

Water Quality and Health Information: 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 (EPA) 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 can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water before we treat it 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 run off, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.

Pesticides & herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, residential use, and urban storm water runoff.

Radioactive contaminants, which are naturally occurring.

Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also can come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

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 (1-800-426-4791).

System Owner: Robert M. Belmore, City Manager

How is my Water? Throughout 2015 we conducted more than 700 tests for over 175 drinking water compounds. The City of Somersworth is pleased to inform you that the quality of your water far exceeds the standards set by state and federal regulations.

During the months of September thru November of 2015, we completed the rehabilitation project on the Rocky Hill Standpipe/ Tank. The project brought the storage tank up to current drinking water standards along with new interior and exterior coatings. We also added a mixing system to maintain water quality and prevent ice build-up inside the tank.

Our back-up emergency water source (well) has also been a point of emphasis over the past year. Vegetative growth and trees were removed to open up the area around the pump and control houses. We are continuing maintenance and reconditioning to this valuable city asset.

Violations and Other Information: No Violation. This upcoming fall we will begin the EPA mandated LT2 Cryptosporidium, E-coli, and turbidity sampling of the Salmon Falls River. This sampling will take place over a period of 24 consecutive months to compile data from the river.

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, 10/25/2001 and 04/30/2002 are noted below.

- Salmon Falls River Raw, 2 susceptibility factors were rated high, 6 were rated medium, and 4 were rated low.
- GPW(Gravel Packed Well) Rocky Hill Rd, 1 susceptibility factors were rated high, 4 were rated medium, and 7 were rated low.

Note: This information is over 14 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 Somersworth Water Treatment Facility. For more information, call primary operator Greg Kirchofer at (603)692-2268 or visit the DES Drinking Water Source website at <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/dwspp/dwsap.htm>.

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| <p>Abbreviations: AL: Action Level - the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow. MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - 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. MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level - 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. MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level. 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. MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfectant level goal. 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. TT: Treatment Technique - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water. NA: not applicable ND: not detectable at testing limit NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units PTCU: Platinum-Cobalt color units pCi/l: picocuries per liter (radioactivity) mg/L or ppm: milligrams per liter or parts per million ppb: parts per billion or micrograms per liter Turbidity is 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. Turbidity has no health effects.</p> <p>Footnotes: *1 Radon is a radioactive gas that you cannot 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. Our radon analysis of 1100 pCi/l was found at the well site which is no longer regularly used to supply potable water into the distribution system. *2 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 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. *3 A Copper content in the treated water prior to entering the distribution system is 0.0863mg/l. Corrosion of household plumbing contributes to the higher average.</p> |
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City of Somersworth Water Treatment Facility

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EPA ID# 2151010



2016 WATER QUALITY REPORT

Water...At Your Service.



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