



NEW CASTLE WATER SYSTEM 2020 TESTING RESULTS PWSID 1661010 On behalf of the Town of New Castle, the City of Portsmouth Water Division is pleased to present the Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report summarizes results of drinking water testing performed from 01/01/2020 to 12/31/2020, and is provided to keep you informed about the quality of the water you rely on every day. This report pertains to customers that receive water from the New Castle water system (PWSID# 1661010), which is served by the Portsmouth water system (PWSID# 1951010). This system is separate from the Pease water system that serves the Pease Tradeport and a portion of Newington.

Through 2020, the water provided to New Castle customers has continued to meet all water quality standards as regulated by the US Environmental Protection Agency and the NH Department of Environmental Services.

An extensive amount of information is provided in this report. Please contact us if you would like help understanding the information provided or have suggestions for future reports.

# SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

#### TOURS, LECTURES and COMMUNITY EVENTS





Madbury Water Treatment Facility Tours in 2020: New York City Water Operations Staff & UNH Students







Collection Day

Our mission is to provide the community with drinking water that meets all current federal and state drinking water standards. The Portsmouth Water Division is constantly monitoring and routinely testing the drinking water according to these requirements to ensure the quality of water delivered to our customers consistently meets these water quality standards. Potential contaminants and impacts from changing weather cause new challenges. We remain vigilant in meeting the goals of water treatment, source water protection, water efficiency, system improvements, fire service capability and community education, while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users.

Water is supplied to the New Castle water system from the Portsmouth water system. It comes from a combination of surface water and groundwater sources. The surface water supply is the Bellamy Reservoir, which is located in Madbury and Dover. Water flows from a 22 square mile watershed area into the reservoir to the Water Treatment Facility (WTF) in Madbury, where it is treated using a coagulation, dissolved air flotation and dual media filtration process. The treated water is chlorinated with sodium hypochlorite before distribution into the system. Sodium hydroxide (used to adjust the final pH and alkalinity), fluoride as hydrofluorosilicic acid (used to prevent tooth decay) and poly/ ortho-phosphate (a sequestering chemical to reduce precipitation of iron and manganese, and inhibit corrosion is used to protect distribution system pipes) are also added before distribution to our regionally served water customers.

There are currently three groundwater wells in Madbury (Madbury Wells #2, #3 and #4) that are pumped with the treated surface water through a transmission main to a Booster Pumping Station in

Newington. Water is pumped from the Newington Booster Pumping Station to customers through the Portsmouth and New Castle distribution systems.

Portsmouth is also served by three groundwater wells. Two of them, Portsmouth Well #1 and Collins Well, are located off Route 33 (Greenland Road). The third well, the Greenland Well, is located off Post Road in Greenland. Sodium hypochlorite and poly/orthophosphate are added to the water supplied by the Portsmouth Well #1, Collins Well and Greenland Well. Fluoride as hydrofluorosilicic acid is also added at the Greenland Well.

T he City also manages the Pease International Tradeport drinking water system, which is independent from the Portsmouth water system. Detailed information about the Pease water system can be found in a separate annual water quality report on the City's website.



# PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

#### SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP)



Many capital improvement projects that will increase the resiliency and quality of the water system are currently underway or have been recently completed. A new 12-inch diameter water main that serves the New Castle water system was installed in 2020. Additional projects to improve the distribution system are in discussion and underway. Information regarding these projects are available from the Water & Sewer Commission Meeting Minutes at <u>www.newcastlenh.org/water-sewer-commission</u>

**P**ortsmouth water supply projects include the connection of two new wells in Madbury to the water system. This project is currently in design and is scheduled to be under construction in 2021. These wells will replace aging infrastructure and allow for better aquifer management. A backwash tank and a wash-water recycling pumping facility is currently under construction at the WTF. This project will allow for greater optimization of the surface water treatment process. Designs are currently underway for the replacement of the water transmission mains that pass beneath Little Bay to Newington to ensure the supply from Madbury into the City is not interrupted. This construction project is tentatively scheduled for the winter of 2021-2022. Also, aging water mains at various locations throughout the City are being targeted for on-going replacement. Additionally, water system staff periodically perform leak detection in New Castle to identify and fix hard-to-locate leaks.

