



Jaffrey Water Department

Lead and Copper Program Overview

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.

Consumer Confidence Report

Each year the Town of Jaffrey makes available a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) which 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 Jaffrey water system consists of over 38 miles of piping with over 1,500 service connections in Jaffrey and a portion of Rindge. Last year, an average of 318,390 gallons of water was pumped daily from four (4) groundwater wells (two at Turnpike, one at Contoocook and one at Squantum) and stored in two (2) 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 such as lead and copper from piping; and polyphosphate additive is used to minimize the staining effects of naturally occurring iron and manganese in the groundwater. Iron and manganese are naturally found in our water and its effects are aesthetic only.

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 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.

Lead and Copper

Lead and Copper are metals and are considered **inorganic contaminants** and the Town follows regulatory guidance from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES). Jaffrey has consistently passed all lead and copper testing over the years and DES now requires Jaffrey to sample for lead and copper once every three (3) years. When sampling for lead and copper, Jaffrey collects samples from twenty-four (24) buildings with lead service lines, lead solder, or structures that were built between 1982 and 1988. Lead and copper samples are taken at the customer's taps and not at the water system's source. **Lead and copper are typically not found in the drinking water source but may leach out of the pipes in homes and businesses.**

Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL is 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 is 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.

Lead: The maximum contaminant level or MCL for lead is 15 ppb (parts per billion) and the maximum contaminant level goal or MCLG is 0 ppb.

In Jaffrey, all water samples collected during the 2014 sampling period and tested for lead were found to be less than the detectable limit or 0 (all below the MCL and MCLG).

Copper: The maximum contaminant level or MCL for copper is 1.3 ppm and the maximum contaminant level goal or MCLG is also 1.3 ppm.

In Jaffrey, all water samples collected during the 2014 sampling period and tested for copper ranged from 0.06 to 0.28 ppm (all below the MCL and MCLG).

Lead: The presence of lead results from the corrosion of household plumbing systems or erosion of natural deposits. 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). 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.

Copper: The presence of copper results from 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 physician.

Additional information

For additional information regarding Jaffrey's water system, contact the Department of Public Works, Randall Heglin, Public Works Director 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>