2023 **Consumer Confidence Report**
North Stratford Water System
2221010

Introduction

As a responsible public water system (PWS), our mission is to provide safe, affordable drinking water to the residents of the village of North Stratford.

Aging infrastructure presents challenges for maintaining safe quality drinking water and continuous improvements are necessary. In the past year, the town installed a solar powered mixer in our water storage tank. It successfully prevented ice from building up in the tank over the winter months. This will extend the life of the tank and reduce repair costs due to ice damage. It will also improve water quality, by keeping the town's reserve water circulating. We intend to install a timer on the mixer this year, which will make it more efficient so it can stay running during long periods of cloudy weather.

These investments along with on-going operation and maintenance costs are supported by the water rates you pay each year, which are listed on the Town website or grants received. When considering the high value placed on quality drinking water, it is truly a bargain to have water service that protects public health, fights fires, supports businesses and the economy, and ensures high-quality drinking water is always available at your tap.

What is a Consumer Confidence Report? The Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) details the quality of your drinking water, where it comes from, and how to get more information. This annual report documents all detected primary and secondary drinking water contaminants and 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 stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

- **Organic chemical contaminants**, including per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, 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 prescribe 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 drinking water comes from 2 Gravel packed wells located off Baldwin Street, Well #1 produces 175 gallons per minute and Well # 2 produces 95 gallons per minute. The water is treated with Sodium Hydroxide and Sodium Bicarbonate to raise the PH and Alkalinity. It is also chlorinated to maintain a chlorine residual between .02 ppm and .06 ppm and is then pumped up to a 158,000 gallon storage tank and gravity fed to the system.

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

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 are noted below**.**

- (0) GPW#1 susceptibility factors were rated high, (*3*) were rated medium, and (9) were rated low.
- (0) GPW#2 susceptibility factors were rated high, (*3*) were rated medium, and (*9*) were rated low.

Note: This information is over (*21*) years old. Due to the time when the assessments were completed, some of the ratings might be different if updated to reflect current information.

The complete Assessment Report is available for review at *Stratford Town Office.* For more information, call *Town of Stratford at (603) 922-5533 or Erik Lynch, Primary Operator at (603) 922-3357. You can also* visit the NHDES Drinking Water Source Assessment website: https://www.des.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt341/files/documents/stratford.pdf.

How can I get involved?

For more information call the Stratford T*own Office at (603) 922-5533 or Erik Lynch, Primary Operator at (603) 922-3357.* Although we do not have specific dates for public participation events or meetings, feel free to contact us with any questions you may have. Selectmen meetings are held every other Monday at 3:30 pm.

Violations and Other information: *No Violations were reported for 2022.*

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.

Level I Assessment: A study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine, if possible, why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system

Level II Assessment: A very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine, if possible, why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

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.

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

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 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 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 1-800-426-4791 or at US EPA Basic Information about Lead in Drinking Water

System Name: <u>North Stratford Water System</u> PWS ID: <u>2221010</u>

2023 Report (2022 Data)

BULK WATER DELIVERIES			
Bulk Water Source	**Dates of Water Delivery**	**Gallons Delivered**	**Reason for Delivery**
N/A			

If a drinking water public notice, MCL, Monitoring/Reporting, or treatment technique violation has occurred, the following table should be used to explain the violation and health effects:

VIOLATIONS					
VIOLATIONS	**Date of violation**	**Explain violation**	**Length of violation**	**Action taken to resolve**	**Health Effects (Env-Dw 804-810)**
Public notice	N/A				N/A
Monitoring and Reporting (M/R)	N/A				N/A
MCL	NONE				
E. coli MCL	NONE				*E. coli* are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal waste. Human pathogens in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a greater risk for infants, young children, the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems. We violated the standard for E. coli, indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct a detailed assessment to identify problems and to correct any problems that are found.
TT (Treatment Technique)	N/A				Inadequately treated or inadequately protected water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms can cause symptoms such as diarrhea, nausea, cramps, and associated headaches.
Filtration/disinfection Processes	N/A				Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.

The Revised Total Coliform Rule requires an assessment or an investigation of the water system when certain conditions occur:

ASSESSMENTS					
During the past year we were required to conduct Assessment(s)	Number of assessments required in the reporting year	Number of assessments completed in the reporting year	Number of corrective actions required	Number of corrective actions completed .	Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessment(s) to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments.
Level I	NONE				During the past year we failed to conduct all of the required assessment(s).
Level II	NONE				During the past year we failed to conduct all of the required assessment(s).
Level II We were required to complete a Level II assessment because we found *E. coli* in our water system.	NONE				*E. coli* are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal waste. Human pathogens in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a greater risk for infants, young children, the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems. We found *E. coli* bacteria, indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessment(s) to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments.

ASSESSMENTS NOT COMPLETED					
During the past year we were required to conduct Assessment(s)	Number of assessments required in the reporting year	Number of assessments completed in the reporting year	Number of corrective actions required	Number of corrective actions completed	Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution.
Level I	NONE				During the past year we failed to conduct all of the required assessment(s).
Level II	NONE				During the past year we failed to conduct all of the required assessment(s).

| Level II

Required because *E. coli* was found in our water system. | NONE | | | | *E. coli* are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal waste. Human pathogens in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a greater risk for infants, young children, the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems. We found *E. coli* bacteria, indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessment(s) to identify problems and to correct and problems that were found during these assessments. |

SIGNIFICANT DEFICIENCY

Significant deficiency description and date of sanitary survey	Source of *E. coli*	Date deficiency was addressed or corrected	Approved plan and timeframe for correction	Health Effects (Env-Dw 804)
N/A				

*The value must be reported as whole number, see Env-Dw 811, Appendix B for conversions:

LEAD AND COPPER

Contaminant (Units)	Action Level (AL)	90th percentile sample value *	Date	# of sites above AL	Violation Yes/No	Likely Source of Contamination	Health Effects of Contaminant
Copper (ppm)	1.3	.885	10/20/2021	None	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives	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 Disease should consult their personal doctor.
Lead (ppb)	15	.004	10/20/2021	None	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.

*If applicable report average, range, and date sampled if prior to the reporting year. Level detected must be reported as whole number, see Env-Dw 811, Appendix B for conversions:

DETECTED WATER QUALITY RESULTS							
Inorganic Contaminants							
Contaminant (Units)	**Level Detected***	**Date**	**MCL**	**MCLG**	**Violation YES/NO**	**Likely Source of Contamination**	**Health Effects of Contaminant**
Chlorine (ppm)	Avg.: .25 MG/L Range: 0.20-0.39 MG/L	1/4/22 - 12/6/22	MRDL= 4	MRDLG = 4	No	Water additive used to control microbes	Some people who use water containing chlorine well in excess of the MRDL could experience irritating effects to their eyes and nose. Some people who drink water containing chlorine well in excess of the MRDL could experience stomach discomfort.