THE QUALITY OF YOUR DRINKING WATER
We are pleased to present to you this year’s Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the water quality of water and services that we delivered to you in 2017. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies.

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. As always, we remain committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

Narragansett Water does not hold regularly scheduled meetings; therefore, if you have any questions about this report or the Water Division, please contact Jack Eldridge, Water Superintendent, at (401) 782-0639. You may also call this number to obtain information about proposed or planned system improvements projects, such as main line replacement, new hydrant locations, etc. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility.

THE SOURCE OF YOUR DRINKING WATER
We purchase our water for this area from SUEZ Water. The water we receive from SUEZ Water comes from six (6) gravel packed wells, plus one emergency well, located in two well fields. Both well fields are located off Tuckertown Road in South Kingstown. These wells can produce up to 7 million gallons of water per day. Both well fields draw water from the Mink Brook Aquifer. SUEZ Water has initiated a very aggressive Wellhead Protection Program which has identified a well protection area around both well fields. SUEZ Water is also conducting an inventory regarding land use within this wellhead area. SUEZ Water uses sodium hypochlorite for disinfection. Water treated at each well field is also aerated to make your water less aggressive. SUEZ Water adds lime for pH adjustment and zinc orthophosphate for corrosion control. This reduces the possibility of lead and copper in household plumbing from dissolving in the water.

The RI Department of Health, in cooperation with other state and federal agencies, has assessed the threats to SUEZ Water’s 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. The assessment found that SUEZ Water’s sources are 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 SUEZ Water or the Department of Health at (401) 222-6867.
WHY ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN DRINKING WATER?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the 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. 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/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

IMPORTANT LEAD INFORMATION

Testing showed the amount of lead in our drinking water is below the EPA allowed level (see test result table at right). If present in elevated levels 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 Narragansett Water Division is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in residential 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.

TEST RESULT TABLE - UNITS & 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.
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 Disinfectant Level (MRDL) - The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water.
Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) - The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health.
The State of Rhode Island requires testing for other contaminants not regulated by the US EPA. The following contaminants were detected:

- **SUEZ Water**: In 2017, Sodium was detected at a concentration of 69.4 ppm.
RIWIS SYSTEM MAKES TRACKING ONSITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS (OWTS)-SEPTIC SYSTEMS EASY

RIWIS, Rhode Island Wastewater Information System, is a statewide, internet-accessed system that organizes local information about OWTS (septic systems) and cesspools, including their location and condition, inspection results, and maintenance. This tracking is not only required, but is crucial to protecting water quality and public health. The easy-to-use system was developed by Carmody Data Systems in collaboration with URI, and is provided at a reasonable cost to municipalities in Rhode Island. The Town’s septic system tracking needed upgrading and RIWIS has more than met that need. The system eliminates the paper report submission by homeowners. Instead, septic and cesspool pumpers now have the responsibility of submitting the pumping receipt online, and have access to the system free of charge. RIWIS uses passwords to access various levels of data, so homeowners can know that their private information is secure.

CURRENT WATER SYSTEM UPGRADES & IMPROVEMENTS

The Town has completed the repainting of the North End Tank.

For information regarding the Water Division’s responsibilities and policies, please go to the Town’s website: www.narragansettri.gov and look under the Engineering Department heading.

Visit our webpage www.narragansettri.gov to learn more about the Water Division