

# 2023 Consumer Confidence Report

## Mountain Lakes Water

PWS ID# 1101050

### Introduction

As a responsible public water system (PWS), our mission is to serve our customers in a service-oriented manner by providing safe, reliable, high quality drinking water while meeting and or exceeding all regulatory requirements in a cost-effective and environmentally responsive manner. We are also pursuing alternative resources with the most sustainable, efficient and cost-effective approaches.

Aging infrastructure presents challenges for maintaining safe, quality drinking water and continuous improvements are necessary. In the past year, we have experienced several main water line breaks. We have external contractors that respond to these emergency situations. The repairs are generally completed within 4 to 6 hours from the time the break is identified. The systems have multiple valves that enable them to isolate the number of customers affected.

We have applied for and received an Asset Management Grant through the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services in the amount of \$83,000. As a requirement of the grant, we have partnered with Edgewater Strategies to assist us with the process of evaluating and identifying areas we need to focus on. We are continuing to focus on identifying funding sources to assist us in the replacement of our deteriorating main water lines that were installed approximately 50 years ago.

Normal installation procedures were not followed resulting in the number of problems we are experiencing.

These investments along with on-going operation and maintenance costs are supported by our \$700 Annual water fee.

When considering the high value placed on qual-

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ity drinking water, it is truly a bargain to have water service that protects public health, 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).

**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?

We currently receive our water from 3 sources including 1 bedrock well and 1 infiltration well system, both are within the district boundaries. We also have a direct supply line from Woodsville Water and Light (WW&L). From June 2022 to June 2023 WW&L supplied approximately 31% of the total annual water used. With these sources we are currently meeting demands. We are continuing to identify additional water sources within the district.

### 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 water source protection area, a list of potential and known contamination sources, and

a summary of available protection options. The results of the assessment, prepared on 8/1/2000, are noted below.

001 INFILTRATION WELL SOURCE TAP. 2 susceptibility factors were rated high. 1 was rated medium and 9 were rated low.

004 BEDROCK WELL 4 SOURCE TAP. 2 susceptibility factors were rated high, 1 was rated medium and 9 were rated low.

Note: Due to the time when the assessments were completed, some of the ratings might be different if updated to reflect current information.

The complete DES Drinking Water Assessment Report is available for review at The Mountain Lakes District Office. For more information, call Kristi Garofalo, Administrator at 603-787-6180 or John Mitchell, Facility & Water Manager at 603-787-6180 or visit the [NHDES website](http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/): <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/>

#### How can I get involved?

We have a water committee that meets at 8 a.m. on the first Thursday of the month. The meetings run 60-90 minutes. Minutes are posted on MLD web site. The public is encouraged to attend in person or via Zoom.

**Violations and Other information:** During the period beginning 6/1/22 through 6/1/23 our regular required water testing results have shown no violations. We did have a violation for failing to provide the 2022 Consumer Confidence Report by the date required. That was corrected 7 days after the violation. See violation list in table below.

**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](#)