



## South Kingstown South Shore Water System

To Our Customers:

### *Annual Drinking Water Quality Report*

We're pleased to present to you this year's Consumer Confidence Report. This report is designed to inform you about your water quality and the services we deliver to you every day. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by the regulatory agencies. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water that meets all Federal and State requirements.

In July, August and October of 2008 our water quality testing showed Total Coliform Bacteria at a level higher than the EPA allows and therefore our water temporarily exceeded drinking water standards. Please see the Water Quality Test Results on page 3 and the Violations section on page 2 of this report for additional information. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

We purchase 100% of our water from United Water Rhode Island (UWRI). The water we receive from UWRI comes from seven gravel packed wells located in the central area of South Kingstown. UWRI has initiated a Wellhead Protection Program which has identified a well protection area around their well fields. UWRI has also conducted an inventory regarding land use within this wellhead area.

The RI Department of Health, in cooperation with other State and Federal agencies, has assessed the threats to United Water RI'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 and wholesome. The assessment found that the 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. For a copy of the complete Source Water Assessment Report, please contact our office or the Rhode Island Department of Health at (401) 222-6867.

The Town does not conduct regularly scheduled water supply meetings, but if you have any questions about this report or want to learn more about your water utility, please contact me at (401) 789-9331 Extension 2257 or stop in. The Water Division office is located in the Public Services Building, 509 Commodore Perry Highway (U.S. Route 1), Wakefield, RI 02879.

Sincerely,

Jon R. Schock  
Public Services Director

---

# Consumer Confidence Report

## *Understanding this Report*

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 at (800) 426-4791.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, U.S. EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

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 human or animal activity. All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. 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 storm water 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.

## *Term Definitions*

In this table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

**Not Detected (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.

**Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)** - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

**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.

**Maximum Residual Disinfection Level Goal (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

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (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.

## *Violations*

### **Total Coliform MCL Violations:**

In July, August and October of 2008 our water quality testing showed Total Coliform Bacteria at a level higher than the EPA allows and therefore our water temporarily exceeded drinking water standards. We believe all three violations were due to an accumulation of organic material in the sediment trap of the Mautucket water tank.

After our first violation of July 14th we disinfected the Mautucket water tank and surrounding water distribution system and flushed the nearby distribution system. Follow-up samples taken on July 15th were absent for total coliform. On August 7th, our water system again tested positive for the presence of coliform bacteria, whereby a second violation was issued on August 12th. The Mautucket water tank was re-chlorinated and surrounding distribution system flushed. Follow-up samples taken on August 12th were absent for total coliform. In addition, an engineering study was also commissioned to determine the cause of the contamination.

On October 27th we received a third violation when water samples tested positive for presence of total coliform bacteria. The Mautucket water tank was drained, cleaned, disinfected, refilled and re-sampled by a specialized tank inspection consultant. The inspection revealed an accumulation of organic material in the Mautucket tank sediment trap. The surrounding water system was flushed and all follow-up samples were negative for total coliform bacteria. Although the cause of positive coliform results was inconclusive, anti-osprey nesting devices have been installed on both water tanks to deter osprey nesting activities.

**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.

## 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 UNITED WATER RHODE ISLAND</b>						
Unless otherwise noted, the ranges listed are results from UWRI's Wells and test results are from 2008						
Radioactive Contaminants	Violation Y/N	Levels Detected	Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Alpha Emitters	N	ND - 5.26*	pCi/L	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium	N	ND - 3.19*	pCi/L	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium	N	ND - 5.65*	ug/L	0	30	Erosion of natural deposits
*No radioactive contaminants were detected in Wells #1-6. The ranges listed are from Well #7 only.						
Inorganic Contaminants	Violation Y/N	Levels Detected	Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium	N	0.01 Range: ND – 0.01	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium	N	10 Range: ND - 10	ppb	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	N	3.35 Range: 0.64 – 3.35	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Synthetic Organic Contaminants	Violation Y/N	Levels Detected	Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Di(2-ethylhexyl)Phthalate	Y	Average*12 Range: 3 - 30	ppb	0	6	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories
*The average and range listed are from Well #7 test results ONLY. Di(2-ethylhexyl)Phthalate was NOT detected in Wells#1 - 6. It is important to note that Well #7 is a supplemental well and was NOT in use when these test results were taken. No customers were exposed to this contaminant. Follow-up testing has shown sample results within acceptable levels. 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 increase risk of getting cancer.						
Volatile Organic Contaminants†	Violation Y/N	Levels Detected	Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	N	Average 0.19 Range: 0.12 – 0.29	ppm	MRDLG 4	MRDL 4	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA)	N	Average* 3 Range: ND - 6	ppb	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	N	Average* 26 Range: 19 –32	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
†Test results for these contaminanats came from UWRI's distribution system. *The average presented is the Running Annual Averages						
<b>DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM TEST RESULTS FROM SOUTH KINGSTOWN-SOUTH SHORE WATER SYSTEM</b>						
Microbial Contaminants	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria	Y-July	4 Positive Samples	Highest monthly # of positive samples	0	1 Positive	Naturally present in the environment
	Y-August	4 Positive Samples				
	Y-October	4 Positive Samples				
Inorganic Contaminants	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	N	0.37	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead	N	9	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits

The State of Rhode Island requires testing for other contaminants not regulated by the US EPA. The following contaminants were detected in UWRI's wells:

**Dacthal (DCPA):** Dacthal at a range of 0.41—5 ppb in Well #5, and a range of 14 —20 ppb in Well #7.

**Metolachlor:** UWRI detected Metolachlor at a range of 0.12 — 0.13 ppb in Wells# 6 and a range of 0.10—0.11 ppb in Well #7.

TOWN OF SOUTH KINGSTOWN  
South Shore Water System  
509 Commodore Perry Highway  
Wakefield RI 02879

**Additional Important Information that You Need to Know:**

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. USEPA and Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (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. The South Kingstown South Shore Water System 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>.

We, at the South Kingstown-South Shore Water System, 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. Don't hesitate to call our office at (401) 789-9331 Extension 2257 if you have any questions.

**Outdoor Water Conservation Tips**

Did you know that during the growing season grass and most plants only need one inch of water per week? So, if it rains one inch or more – don't water for the week. If rainfall isn't sufficient for your lawn and flower beds, pick one or two days for outdoor watering. Water in the early morning or early evening to minimize the water lost to evaporation. If possible, use soaker hoses to water flower beds and if sprinklers are used, take care to be sure they don't water walkways and buildings.

**PWS ID# 1615623**