

# Consumer Confidence Report

Birch Hill East

EPA # 0512010

2020

## What is a Consumer Confidence Report?

The Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) details the quality of your drinking water, where it comes from, and where you can get more information. This annual report documents all detected primary and secondary drinking water parameters, and compares them to their respective standards known as Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs).

NOW IT COMES WITH A LIST OF INGREDIENTS.



**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.

**Contaminants that may be present** in source water include:

**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 storm water 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 storm water 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 storm water runoff, and septic systems.

**Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

**In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink**, the EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amounts of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

## What is the source of my drinking water?

The current source of the Birch Hill East water supply is the town of North Conway which consists of four wells. Wells 3 and 6 are located on the west side of the Saco River along the south side of River Road. Wells 4 and 5 are located at the Hussey Well Field behind the 1785 Inn. These wells range in depth from 77 feet to 115 feet, with yields ranging from 800 to 1,300 gallons per minute. Water treatment consists of chlorination to prevent bacterial contamination.

## Why are contaminants in my 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

## Do I need to take special precautions?

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 microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

## Source Water Assessment Summary

DES 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.

Source Name	Date	Low	Med	High
Well # 3	4/2000	8	3	1
Well # 4	4/2000	9	2	1
Well # 5	4/2000	9	2	1
Well # 6	Has not been rated			

Note: This information is over 20 years old and includes information that was current at the time the report was completed. Therefore, some of the ratings might be different if updated to reflect current information. At the present time, DES has no plans to update this data.

The complete Assessment Report is available for review. For more information, call *Matt Day* at 800-553-5191 or visit the DES Drinking Water Source Assessment website at <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/dwssp/dwsap.htm>.

## How can I get involved?

For more information about your drinking water, please call our laboratory at 800-553-5191 or send an email to [customer-service@pennichuck.com](mailto:customer-service@pennichuck.com). Although we do not have specific dates for public participation events or meetings, feel free to contact us with any questions you may have.

## Violations: We are pleased to announce there were no violations.

**Lead:** 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. This water system is responsible for high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in your plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing cold water from your tap for at least 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. Do not use hot water for drinking and 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 or at <http://water.epa.gov/drink/info/lead>.

**Radon:** Radon is a radioactive gas that you cannot see, taste or smell. It can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in the foundation. Radon can also get into indoor air when released from tap water from showering, washing dishes, and other household activities. It is a known human carcinogen. Breathing radon can lead to lung cancer. Drinking water containing radon may cause an increased risk of stomach cancer.

## Definitions

**Action Level or AL:** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL:** 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 or MCLG:** 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 or 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.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal or 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.

**MFL (million fibers per liter):** A measure of the presence of fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

## Abbreviations

**NA:** Not Applicable

**ND:** Not Detectable at testing limits

**pCi/L:** picroCurie per Liter

**ppb:** parts per billion

**ppm:** parts per million

**SMCL:** (Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level): established to regulate the aesthetics of drinking water like taste and odor.

**MFL:** Million Fibers per Liter

**90<sup>th</sup> Percentile** – Out of every 10 homes sampled, 9 were at or below this level

## 2020 Report (2019 Data)

Inorganic Contaminants	Date	Highest Detect	Range Detected	MCL or [MRDL]	MCLG or [MRDL]	Violation Yes/No	Typical Source of Contaminant	
Asbestos (MFL)	2013	0.19	0 – 0.19	7	7	No	Decay of asbestos cement water mains; Erosion of natural deposits	
Barium (ppb)	2018	3.7	2.5- 3.7	2	2	No	Geological; oil/gas drilling, painting, industrial waste	
Fluoride (ppm)	2018	0.85	0.62 – 0.85	4	4	No	Geological; additive to drinking water, toothpaste	
Nitrate as Nitrogen (ppm)	2019	0.46	0.21 – 0.46	10	10	No	Geological; fertilizer, sewage. Feedlots.	
<b>Disinfectant and Disinfection By-Products</b>								
Chlorine (ppm)	2019	Average 0.50	ND – 0.94	[4]	[4]	No	Water additive used to control microbes	
<b>Radiological Contaminants</b>								
Compliance Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	2015& 2016	1.2	ND – 1.2	15	0	No	Erosion of natural deposits and radioactive materials	
Radon (pCi/L)	2019	1169	793 - 1169	Not Regulated	Advisory 2000	NA	Erosion of natural deposits and radioactive materials	
<b>Lead and Copper</b>								
	Date	90th Percentile	Action Level	MCLG	Number of Sites Sampled	# sites above Action Level	Violation Yes/No	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	2019	2	15	0	9	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing system; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	2019	0.0041	1.3	1.3	9	0	No	
<b>Secondary Substances</b>								
	Date	Highest Detect	Range Detected	SMCL		Typical Sources		
Chloride (ppm)	2018	17	13 - 17	250		Wastewater, road salt, water softeners, corrosion		
Copper (ppm)	2018	0.72	0.002 – 0.72	1.0		Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits		
Iron (ppb)	2018	160	ND – 160	300		Geological		
Manganese (ppb)	2018	3.2	ND – 3.2	50		Geological		
pH (Units)	2018	7.42	6.55 – 7.42	6.5 – 8.5		Naturally occurring		
Sodium (ppm)	2018	24.3	14 – 24.3	250		Road salts, septic systems (salt from water softener)		
Sulfate (ppm)	2018	4	3 – 4	250		Naturally occurring		
Zinc (ppm)	2018	0.398	0.0012-0.398	5		Galvanized pipes		