

# NORTH CONWAY WATER PRECINCT WATER QUALITY REPORT 2005

## **Is my drinking water safe?**

The North Conway Water Precinct takes pride in the fact our water is safe and exceeds Federal and State Requirements. Once again, no violations relative to acceptable standards limits were found! In addition, most parameters were below analytical detection limits.

## **What is the source of my water?**

The North Conway Water Precinct derives its water from a series of gravel packed wells (groundwater) located within the Saco River Basin. These wells, are located within the Saco River Basin and range in depth from 80' to 115' with a yield of 300 to 400 gallons per minute. Information concerning the location and wellhead protection/monitoring may be obtained directly from the Precinct Office.

## **Why are there contaminants in my water?**

We are pleased to announce that North Conway public drinking water is free of harmful bacteria and chemical contaminants. However, some 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 the 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 (1-800-426-4791)**.

**How can I get involved?** Further information regarding the Water Quality or Operations of the North Conway Water Precinct can be obtained by contacting Superintendent David P. Bernier at the Precinct Office @ 603 356-5382, Monday – Friday, 7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The North Conway Water Precinct Board of Commissioners normally meets every other Wednesday, in the conference/training room at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Please contact the Precinct Office for a meeting time. Meetings are noticed in the Conway Daily Sun Government Calendar.

## **Other information**

The North Conway Water Precinct is a governmental agency established by a Special Act of the New Hampshire Legislature in 1905. Service at the time was limited to the immediate village of North Conway and less than 200 customers were served. Water was obtained from two open brook-fed reservoirs with limited fire protection. Now in 2004 the Precinct supplies over 2200 service connections using an average of over 1.2 million gallons a day with a capacity to provide in excess of more than 5.0 million gallons per day. Over 347 hydrants provide fire protection and the Pine Hill and Hurricane Mountain Tanks have a combined storage capacity of 4 million gallons of water.

Other operations of the Precinct include a “state of the art” wastewater collection and treatment system and the North Conway Fire Department. The North Conway Water Precinct has completed both a Water and Wastewater Master Plan. Upgrades in 2004 and beyond for both Water and Wastewater include Rte 16 (Artist Falls Rd. to Rte 16A), Kearsarge Rd, Intervale Crossroad, and Dinsmore Rd. Our continued water and sewer line improvements and extensions are dependent upon grant for 50% of the costs.

This year the Precinct is extending sewer to the North end of White Mountain Highway in order to further protect our valuable aquifer. In addition we are replacing several miles of old 8 inch and 12 inch Asbestos Cement water mains with new 16 inch lined Ductile Iron Pipe for more reliable water service and fire protection at a cost of 6.1 million dollars.

## **Do I need to take special precautions?**

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons, such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people living 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 *Crptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the **Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791)**.

**Definitions:**

**MCLG:** Maximum Containment Level Goal, or the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety

**MCLs:** 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.

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

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

**Health Effects Section**

**Health Effects for Radon:** The United States Environmental Agency (EPA) sets drinking water standards and has determined that radon is a health concern at certain levels of exposure. Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive contaminant that occurs in ground water. It is a gas and is released from water into household air during water use. Radon has been found in epidemiological studies to cause lung cancer in humans at high exposure levels. At lower exposure the risk is reduced. EPA has proposed setting the MCL for radon in drinking water at 300 Pico curies per liter to reduce the risk of cancer. However, the 300 Pico curies level is presently under review by the EPA and a final MCL for Radon will not be determined until, at the earliest, December of 2005.

**Health Effects for Arsenic:** While your dinking water meet's the EPA 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 cost 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.

**SOURCE ASSESSMENT REPORT**

The NH Department of Environmental Services has prepared a source assessment report for the four active wells serving the North Conway Water Precinct assessing the sources' vulnerability to contamination. The results of the assessment, prepared on April 20<sup>th</sup> & April 24<sup>th</sup> of 2000, are as follows:

Well #2: Located approximately 800 feet west of Valley View Road near the Saco River, received (2) high susceptibility ratings, (1) medium susceptibility rating and (9) low susceptibility ratings.

Well #3: Located 700 feet southwest of 1<sup>st</sup> Bridge and River Road, received (1) high susceptibility rating, (3) medium susceptibility ratings and (8) low susceptibility ratings.

Well #4: Located at the Hussey Well, received (1) high susceptibility rating (2) medium susceptibility ratings and (9) low susceptibility ratings.

The complete assessment report is available for inspection at the Precinct Office. For more information, call David P. Bernier, Superintendent at 356-5382 or visit the NH "DES" Drinking Water Source Assessment Program website at [www.des.state.nh.us/dwspp](http://www.des.state.nh.us/dwspp).

### TEST RESULTS

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected/Range of Detection	Unit Meas.	MCL G	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>						
Radon	N	3,200	pCi/l	0	None	Erosion of natural deposits
(Compliance) Gross Alpha	N	1.9	pCi/l	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium	N	NT	ug/l	0	30 (on 12/07/03 the MCL was set at 30 ug/L with compliance to be required on 12/07/07)	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium	N	NT	pCi/l	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>						
Antimony	N	2.0	ppb	6	6	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder
Arsenic	N	5.0	ppb	0	10 (on 1/22/ 04 the MCL was set at 10 ppb with compliance required by 1/23/06)	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Asbestos	N	0.18	MFL	7	7	Decay of asbestos cement water mains; erosion of natural deposits
Barium	N	0.100	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Beryllium	N	1.0	ppb	4	4	Discharge from metal refineries and coal-burning factories; discharge from electrical, aerospace, and defense industries
Cadmium	N	1.0	ppb	5	5	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from metal refineries; runoff from waste batteries and paints
Chromium	N	10.0	ppb	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Copper	N	0.120	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

Cyanide	N	40.0	ppb	200	200	Discharge from steel/metal factories; discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories
Fluoride	N	1.21	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive (which promotes strong teeth); discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead	N	<5.0	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Mercury (inorganic)	N	1.0	ppb	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from refineries and factories; runoff from landfills; runoff from cropland
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	N	0.35	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite (as Nitrogen)	N	0	ppm	1	1	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium	N	5.0	ppb	50	50	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines
Thallium	N	1.0	ppb	0.5	2	Leaching from ore-processing sites; discharge from electronics, glass and drug factories

Should you have any questions regarding this report or need help interpreting the results, please call the Precinct at 356-5382.