

# 2010 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

## Pascoag Utility District-Water Division

Pascoag, RI  
PWS ID#1592020

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 2010. 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. If after reviewing this report you have any questions, or would like to know more about the Pascoag Utility District's water system, please call Michael Lima at (401) 568-6222. You are also invited to attend our monthly meetings which are held at 6:00 pm, on the fourth Monday of each month, at the District office. The office is located at 253 Pascoag Main Street, Pascoag, RI 02859.

### The Quality of Your Drinking Water

Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We're proud to inform you that your drinking water meets all Federal and State requirements. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

### The Source of Your Drinking Water

We have one drilled well, Well #5, which provides a portion of our water. It is 700 feet deep and is located in the area of Reservoir Road and George Eddy Drive. Well #5's pump station is equipped with a sodium hypochlorite injector which allows for improved chlorine levels in the Reservoir Road service area. We maintain the prescribed wellhead protection area and consider the well to be at low risk of contamination.

We purchase the remainder of our water from the Harrisville Fire District. The Harrisville Fire District's water source is six wells, three near their office and three in Eccleston Field. The RI Department of Health, in cooperation with other state and federal agencies, has assessed the threats to the Harrisville'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 Harrisville's water source is at moderate risk of contamination. Monitoring and protection efforts are necessary and ongoing to assure continued water quality. The complete Source Water Assessment Report is available from the Harrisville Fire District 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 2010 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.

| 2010 TEST RESULTS FROM HARRISVILLE FIRE DISTRICT |               |                |         |         |                 |   |                 |                                       |      |  |                                      |
|--|---------------|----------------|---------|---------|-----------------|---|-----------------|---------------------------------------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Microbial Contaminants†                          | Violation Y/N | Level Detected |         |         |                 |   |                 | Unit Measurement                      | MCLG | MCL  | Likely Source of Contamination       |
|  |               | Well #1        | Well #2 | Well #3 | Well #4         | Well #5   | Well #6         |                                       |      |  |                                      |
| Total Coliform Bacteria                          | N             | ND             | ND      | ND      | 1 positive Nov. | 1 positive Jan<br>6 positive Feb<br>3 positive March<br>2 positive June<br>1 positive October | 1 positive Nov. | Highest Monthly # of Positive Samples | 0    | 1 positive   | Naturally present in the environment |
| Fecal coliform & E. coli                         | N             | ND             | ND      | ND      | ND              | 1 positive February 9th<br>1 positive November 3rd  | ND              | Highest Monthly # of Positive Samples | 0    | Routine sample & repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one is also fecal coliform or E. coli positive | Human and animal fecal waste         |

†Please note, all of Pascoag's & Harrisville's distribution system water quality testing met Federal and State requirements, your water was always safe to drink. In February 2010 Harrisville took Well #5 offline due to the detection of E.coli. They spent several months working to increase the contact time of the chlorine that they inject with the water from the well field. On October 22, 2010, HEALTH approved the chlorine treatment system and Well #5 went back on-line. Since that time Harrisville has maintained the minimum required chlorine residual to provide 4-log (99.99%) inactivation of viruses in the water from that well field.

**Fecal coliform & Escherichia coli (E. coli):** Fecal coliform and E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that water may be contaminated by human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause short term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, and people with severely compromised immune systems.

| Radioactive Contaminants | Violation Y/N | Level Detected |         |         |         |         |         | Unit Measurement | MCLG | MCL | Likely Source of Contamination  |
|--------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------------------|------|-----|---|
|                          |               | Well #1        | Well #2 | Well #3 | Well #4 | Well #5 | Well #6 |                  |      |     |   |
| Combined Radium (2008)   | N             | ND             | 1.07    | ND      | 1.51    | 1.46    | ND      | pCi/L            | 0    | 5   | Erosion of natural deposits   |
| Inorganic Contaminants   | Violation Y/N | Level Detected |         |         |         |         |         | Unit Measurement | MCLG | MCL | Likely Source of Contamination  |
|                          |               | Well #1        | Well #2 | Well #3 | Well #4 | Well #5 | Well #6 |                  |      |     |   |
| Barium (2008)            | N             | 0.01           | 0.03    | 0.01    | 0.03    | 0.03    | 0.04    | ppm              | 2    | 2   | Erosion of natural deposits   |
| Chromium (2008)          | N             | 1              | 2       | ND      | 1       | 1       | 2       | ppb              | 100  | 100 | Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits                            |
| Nitrate (as Nitrogen)    | N             | 0.99           | 0.97    | 0.15    | 0.07    | ND      | 1.34    | ppm              | 10   | 10  | Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits |

## DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM TEST RESULTS FROM HARRISVILLE FIRE DISTRICT

| Microbial Contaminants        | Violation Y/N | Level Detected                    | Unit Measurement                      | MCLG    | MCL        | Likely Source of Contamination             |
|-------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------|------------|--|
| Total Coliform Bacteria       | N             | 1 positive October                | Highest Monthly # of Positive Samples | 0       | 1 positive | Naturally present in the environment       |
| Volatile Organic Contaminants | Violation Y/N | Level Detected                    | Unit Measurement                      | MCLG    | MCL        | Likely Source of Contamination             |
| Chlorine                      | N             | Average*0.28<br>Range:0.23 – 0.33 | ppm                                   | MRDLG 4 | MRDL 4     | Water additive used to control microbes.   |
| Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)       | N             | Average*2<br>Range: 2 – 2.30      | ppb                                   | N/A     | 60         | By-product of drinking water disinfection. |
| Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)  | N             | Average*19<br>Range: 13 - 24      | ppb                                   | 0       | 80         | By-product of drinking water chlorination  |

\*Running annual average (RAA).

## 2010 TEST RESULTS FROM THE PASCOAG UTILITY DISTRICT

| Radioactive Contaminants | Violation Y/N | Level Detected Well #5 | Unit Measurement | MCLG | MCL | Likely Source of Contamination  |
|--------------------------|---------------|------------------------|------------------|------|-----|---|
| Combined Radium (2008)   | N             | ND - 1.15              | pCi/L            | 0    | 5   | Erosion of natural deposits   |
| Fluoride                 | N             | 1.34                   | ppm              | 4    | 4   | Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories |

## DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM TEST RESULTS

| Inorganic Contaminants   | Violation Y/N | Level Detected 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile | Unit Measurement | MCLG | MCL    | Likely Source of Contamination   |
|--------------------------|---------------|--|------------------|------|--------|--|
| Copper (2008)            | N             | 0.22                                       | ppm              | 1.3  | AL=1.3 | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives |
| Lead <sup>1</sup> (2008) | N             | 11   | ppb              | 0    | AL=15  | Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits                                   |

<sup>1</sup>There was one (1) site that exceeded the Lead Action Level. Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to Lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that Lead levels at your home may be higher than other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated Lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

| Volatile Organic Contaminants | Violation Y/N | Level Detected                   | Unit Measurement | MCLG       | MCL       | Likely Source of Contamination             |
|-------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|------------------|------------|-----------|--|
| Chlorine                      | N             | Average 0.36<br>Range 0.25 –0.50 | ppm              | MRGLG<br>4 | MRDL<br>4 | Water additive used to control microbes    |
| Haloacetic Acids (HAA)        | N             | 3                                | ppb              | N/A        | 60        | By-product of drinking water disinfection. |
| Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)  | N             | 23                               | ppb              | 1          | 80        | By product of drinking water chlorination  |

**Non Detect (ND)** - 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.

**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.

**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.

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. The Pascoag Utility District 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 Pascoag Utility District 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.