### **CONSERVATION LAND**

Taking another significant step in its effort to protect the City of Portsmouth's surface water supply by conserving lands surrounding the Bellamy Reservoir, the City's Department of Public Works Water Division partnered with Southeast Land Trust (SELT) to purchase a conservation easement on approximately 107 acres adjacent to the Reservoir. The transaction closed on December 29, 2020.

This acquisition complements the conservation easement secured in 2018 on 72 acres of property owned by David Olson, also adjacent to the Bellamy Reservoir in Madbury. Both easements were obtained through the combined efforts of the City, SELT and the Town of Madbury to coordinate due diligence activities and prepare the easement documents. With their help, the City applied for and received a \$287,000 grant from the New Hampshire Groundwater and Drinking Water Trust Fund and approximately \$11,500 from the Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership. The Portsmouth City Council authorized the use of \$287,300 from the City's Water Enterprise Fund to complete the purchase of the easement.

The protection of the Bellamy Reservoir is a high priority for the City of Portsmouth because the Reservoir is the primary supply of the fresh water treated at the City's Madbury Water Treatment Facility and delivered to regional communities around the seacoast. Conserving land that surrounds or includes wetlands, rivers, streams and larger bodies of water like the Reservoir protects water resources from the pressures of development and helps the municipal water system provide quality drinking water.



Conservation easement on property adjacent to the Bellamy Reservoir helps protect the drinking water supply for Portsmouth and the other communities served by the Portsmouth Water Division.

# 2020 WATER QUALITY RESULTS

	CONTAMINANT (UNIT OF MEASUREMENT)	IN COMPLIANCE	VIOLATION (Y/N)	LEVEL MEASURED	RANGE	MCLG	MCL	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION		
MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS	Total Organic Carbon (% removal)	<ul> <li>Image: A start of the start of</li></ul>	N	Average % Removal: 69.7	55.2 - 80.0	N/A	TT: minimum removal 45% - 50%	Naturally present in the environment		
	Total Coliform Bacteria	<ul> <li></li> </ul>	Ν	<b>NO</b> total coliform bacteria detection collected and analyzed in 2020	Naturally present in the environment					
	Turbidity (NTU)	<b>\</b>	N	Highest Measurement: 0.12	0.02 - 0.12	N/A	1	Soil runoff		
	Turbidity (Lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	$\checkmark$	Ν	100%	N/A	N/A	TT=95% of samples < or = 0.3 NTU	Soil runoff		
DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS	Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	$\checkmark$	Ν	Highest LLRA: 39	16 - 43	N/A	60	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection		
	Total Trihalomethanes (ppb) (Bromodichloro-meth- ane, Bromoform, Dibromo- methane, Chloroform)	<ul> <li>Image: A start of the start of</li></ul>	N	Highest LLRA: 47	18 - 73	N/A 80		Byproduct of drinking water chlorination		
AND PER	Lead (ppb)	$\checkmark$	Ν	90th Percentile = 1	0 site above AL (13 sites sampled)		AL = 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits		
LEAD AND COPPER	Copper (ppm)	$\checkmark$	Ν	90th Percentile = 0.109	0 sites above AL (13 sites sampled)		AL = 1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives		
	Arsenic (ppb) 2019 & 2020 data	<b>\</b>	Ν	Highest Level Measured: 1.5 Avg Source Level: 1.1	<1 - 1.5	0	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes		
ANTS	Barium (ppb) 2019 & 2020 data	$\checkmark$	N	Highest Level Measured: 22.4 Avg Source Level: 13.4	8.8 - 22	2000 2000		Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits		
UTAMIN/	Chlorine (ppm)	$\checkmark$	N	Highest Level Measured: 0.98 Avg System Level: 0.67	0.30 - 0.98	MRDLG = 4 MRDL = 4		Water additive used to control microbes		
NIC CO	Chromium (total) (ppb) 2019 & 2020 data	$\checkmark$	Ν	Highest Level Measured: 1.7 Avg Source Level: 1.2	<1 - 1.7	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits		
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS	Fluoride (ppm)	<ul> <li>Image: A start of the start of</li></ul>	Ν	Highest Level Measured: 0.80 Avg Level: 0.68	0.49 - 0.80	4 4		Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories		
	Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	<b>\</b>	Ν	Highest Level Measured: 4.7 Avg Source Level: 1.8	<0.2 - 4.7	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits		
/E NTS	Compliance Gross Alpha (pCi/L) 2016 - 2020 data	$\checkmark$	Ν	Highest Level Measured: 1	<1 - 1	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits		
RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS	Uranium (ug/L) 2019 & 2020 data	$\checkmark$	Ν	Highest Level Measured: 1.6	1.2 - 1.6	0	30	Erosion of natural deposits		
	Combined Radium 226 + 228 (pCi/L) 2016 - 2020 data	<b>\</b>	Ν	Highest Level Measured: 1.96	<1 - 1.96	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits		
UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES	Manganese (ppb) 2019 data	<	Ν	Average Source Level: 21.9	2.5 - 211	Naturally-o in steel pro nutrient fo	occurring element used in oduction to improve hard ound in vitamin/mineral su	a variety of applications including use ness, stiffness and strength. Essential upplement and in fortified foods		
	HAA5 (ppb) 2019 data	<b>\</b>	Ν	Average Distribution Level: 32	0.3 - 57	Byproducts of drinking water disinfect		ection		
	HAA6Br (ppb) 2019 data	<b>\</b>	Ν	Average Distribution Level: 5.5	2.9 - 8.4	Byproduct	s of drinking water disinfe	nfection		
	HAA9 (ppb) 2019 data	$\checkmark$	Ν	Average Distribution Level: 38	0.3 - 65	Byproducts of drinking water disinfection				
PFAS	Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)	$\checkmark$	Ν	See PFAS section		Discharge from industrial processes, wastewater treatment, residuals from firefighting foam, runoff / leachate from landfills and septic systems				

