



City of Newport
Department of Utilities
Water Division



2017
CONSUMER CONFIDENCE
REPORT

This report contains important information about your drinking water. We recommend all our customers review the information or, if necessary, have someone translate it for you.

Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hable con alguien que lo entienda.

Este relatório contém informação importante sobre a qualidade da água na sua comunidade. Pergunta a quem saiba traduzir ou fala com alguém que compreenda o que está escrito.

Newport Water is pleased to present this water quality report for 2017 to our customers. In accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act, all water utilities are required to issue an annual Consumer Confidence report to promote customer awareness of the quality of their drinking water. This brochure is a snapshot of the water quality from January through December 2017. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to EPA standards. In 2017, Newport Water conducted 51,219 analyses to monitor 76 regulated drinking water contaminants and 87 unregulated drinking water contaminants. The following table indicates only the contaminants that were detected, even if the detected level was below the maximum level set by the EPA. For the year 2017 the Newport System had no violations of the Safe Water Drinking Act standards. Please know that the employees of Newport Water are committed to providing you water that meets all EPA and state drinking water standards.

If you have any questions please contact:

Julia A. Forgue, Dir. of Utilities (401) 845-5600

US EPA Hotline (800) 426-4791

RI Department of Health, Drinking
Water Quality (401) 222-6867

Also, information is available on the Internet:

Environmental Protection Agency
www.epa.gov/safewater

How can you be involved?

Meetings of the Newport City Council begin at
6:30 PM on the second and fourth Wednesday of each
month in the Council Chambers, City Hall
43 Broadway, Newport, RI

About Newport Water...

The original water works in Newport was started in 1876. The Newport Water Works Company was incorporated in 1881, and was succeeded by the Newport Water Corporation in 1929. Since 1936, the City of Newport has owned and operated the system. The Newport Water Division is a division within the City of Newport's Utilities Department and is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the system. Newport Water operates as an enterprise fund and is independent of the overall City budget. Newport Water is licensed by the RI Department of Health as a Public Water Supplier No. 1592010. Newport Water is regulated by the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission.

Newport's Water Supply

Newport Water draws its raw water supply from a system of nine surface reservoirs: North and South Easton Pond, Paradise Pond, Gardiner Pond, St. Mary's Pond, Sisson Pond, Lawton Valley Reservoir, Nonquit Pond, and Watson Reservoir. These reservoir systems are located in a basin area totaling 18.625 square miles or 11,920 acres of rural, forested and some developed lands. The reservoirs located in Newport, Middletown, Portsmouth, Tiverton, and Little Compton are interconnected through a complex network of pipelines and pumping stations. Newport Water has purchased 350 acres of conservation easements to protect raw water quality of the reservoirs.

The water is treated at either Station 1 Plant in Newport or the Lawton Valley Plant in Portsmouth. The combined design capacity of the plants is 16 million gallons of treated water per day.

Newport's Distribution System

Newport Water's distribution system consists of water mains of various size, material and age which carry water throughout Newport, Middletown and a portion of Portsmouth to each individual customer. In addition, Newport Water provides water wholesale to the Portsmouth Water and Fire District and the U.S. Navy for distribution within their systems. Newport Water maintains within our system approximately 14,500 services, 170 miles of water main, 3,300 valves and 1,000 hydrants.

Source Water Assessments

In 2003, the University of Rhode Island, in cooperation with RIDOH and other state and federal agencies, assessed the threats within the watersheds of Newport Water's water supply sources. The assessment found that our water sources on Aquidneck Island and in Little Compton and Tiverton are moderately susceptible to contamination. Monitoring and protection efforts are especially important to assure continued water quality. Newport Water updated the 2003 Assessment in 2010. The complete Source Water Assessment Report is available at our office at 70 Halsey Street.

