

# 2014 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

## Jamestown Water Department

Jamestown, RI  
PWSID# RI1858419

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 2014. 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 Jamestown Water Department water system, please call Michael Gray, Public Works Director, at 401-423-7225.

### The Quality of Your Drinking Water

Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. However, we did receive a Notice of Violation for the Monitoring Schedule of Disinfection ByProducts for Total Trihalomehtanes (TTHM) and Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) during the compliance period of January 1, 2014 to March 31, 2014. Further information regarding this violation can be found at the end of this report. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

In 2013, the Water Department completed a Corrosion Control Study, with the emphasis to reduce at-the-tap lead concentrations within the distribution system. Recommendations from the study have been implemented at the treatment plant and we found a reduction in the levels of sampling conducted in 2013.

### The Source of Your Drinking Water

The two primary sources of water are North Pond and South Pond. One groundwater well, designated JR-1, is used as a supplemental water source during periods of the year when the water level in the reservoirs is lower. We disinfect our water and treat it for pH and corrosion control. Our treatment plant can produce 500,000 gallons of clean water a day.

The RI Department of Health, in cooperation with other state and federal agencies, has assessed the threats to Jamestown Water Department 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 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 Jamestown Water Department 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 following table 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 2014 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.

2013 TEST RESULTS								
Microbial Contaminants	Violation Y/N	Level Detected			Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
		North Pond	South Pond	Well JR-1				
Total Coliform Bacteria (2014)	N	Absent	Absent	Absent	Highest # of monthly positive samples	0	1 positive	Naturally present in the environment
Total Organic Carbon Removal Ratio (TOC) (2014)	N	RAA: 5.84 (4.5-6.8)	ND	ND	ppm	n/a	TT	Soil Runoff
Inorganic Contaminants	Violation Y/N	Level Detected			Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
		North Pond	South Pond	Well JR-1				
Barium (2014)	N	0.007	0.009	0.002	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (2014)	N	ND	ND	3.0	ppb	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (2014)	N	ND	ND	ND	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (2014)	N	0.30	0.32	0.31	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (2014)	N	ND	ND	3.0	ppb	50	50	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines

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

\*\*According to the Radioactive contaminants the sampling results for Combined Radium and Gross Alpha each exceeded the MCL limit.

ND = Not Detected

2013 DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM TEST RESULTS						
Microbial Contaminants	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria (2014)	N	Absent	Highest # of monthly positive samples	0	1 positive	Naturally present in the environment
Total Organic Carbon** Removal Ratio (TOC) (2014)	N	RAA: 2.6 (2.3-3.2)	ppm	n/a	TT	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity (2014)	N	Max: 0.192	NTU	n/a	TT	Soil runoff

\*1 positive sample was recorded for Total Coliform Bacteria for the month of July. However, further monthly testing indicated no positive results for Total Coliform Bacteria.

\*\*The average presented is the running annual average. In order to comply with the EPA standard, the TOC removal ratio must be greater than 1.0 ppm. Total organic carbon (TOC) has no health effects. However, total organic carbon provides a medium for the formation of disinfection byproducts like THMs and HAAs.

Inorganic Contaminants	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper* (2014)	N	0.057	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

Lead* (2014)	N	4.0	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
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\*All sampling results represented at the 90<sup>th</sup> Percentile

Volatile Organic Contaminants	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine (2014)	N	RAA: 1.06 (0.74-1.32)	ppm	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorite (2014)	N	Max: 0.35 (0.01-0.35)	ppm	0.8	1	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Haloacetic Acids [HAA5] (2014)	N	RAA: 16.0 (6.0-16.0)	ppb	0	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination
[Total Trihalomethanes [TTHM] (2014)	N	RAA: 53.0 (14.0-53.0)	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination

**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.

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:

**Alkalinity, Total:** In 2014, Total Alkalinity was detected in the North Pond Entry Point at 16 ppm.

**Sodium:** In 2014, sodium was detected in Entry Point Well JR-1 at 10.1 ppm and in the Treatment Plant at 15.2 ppm.

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. Jamestown Water Department 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 Jamestown Water Department 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.