ERMS • AGQS (Ambient Groundwater Quality Standard): Groundwater quality standard established by the State of New Hampshire per Env-Or 600.

- AL (Action Level): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking
- $\overline{O}$ water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking
- water. MCLS are set as close to the MCLCs as reasible using the best available treatment technolic
   MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal): 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.
   MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drin
   water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of
   microbial contaminants.
   MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal): The level of a drinking water disinfectant b
   which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the using the safety of the using the safety of the safety of the using the safety of th MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal): 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.

- N/A (not applicable): Sampling was not completed by regulation or was not required.
- ND (none detected): Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.
- ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).
- ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micro-grams per liter). .
- ppt (parts per trillion): One part substance per trillion parts water (or nanograms per liter).

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units): Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in .

- excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person. TT (Treatment Technique): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in
- drinking water.
- LRAA (Locational Running Annual Average): The average of sample analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters. Amount Detected values for TTHMs and HAAs are reported as LRAAs.

# 2020 WATER QUALITY RESULTS

### **PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS)**

On September 30, 2019 the NHDES established limits on the concentrations of four per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking water. The NHDES maximum contaminant level (MCL) for drinking water and groundwater is 15 parts per trillion (ppt) for perfluorooctane-sulfonic acid (PFOS), 12 ppt for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), 11 ppt for Perfluorononanoic Acid (PFNA), and 18 ppt for Perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS). These limits are based on an annual rolling average of the sample results. The EPA Health Advisory concentration has remained at 70 (ppt) for (PFOS) and (PFOA) since 2016.

