the water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable by the average person.

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. Slatersville Public Supply 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:**

**Total Coliform Bacteria MCL Violation:** On August 12<sup>th</sup>, one (1) sample taken in the Industrial Park area tested positive for Total Coliform. On August 14<sup>th</sup>, we took two (2) follow-up samples. One (1) of the two (2) samples was positive for the presence of coliform bacteria, resulting in a total of two (2) positive samples taken in August. The standard is that no more than one (1) sample per month may do so. In order to correct the problem we disinfected the wells and the distribution system with chlorine and flushed the system. All follow-up samples were negative for coliform bacteria.

**Total Coliform Bacteria Monitoring Violation:** The State requires three (3) Total Coliform repeat samples within 24 hours of a positive routine sample. We only took two (2) samples following our August 12<sup>th</sup> positive hit. We took three (3) make-up samples on August 21, 2008. All follow-up samples were negative for coliform bacteria.

#### **Total Coliform Bacteria MCL Public Notice Violation:**

We were late sending out Public Notice for our August Total Coliform MCL Violation. Public notices for violations are required by the RIDOH to be distributed to customers within 30 days of the violation. We sent out the public notice for our August 14<sup>th</sup> Total Coliform MCL violation on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Total Coliform:** Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present. When coliform bacteria are found, special follow-up tests are done to determine if harmful bacteria are present in the water supply. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.

#### **Sodium Monitoring Violation:**

The State of Rhode Island requires testing for other contaminants not regulated by the US EPA. In 2008, we failed to test for Sodium by the required deadline of April 30<sup>th</sup>. The Well that required testing is only a back-up well, and does not provide water to customers. During the required Sodium sampling period the well was off-line in order to make repairs to the well pump, it has not yet been reconnected to the system.

We at Slatersville Public Supply 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.