Cross-Connection Control Plan

Cross-connections between public water supplies and non-potable sources of contamination can represent one of the most significant threats to health in the water supply industry. A cross connection control program protects the public water supply from the possibility of contamination or pollution through backflow or back-siphonage into the public water system from a building's internal plumbing system. The Federal Safe Drinking Water Act requires that the water supplier has the primary responsibility for preventing water from unapproved sources from entering the public potable water system. Newport Water adopted a Cross-Connection Control Plan in March 2010.

Additional Health Information

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. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

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 risk and effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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 radioactive material and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- (A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- (B) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm runoff; oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- (C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, storm runoff, and residential uses.
- (D) Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organics, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.
- (E) Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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, persons who have 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 (800-426-4791).

Concerning Lead in Our Water

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. The Newport Water Division is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap until the water is as cold as it will get before using for drinking or 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 www.cityofnewport.com/departments/utilities/lead.

Definitions and Key to Table

MCL - Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

MCLG - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

MRDL - Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level: The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

MRDLG - Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal: The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

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

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

- NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units
- ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)
- ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l)
- ppt = parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter (ng/l)
- n/a = Not applicable
- ND = No Detect

The data presented in this report is from the most recent testing done in accordance with regulations. The RI Department of Health (RIDOH) allows Newport Water to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old.

2017 Newport Water System Special Monitoring

In 2017, Newport Water System monitored Station 1 and Lawton Valley Water Treatment Plants for two algae toxins at the raw water intake and total plant effluent. Samples were collected from July 2017 through October 2017. A total of forty-two samples were collected and tested for *Microcystin* and *Cylindrospermopsin*. All tests were negative except for a sample from Gardiner Reservoir on 8/8/2017. *Cylindrospermopsin* was detected at 1.1 ppb. All total plant influent samples and total plant effluent samples were negative for algae toxins.

Sample Site	<i>Microcystin</i> (ppb)	<i>Cylindrospermopsin</i> (ppb)
Station 1 Intake	Not detected	Not detected
Station 1 TPE	Not detected	Not detected
Lawton Valley Intake	Not detected	Not detected
Lawton Valley Clearwell	Not detected	Not detected
North Pond	Not detected	Not detected
South Pond	Not detected	Not detected
Lawton Valley Reservoir	Not detected	Not detected
Saint Mary's Reservoir	Not detected	Not detected
Paradise Pond	Not detected	Not detected
Gardiner Reservoir	Not detected	ND – 1.1 ppb
Sisson Pond	Not detected	Not detected
Watson Reservoir	Not detected	Not detected

RIDEM Water Quality Monitoring of Newport's Nine Surface Water Reservoirs

In 2017, Newport Water surface water supply reservoirs were monitored by RIDEM for the following algae toxins; *Microcystin*, *Cylindrospermopsin*, *Anatoxin*, and *Nodularin*. Samples were collected from July 2017 through September 2017. The total number of samples tested was 46. On August 29, 2017 *Microcystin* was detected at 42 ppb in Lawton Valley Reservoir. This value is above the threshold and a Health Advisory was issued. Follow up monitoring on 9/1/2017 for Station 1 Intake and total plant effluent and for Lawton Valley Intake and total plant effluent were all negative for *Microcystin*.

Sample Site	<i>Microcystin</i> (ppb)	<i>Cylindrospermopsin</i> (ppb)	<i>Anatoxin</i> (ppb)	<i>Nodularin</i> (ppb)
North Pond	ND	ND	ND	ND
South Pond	ND	ND	ND	ND
Lawton Valley Reservoir	ND - 42	ND	ND	ND
Saint Mary's Pond	ND - 1.3	ND	ND	ND
Paradise Pond	ND - 1.0	ND	ND	ND
Gardiner's Reservoir	ND	ND	ND	ND
Sisson's Pond	ND - 5.8	ND	ND	ND
Nonquit Pond	ND	ND	ND	ND
Watson Reservoir	ND	ND	ND	ND

Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule

The EPA adopted the Long term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule on January 5, 2006 to control microbial contaminants. Newport Water System is required to monitor our source raw water for 24 months, beginning in October 2016, for *Cryptosporidium*, *Escherichia coli*, and turbidity. The data presented in this report represent the source water entering into Station #1 Treatment Plant and Lawton Valley Treatment Plant. Current test methods do not allow us to determine if the organisms are dead or if they are capable of causing disease.