**The water provided to New Castle water customers is in compliance with the NHDES PFAS limits.** The City samples all of the Portsmouth water supply sources quarterly in accordance with NHDES rules and use accredited laboratories and EPA approved testing methods. Sample results from 2020 are summarized in the PFAS table below. The complete record of PFAS sample results is available online: <u>cityofportsmouth.</u> <u>com/publicworks/water/portsmouth-water-system-pfas-update</u>

Over the past seven years, the Harrison Well and Smith Well in the Pease Tradeport water system, and Portsmouth Well #1 and Collins Well in the Portsmouth water system, have been routinely monitored for PFAS by the Air Force. All monitoring data is available online. For more information about PFAS health effects: <a href="https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/sites/pease/index.html">www.atsdr.cdc.gov/sites/pease/index.html</a>

	PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCE (CONCENTRATIONS* REPORTED IN NG/L OR PPT)	NHDES MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL (MCL)		PORTSMOUTH WELL #1	COLLINS WELL	GREENLAND WELL	MADBURY WELL #2	MADBURY WELL #3	MADBURY WELL #4	BELLAMY RESERVOIR	WATER TREATMENT PLANT
	# of samples in 2020				15	4	4	4	4	4	4
	% of water supplied in 2020				3.1%	10.4%	1.3%	5.2%	4.2%	(	67.7%
AS)		not regulated	Average	3	15	2	1	1	2	1	1
S (PF/	Perfluorobutane-sulfonic acid (PFBS)		Range	2 - 4	11 - 19	1 - 3	1 - 2	1 - 2	2	ND-1	ND-1
<b>3STANCE</b>		not	Average	3	4	2 1 1	1	1	12		
	Perfluorobutanoic acid (PFBA)	regulated	Range	2 - 4	3 - 6	2	1 - 2	1 - 2	ND-1	ND-2	ND-22
r su	Perfouoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA)	not	Average	3	1	2	1	1 - 2         2           1         1	1	1	
PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS)	Periodoroneptanoic acid (PFHpA)	regulated	Range	2 - 4	ND-2	1 - 2	ND-1	1	ND-1	0 - 2	ND-1
		10	Average	6	2	2	1	1	4         4         4           5.2%         4.2%         1           1         2         1           1-2         2         1           1-2         2         1           1-2         ND-1         1           1         1         1           1         ND-1         1           1         ND         ND           ND         ND         1           1         1         1           1         1         1           1         1         1           1         1         1           1         1         1           1         1         1           1         1         1	BD	BD
	Perfluorohexane-sulfonic acid (PFHxS)	18	Range	4 - 8	1 - 3	1 - 3	ND-1	ND-1		ND-1	ND-<1
ОГУГ	Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA)	not	Average	4	2	3	1	1	1	BD	1
D P		regulated	ulated	2 - 4	ND-1	1-3	ND-1	ND-2	ND-3		
R- AN	Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA)	11		ND	BD	BD					
PEI		11	Range	ND-1	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND-1	ND-1
	Perfluorooctane-sulfonic acid (PFOS)	15	Average	4	4	3	1	1	1	1	1
		15	Range	2 - 6	1 - 5	1 - 4	ND-2	1 - 2	ND-1	ND-2	ND-1
	Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)	12	Average	5	3	3	2	2	2	2	2
		12	Range	3 - 6	1 - 5	2 - 4	1 - 3	1 - 3	1 - 4	1 - 3	1 - 3
	Perfluoropentanoic acid (PFPeA)	not	Average	5	2	4	1	2	1	4         4         4         4           2%	BD
	remusiopentanoic acto (FFFEA)	regulated	Range	3 - 7	ND-4	2-4	ND-2	ND-3	ND-1		ND-2

Due to laboratory analytical method limitations, low concentrations reported for these chemicals are considered estimates unless the amount measured is above 2 ng/L (ppt).

EPA Health Advisory Level for PFOS and PFOA concentration separately or combined is 70 ng/L (ppt).

Averages are calculated using half of the method detection limit for samples that were less than detection, per EPA risk assessment protocols.

ND (none detected): Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

BD (below detected level): Average calculated using half of detection limits for non-detect values resulted in average below the detection limit.

