

# 2016 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

**Chimera Inc.**  
Chepachet, RI  
PWS ID# RI2519424

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 2016. 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 Chimera Inc. water system, please call Anthony Salvatore (401) 783-4538 or Northeast Water, our water operator, at (401) 667-7463.

## **The Quality of Your Drinking Water**

Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

## **The Source of Your Drinking Water**

We have two wells located on the premise, Well #2 and Well #3.

The RI Department of Health, in cooperation with other state and federal agencies, has assessed the threats to Chimera Inc. 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 a low risk of contamination. This does NOT mean that the water cannot become contaminated. Protection efforts are necessary to assure continued water quality. The complete Source Water Assessment Report is available from Chimera Inc. 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 2016 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

2016 TEST RESULTS							
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected (Range: Single Samples)		Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
		Well #2	Well #3				
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>							
Gross Alpha, incl. Radon & Uranium (2015)	N	7.81	ND	pCi/L	0	15	Naturally occurring radioactivity in bedrock.
Combined Radium (2015)	N	2.31	ND	pCi/L	0	5	Naturally occurring radioactivity in bedrock.
Radon (2015)	N	4,600	ND	pCi/L	n/a	4,000	Naturally occurring radioactive gas in bedrock.
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Fluoride (2015)	N	1	0.89	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (2016)	N	0.59	0.17	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

ND = Net Detected

DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM TEST RESULTS						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>						
Total Coliform Bacteria * (September 2016)	Y	<b>2 Positive **</b>	Highest monthly # of positive samples	0 positive	1 positive	Naturally present in the environment
* MCL: (systems that collect ≥ 40 samples/month) 5% of monthly samples are positive; (systems that collect < 40 samples/month) 1 positive monthly sample						
**Level 1 Assessment: A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.						
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>						
Copper*** (01/01/12-12/31/14)	N	0.29	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead*** (01/01/12-12/31/14)	N	4.0	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits

\*\*\* All sampling results represented at the 90<sup>th</sup> Percentile

**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.

#### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**Lead** - Major Sources in Drinking Water: Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.

**Health Effects Statement:** Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

**Copper** - Major Sources in Drinking Water: Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood

preservatives

**Health Effects Statement:** Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could, suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor. results were below 5 pCi/L, no testing for radium was required.

**Fluoride:** Fluoride levels must be maintained between 1-2 ppm, for those water systems that fluoridate the water.

**Gross Alpha:** Since the results of our Gross Alpha samples registered above 5 pCi/L, our system was required to complete additional sampling for radium. Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation. Some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. The radium samples were found to be below the MCL.

**Nitrate:** Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant you should ask advice from your health care provider.

The State of Rhode Island requires testing for other contaminants not regulated by the US EPA. The following contaminant was detected in our well water:

**Sodium:** In 2016, Sodium was detected in Well #2 at 13.0 ppm and in Well #3 at 5.9 ppm.

### **Consumer Confidence Report Adequacy/Availability/Content**

Our system failed to submit our 2015 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) to the Rhode Island Department of Health's Center for Drinking Water Quality by July 1, 2016 and the CCR Certification Form by October 1, 2016, as required by State and Federal regulations, and thus were issued this violation. Since this violation, the report and certification form was submitted in March 2017 to the Department of Health and we have been found to be in compliance and the matter closed. This does not pose a threat to the quality of our water.

### **Total Coliform Bacteria MCL Violation**

During the monitoring period including September 2016, our water testing results were positive and at least 1 recheck sample was positive for the presence of coliform bacteria. To resolve this problem, we chlorinated our wells and the distribution system. Public notification was posted or distributed to all concerned residents. Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems. Subsequent tests have been negative. **Total Coliform:** The Total Coliform Rule requires water systems to meet a stricter limit for coliform bacteria. Coliform bacteria are usually harmless, but their presence in water can be an indication of disease-causing bacteria. When coliform bacteria are found, special follow-up tests are done to determine if harmful bacteria are present in the water supply.

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. Chimera Inc 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 Chimera 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.