



## 2015 Consumer Confidence Report

### Jaffrey Water Department

**PWS EPA ID #1221010**

[www.townofjaffrey.com](http://www.townofjaffrey.com)

#### Introduction

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.

In the past year, the Department completed an asset management and planning study funded in part through a grant from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) which encompassed expanding the water system inventory; organizing and incorporating the water system geographic system (GIS) data and the Town's existing GIS data into a web-based GIS; updating the water distribution model; and, prioritizing water main improvement projects and a capital spending plan. This year the Department is beginning engineering design for water main replacement projects for those sections identified as priorities in the asset study.

While the asset management and planning study will be critical in helping to achieve water conservation goals, other efforts include the Cross Connection and Back-flow Testing Program which tests all backflow prevention devices twice per year at businesses, schools and municipal buildings.

The Department applied for and received a grant from NHDES for a town-wide acoustic leak detection survey

of the water distribution system. This will again assist in our conservation efforts by identifying leaks. The Department has continued to make significant progress in identifying unaccounted water in the distribution system which is now down to 5% and well below the State average as noted by NHDES.

In addition to recognition by NHDES at the 2014 Drinking Water Source Protection Conference for water conservation and source water protection, the Department also received an award from Granite State Rural Water Association for 2<sup>nd</sup> place in best tasting drinking water.

More information regarding water conservation can be found at [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense) where tips are provided on saving water and protecting the environment by choosing Water Sense labeled products at home and business and by taking steps to save water every day

These investments along with on-going operation and maintenance costs are supported by water users in Jaffrey and Rindge. 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). 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-

NOW IT COMES WITH A  
LIST OF INGREDIENTS.



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?

The Jaffrey water system consists of over 38 miles of piping with over 1,500 service connections in Jaffrey and a portion of Rindge. In 2014, an average of 277,413 gallons of water was pumped daily from the four wells (two at Turnpike, one at Contoocook and one at Squantum) and stored in two storage tanks (Bullet and Poole). Water pumped from the groundwater supply receives three treatment applications: chlorine is added as a precautionary disinfectant, though it is not yet required by the State for our system; sodium hydroxide is added to adjust the pH of the naturally acidic groundwater to minimize

the corrosion of metals from piping; and polyphosphate additive is used to minimize the staining effects of naturally occurring manganese in the groundwater. Manganese is naturally found in our water and its effects are aesthetic only.

**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 December 11, 2000 are noted below.

- **Turnpike Road Well**, four (4) susceptibility factors were rated high, two (2) were rated medium, and (6) were rated low.

- **Contoocook Lake Well**, three (3) susceptibility factors were rated high, three (3) were rated medium, and six (6) were rated low.

Note: This information is over fourteen 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 the Jaffrey Department of Public Works. For more information, call the Department of Public Works at 603-532-6521 or visit the DES Drinking Water Source Assessment website at <http://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/dwspp/dwsap>

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

For additional information regarding Jaffrey's water system, contact the Department of Public Works, Randall Heglin, Public Works Director at 603-532-6521. Although we do not schedule meetings on a regular basis, the schedule for any public hearing for specific projects may be obtained by calling the Jaffrey DPW at 603-532-6521. There are often updates on water projects presented to the Board of Selectmen at their regular meetings and also on the town's website at <http://www.townofjaffrey.com>

**Violations and other information:** There were no violations during 2014.

#### **Contaminants Detected:**

**Copper:** 0.06 to 0.28 ppm (MCL =1.3, MCLG =1.3 ppm) (22 samples collected from distribution system during the year for Lead and Copper; all Lead samples were below the detection limit).

#### **Definitions:**

**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.

#### **Abbreviations:**

**BDL:** Below Detection Limit

**mg/L:** milligrams per Liter (equivalent to ppm)

**ND:** Not Detectable at testing limits

**pCi/L:** picoCurie per Liter

**ppb:** parts per billion

**ppm:** parts per million

**ug/L:** micrograms per Liter (equivalent to ppb)

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

**Copper:** 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. The presence of copper results from corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.