PFAS analyzed but not detected in the samples: 8:2 Fluorotelomer sulfonate (8:2 FTS), N-Ethyl perfluorooctane sulfonamide (EFOSA), N-Ethyl perfluorooctane sulfonamidoethanol (EFOSE), N-Methyl Perfluorooctane Sulfonamidoethanol (EFOSE), N-Methyl Perfluorodecane sulfonate (PFDS), Perfluorodecane sulfonate (PFDS), Perfluorodecane sulfonate (PFDA), Perfluorodecane sulfonate (PFDA), Perfluorotetradecanoic acid (PFDA), Perfluorotetradecanoic acid (PFTeDA), Perfluorotetradecanoic acid (PFTe

## WHAT'S IN YOUR DRINKING WATER AND WHAT'S NOT

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons (e.g., persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly and infants) may be especially at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The US EPA/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

### **LEAD and COPPER**

Portsmouth Water Division takes the responsibility of protecting your health very seriously. We want you to make informed decisions about your drinking water. Lead is not present in the water when it leaves our treatment and well facilities, or in the water mains that run below the streets. However, lead can be present in old service line connections that tie homes to the water system or plumbing inside homes and businesses. Due to the age of many homes in Portsmouth and surrounding towns, and the associated potential for leaded plumbing components, we encourage customers to have their water tested by a certified laboratory, especially if there are children under six or pregnant women in the household. We actively adjust the water chemistry at the treatment facility and well facilities according to our Corrosion Control Program, to reduce the potential for lead in households to dissolve into the water and end up at the tap. But if lead is present in your plumbing system, and is in contact with water, some risk remains. Information about our Corrosion Control Program can be found on the City's website.

Lead was a common material used in plumbing until the 1980s. It is a powerful toxin that is harmful to human health. If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Pregnant women, infants and young children are especially vulnerable because even low levels of lead in the blood of children can result in behavior and learning problems, lower IQ and hyperactivity, slowed growth, hearing problems and anemia. Adults who drink water with lead concentrations over 15 parts per billion (ppb) for many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. We are 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 the tap for 30 seconds to two (2) minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. Do not use hot 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 at 800-426-4791. Additional information is available from NHDES by calling 603-271-2516 or online: <a href="https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/lead-copper">www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/lead-copper</a>

The Town of New Castle samples for lead and copper from at least 10 homes every year. The samples collected in 2020 resulted in all of the samples having less than the EPA Action Level (AL) of 15 ppb for lead and 1.3 ppm for copper. Two of the thirteen samples collected in 2020 had lead levels that were above the laboratory method detection limit of 1 ppb. The highest level measured was 3.6 ppb. The next sample event is scheduled for the fall of 2021.

#### **FLUORIDATION**

Your public water supply is fluoridated. According to the CDC, if your child under the age of six months is exclusively consuming infant formula reconstituted with fluoridated water, there may be an increased chance of dental fluorosis. Consult your child's health care provider for more information. Dental fluorosis, in moderate or severe forms, may result in brown staining and/or pitting of the permanent teeth before they erupt from the gums. Concerns for dental fluorosis arise when fluoride levels are greater than 2 mg/L.

### **SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT**

Portsmouth Water Division routinely updates inventories of potential contaminant threats and is actively pursuing opportunities to increase the protection of our groundwater supplies and the Bellamy Reservoir through property and easement acquisitions.

NHDES prepared drinking water source assessment reports for all public water systems between 2000 and 2003 in an effort to assess the vulnerability of each of the State's public water supply sources. Included in the report is a map of each source water protection area, a list of potential and known contamination sources and a summary of available protection options. The results of the assessment, prepared in 2002, are provided in the table. Risk factors, such as proximity of highways and proximity of known contamination, are ranked and summarized in the summary of susceptibility ratings section in terms of the number of factors per risk category. The complete assessment report is available for review at the DPW office and online: www.des. nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/dwspp/ dwsap.htm

ULTS	SYSTEM	SOURCE INFORMATION	SUMMARY OF SUSCEPTIBILITY RATINGS			
r res	PORTSMOUTH		HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	
AENT		Greenland Well - GPW 003	4	3	5	
ESSN		Portsmouth Well - GPW 004	5	4	3	
t ASS		Madbury Well 2 - GPW 006	2	4	6	
ATER		Madbury Well 3 - GPW 007	0	5	7	
SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT RESULTS		Madbury Well 4 - GPW 008	2	4	6	
		Bellamy Reservoir - 009	1	6	5	
		Collins Well - GPW 010	4	1	7	

The City of Portsmouth conducts extensive monitoring to guard against contaminants in your drinking water according to federal and state laws.