The purpose of the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface water treatment Rule (LT2ESWTR) is to reduce illness linked to the contaminant *Cryptosporidium* and other pathogenic microorganisms. *Cryptosporidium* is a significant concern in drinking water because it contaminates most surface waters used as drinking water sources, it is resistant to chlorine and other disinfectants, and it has caused waterborne disease outbreaks in the United States. Although filtration removes *Cryptosporidium*, the most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100% removal. Consuming water with *Cryptosporidium* may cause cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection with symptoms including nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease in a few weeks. However, immunocompromised people are at a greater risk of developing life threatening illness. We encourage immunocompromised individuals to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to avoid infection. *Cryptosporidium* must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water.

Date	Source	Treatment Plant	<i>Cryptosporidium</i> oocysts/10Liter	<i>E.coli</i> MPN/100 ml	Turbidity NTU
1/3/17	North Pond	Station 1 WTP	0	30.5	7.06
1/3/17	Lawton Valley Res.	Lawton Valley WTP	0	1.0	1.61
2/6/17	North Pond	Station 1 WTP	1	1.0	5.91
2/6/17	Lawton Valley Res.	Lawton Valley WTP	0	2.0	1.09
3/6/17	North Pond	Station 1 WTP	0	2.0	3.42
3/6/17	Lawton Valley Res.	Lawton Valley WTP	0	4.1	1.83
4/3/17	North Pond	Station 1 WTP	1	7.5	3.26
4/3/17	Lawton Valley Res.	Lawton Valley WTP	0	3.1	4.41
5/1/17	North Pond	Station 1 WTP	0	2.0	5.29
5/1/17	Lawton Valley Res.	Lawton Valley WTP	0	1.0	3.83
6/5/17	North Pond	Station 1 WTP	0	13.1	7.36
6/5/17	Lawton Valley Res.	Lawton Valley WTP	0	8.6	4.65
7/5/17	South Pond	Station 1 WTP	0	2.0	6.63
7/5/17	Lawton Valley Res.	Lawton Valley WTP	0	2.0	2.15
8/7/17	South Pond	Station 1 WTP	0	1.0	6.01
8/7/17	Lawton Valley Res.	Lawton Valley WTP	0	6.4	2.94
9/6/17	South + Gardiner Pond	Station 1 WTP	0	4.1	3.66
9/6/17	Lawton Valley Res.	Lawton Valley WTP	0	6.3	2.35
10/2/17	North + Gardiner Pond	Station 1 WTP	0	15.8	6.10
10/2/17	Lawton Valley Res.	Lawton Valley WTP	0	49.5	6.31
11/6/17	South + Gardiner Pond	Station 1 WTP	0	13.7	3.51
11/6/17	Lawton Valley Res.	Lawton Valley WTP	0	8.7	2.70
12/5/17	South Pond	Station 1 WTP	0	4.2	3.61
12/5/17	Watson Res.	Lawton Valley WTP	0	8.7	1.77

2017 Newport Water System Special Monitoring Metals and Organic Compounds

As part of Newport Water System's ongoing monitoring programs, we added two testing sites for metals and organic compounds during the 4th quarter of 2017. This includes Station 1 and Lawton Valley plant effluents.

The following eleven metals were tested: cyanide, mercury, beryllium, chromium, nickel, arsenic, selenium, cadmium, antimony, barium and thallium.

There are 36 compounds included with Method 525 Organic Compounds.

Sample Point	Parameter	Unit	MCL	Detected Level	Major source
Station 1 Water Treatment Plant effluent	Barium	ppm	2.0	0.009	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Lawton Valley Water Treatment plant effluent	Barium	ppm	2.0	0.005	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Lawton Valley Water Treatment plant effluent	Di-2(ethylhexyl) phthalate	ppb	6.0	2.0	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories