

# 2016 Consumer Confidence Report

## Alton Water Works

### PWS ID# 0061010

Like any responsible public water system, our mission is to deliver the best-quality drinking water and reliable service at the lowest, appropriate cost. Aging infrastructure presents challenges to drinking water safety, and continuous improvement is needed to maintain the quality of life we desire for today and for the future.

With the severe winter of 2015, there were a few service lines that froze from lack of use and a 2" line froze on Downing Drive. Equipment and manpower were brought in to thaw the line as the frost exceeded 5' on most of the road. Levey Park pump house was upgraded with new chemical holding tanks and pumps. A valve was added to the main water line to isolate a leak at the Bay Bridge. A leaking valve was replaced on School Street and several other repairs were done as they were needed. The reservoir was inspected and the rates were increased for 2016.

These investments along with on-going operation and maintenance costs are supported by Quarterly billings for year round residents and Annual billing of our Seasonal residents. When considering the high value we place on water, it is truly a bargain to have water service that protects public health, fights fires, supports businesses and the economy, and provides us with the high-quality of life we enjoy.

#### 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**, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount 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?**

Our water is pumped as ground water from two wells. One is located off Route 11 in Alton Bay behind the Levey Park and the second well is at Jones Field. The water is treated for PH and is disinfected.

**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. The results of the assessment, prepared on June 10, 2005, are noted below.

Source 2: Levey Park Well G.P.W  

High	Medium	Low
2	4	6

Source 3: Jones Field Well G.P.W.  

High	Medium	Low
2	4	6

Note: This information is over 11 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 at Alton Water Works, 67 Frank C. Gilman Highway, Alton, NH). For more information, call William J. Curtin at 603-875-4200 or visit the DES Drinking Water Source Assessment website at <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/dwspp/dwsap.htm>.

#### **How can I get involved?**

Meetings are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month at 9:30 am at the Alton Water Works office at 67 Frank C. Gilman Highway, Alton, NH.

For more information about your drinking water, please call William J. Curtin, Superintendent, at (603) 875-4200, or write to William J. Curtin c/o Alton Water Works, PO Box 803, Alton, NH 03809 Although we do not have specific dates for public participation events, feel free to contact us with any questions you may have.

**Violations and Other information:** See violation list in table attached.

#### **Definitions**

**Ambient Groundwater Quality Standard or AGQS:** The maximum concentration levels for contaminants in groundwater that are established under RSA 485-C, the Groundwater Protection Act.

**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.

**Treatment Technique or TT:** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**Turbidity:** A measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is monitored by surface water systems because it is a good indicator of water quality and thus helps measure the effectiveness of the treatment process. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants.

#### **Abbreviations**

BDL: Below Detection Limit

Mg/L: milligrams per Liter

NA: Not Applicable

ND: Not Detectable at testing limits

NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Unit

PCi/L: PicoCurie per Liter

Ppb: parts per billion

Ppm: parts per million

RAA: Running Annual Average

TTHM: Total Trihalomethanes

UCMR: Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule

Ug/L: micrograms per Liter

*THE FOLLOWING APPLIES if these contaminants are present - see table for detected levels.*

#### **Drinking Water Contaminants:**

**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 can not 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 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 or at

<http://water.epa.gov/drink/info/lead/index.cfm>

**Radon:** Radon is a radioactive gas that you can't 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.

Alton Water Works  
 PO Box 803  
 Alton, NH 03809  
 603-875-4200

**SIGNIFICANT DEFICIENCY**

Significant deficiency description and date of sanitary survey	Source of <i>E.coli</i>	Date deficiency was addressed or corrected	Approved plan and timeframe for correction	Health Effects (Env-Dw 811.21)
Sanitary Survey of 12/9/15				
Alarm monitoring Reservoir tank level		12/9/15	New monitoring system to be installed	NONE
Leak in Main Line at Alton Bay Bridge		12/9/15	1/27/16 Letter of explanation	NONE

**VIOLATIONS**

VIOLATIONS	Date of violation	Explain violation	Length of violation	Action taken to resolve	Health Effects (Env-Dw 811.21)
NONE					

**DETECTED WATER QUALITY RESULTS**

Contaminant (Units)	Level Detected	MCL	MCL G	Violation YES/NO	Likely Source of Contamination	Health Effects of Contaminant
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>						
Arsenic (ppb)	4/9/15 8 Source 2	10	0	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes	(5 ppb through 10 ppb) While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.  (above 10 ppm) Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
Barium (ppm)	1/2011 .003 Source 2 2014 .015 Source 3	2	2	NO	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits	Some people who drink water containing barium in excess of the MCL over many years could experience an increase in their blood pressure.
Copper (ppm)	Source 2 1/1/15 0.7 Source 3 4/9/15 0.04	AL=1.3	1.3	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching	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

					from wood preservatives	Disease should consult their personal doctor.
Fluoride (ppm)	2015 None Detected	4	4	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories	Some people who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the MCL over many years could get bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones. Fluoride in drinking water at half the MCL or more may cause mottling of children's teeth, usually in children less than nine years old. Mottling also known as dental fluorosis, may include brown staining and/or pitting of the teeth, and occurs only in developing teeth before they erupt from the gums.
Lead (ppb)	1/1/15 11	AL=15	0	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits	(15 ppb in more than 5%) Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). (above 15 ppb) 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.
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	4/3/15 .07 Source 2 3/24/15 .06 Source 3	10	10	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits	(5 ppm through 10ppm) 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 for advice from your health care provider. (Above 10 ppm) Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue baby syndrome.
Sodium	2015 170 Source 2	100-250		NO		We are required to regularly sample for sodium
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>						
Compliance Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	4/9/15 Source 2 1.6	15	0	NO	Erosion of natural deposits	Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation know 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.
Combined Radium 226 + 228 (pCi/L)	4/9/15 Source 2 .9	5	0	NO	Erosion of natural deposits	Some people who drink water containing radium 226 or 228 in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.