### **POSSIBLE CONTAMINANTS IN DRINKING WATER SOURCES**

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may contain small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects are available by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals, and in some cases, radioactive material. It can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity.

#### CONTAMINANTS THAT MAY BE PRESENT INCLUDE:

Microbial Contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from wastewater treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, or wildlife; Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may 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 may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.





#### **REGULATED and UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS:**

During the past year, we have taken hundreds of water samples in order to monitor and test for the presence of radioactive, biological, inorganic, volatile organic and synthetic organic contaminants. The tables provided show only those contaminants that were detected in the water. Many more parameters were tested for, but not detected. They are not included in this report. The state requires us to monitor for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year when the sample was taken.

Portsmouth has completed the fourth stage of the EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR4) program that started in 2018. The UCMR program benefits the environment and public health by providing the EPA with data on the occurrence of contaminants suspected to be in drinking water. This helps the EPA determine if it needs to introduce new regulatory standards to improve drinking water quality. Chemicals analyzed for UCMR 4 included ten cyanotoxins, two metals, eight pesticides, one pesticide manufacturing byproduct, three brominated haloacetic acids, three alcohols, and other semivolatile chemicals. The results of these tests are summarized in this report. Chemicals that were not detected are not included in the data tables.

In addition to the UCMR4 monitoring, samples of the Bellamy Reservoir untreated water were collected between October 2016 and September 2018 and tested for Cryptosporidium as part of the EPA Long-Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule requirements. None of the samples contained Cryptosporidium, so the NHDES determined that no additional surface water treatment is needed to meet this rule requirement.

### WATER QUALITY PARAMETERS

The water quality parameters are routinely monitored to assess the general characteristics of the water supply. Note that the range of some of these parameters illustrates the differences between the characteristics of the surface water supply and the groundwater supply.

	PARAMETERS (UNITS)	AVERAGE LEVEL	RESULTS RANGE	SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD SMCL
	Chloride (ppm)	55	41 - 67	250
2	Copper (ppb)	35	1 - 197	1300
	Iron (ppb)	56	40 - 90	300
АКА	Manganese (ppb)	5	2 - 10	50
-	рН	7.6	7.3 - 7.9	6.5 - 8.5
UAL	Sulfate (ppm)	12	3 - 28	250
2	Conductivity (umos/com)	269	210 - 338	N/A
	Alkalinity (ppm)	28	15 - 34	N/A
	Hardness (ppm as CaCO3)	22	16 - 32	N/A
	Ortho-Phosphate (ppm)	1.16	0.86 - 1.49	N/A
	Sodium (ppm)	74	22 - 180	250







CITY OF PORTSMOUTH DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS WATER DIVISION 680 PEVERLY HILL ROAD PORTSMOUTH, NH 03801 603-427-1530

## **IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION**

TOWN OF NEW CASTLE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS 301 WENTWORTH ROAD PO BOX 367 NEW CASTLE NH 03854

**Steve Tabbutt, Public Works Superintendent** New Castle Public Works

(603) 431-6710 Ext.13

Please share your thoughts with us about this report. We welcome the opportunity to answer your questions about the water supply.

#### Federal and State Agencies:

EPA Hotlines Safe Drinking Water (800) 426-4791 www.epa.gov/environmental-topics/water-topics

NH Department of Environmental Services (603) 271-3503 https://www.des.nh.gov/water

#### It's your drinking water and your input is important.

Participate in a New Castle Select Board meeting and/or a Portsmouth City Council meeting.

Town of New Castle meeting agendas are online: <u>www.newcastlenh.org/select-board</u>

City of Portsmouth meeting agendas are online: <u>cityofportsmouth.com</u>



Have you met Blue? cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/water