

# 2017 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

## Pascoag Utility District-Water Division

Pascoag, RI  
PWSID #1592020

We are very pleased to provide you with this year's Consumer Confidence Report. This report provides you with information on the water and services that we delivered to you in 2017. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies.

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If after reviewing this report you have any questions, or would like to know more about the Pascoag Utility District's water system, please call Michael Kirkwood at (401) 568-6222. You are also invited to attend our monthly meetings which are held at 6:00 pm, on the fourth Monday of each month, at the District office. The office is located at 253 Pascoag Main Street, Pascoag, RI 02859.

### The Quality of Your Drinking Water

Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We're proud to inform you that your drinking water meets all Federal and State requirements. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

### The Source of Your Drinking Water

We have one drilled well, Well #5, which provides a portion of our water. It is 700 feet deep and is located in the area of Reservoir Road and George Eddy Drive. Well #5's pump station is equipped with a sodium hypochlorite injector which allows for improved chlorine levels in the Reservoir Road service area. We maintain the prescribed wellhead protection area and consider the well to be at low risk of contamination.

We purchase the remainder of our water from the Harrisville Fire District. The Harrisville Fire District's water source is seven wells, three near their office, three in Eccleston Field, and one across the Clear River from Eccleston Field. The RI Department of Health, in cooperation with other state and federal agencies, has assessed the threats to the Harrisville's water supply sources. The assessment considered the intensity of development, the presence of businesses and facilities that use, store or generate potential contaminants, how easily contaminants may move through the soils in the Source Water Protection Area (SWPA), and the sampling history of the water.

Our monitoring program continues to assure that the water delivered to your home is safe to drink. However, the assessment found that Harrisville's water source is at MODERATE RISK of contamination. This does NOT mean that the water cannot become contaminated. Protection efforts are necessary to assure continued water quality. The complete Source Water Assessment Report is available from the Harrisville Fire District or the Department of Health at (401) 222-6867.

### Why Are There Contaminants in My Drinking 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 (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

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:

- **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 stormwater 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 stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

### Water Quality Test Results

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected through our water quality monitoring and testing. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from the January – December 2017 monitoring period. For those contaminants that are monitored less frequently the most recent test results are listed.

Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL's) are set at very stringent levels. The Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) is set at a level where no health effects would be expected, and the MCL is set as close to that as possible, considering available technology and cost of treatment. A person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day, as recommended by health professionals, at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect

2017 TEST RESULTS FROM HARRISVILLE FIRE DISTRICT						
Contaminants	Violation Y/N	Level Detected (Range: single samples)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>						
Total Coliform Bacteria <sup>1</sup> (2017)	N	Present (1 Positive)	Highest monthly # of positive samples	0 positive	1 positive	Naturally present in the environment
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>						
Gross Beta Particle Acitivity (2014)	N	4.85	pCi/L	0	50	Erosion of natural Deposits
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>						
Barium (2017)	N	0.057	ppm	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (2017)	N	1.01	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

ND = Not Detected

<sup>1</sup>MCL: (systems that collect ≥ 40 samples/month) 5% of monthly samples are positive; (systems that collect < 40 samples/month) 1 positive monthly sample

\*All sampling results represented at the 90<sup>th</sup> Percentile

Since their system chlorinates its water, we are required to report our annual average for chlorine residual. **Chlorine Residual** was found to be **0.40 ppm**, with a range of 0.29ppm to 0.51ppm.

The State of Rhode Island requires testing for other contaminants not regulated by the US EPA. The following contaminant was detected in the Harrisville Fire District's well water:

**Sodium:** In 2016, Sodium was detected at 44.0 mg/L

### **Sodium Notification**

The reason for this notification is so that consumers on low or restricted sodium diets may take into account their sodium intake from the drinking water. If you have been placed on a sodium restricted diet, please inform your physician that your water contained approximately 44.0 mg/L of sodium as a result of testing completed in 2017.

2017 TEST RESULTS FROM PASCOAG UTILITY DISTRICT						
Contaminants	Violation Y/N	Level Detected (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>						
Total Coliform Bacteria * (August 2017)	Y	Present (2 Positive)	Highest monthly # of positive samples	0 positive	1 positive	Naturally present in the environment
Total Coliform Bacteria * (October 2017)	N	Present (1 Positive)	Highest monthly # of positive samples	0 positive	1 positive	Naturally present in the environment

Radioactive Contaminants						
Barium (2016)	N	0.002 single sample	ppm	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (2016)	N	0.98 single sample	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits.
Inorganic Contaminants						
Copper ** (2017)	N	0.374	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead ** (2017)	N	18.8	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Volatile Organic Contaminants						
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (2017)	N	RAA: 3.15 Range: 0.0-6.3	ppb	0	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (2017)	N	RAA: 27.55 Range: 17.9-37.2	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination

\* MCL: (systems that collect ≥ 40 samples/month) 5% of monthly samples are positive; (systems that collect < 40 samples/month) 1 positive monthly sample

\*\*All sampling results represented at the 90<sup>th</sup> Percentile. Four of the Thirty-One samples collected for Lead exceeded the Lead action level of 15 ppb. All of the thirty-one Copper samples fell below the action level for Copper of 1.3 ppm.

**Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/L)** - One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

**Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (ug/L)** - One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

**Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)** - Picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

**Action Level (AL)** - The concentration of a contaminant which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** -The 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 (MCLG)** - The 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.

**Maximum Residual Disinfection Level Goal (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

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (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.

Since our system chlorinates its water, we are required to report our annual average for chlorine residual. **Chlorine Residual** was found to be **0.446 ppm**, with a range of 0.240 ppm to 0.646 ppm.

The State of Rhode Island requires testing for other contaminants not regulated by the US EPA. The following contaminant was detected in the Pascoag Utility District's well water:

**Sodium:** In 2017, sodium was detected in Pascoag Utility District at 8.47 mg/L.

#### Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR3)

Our water system has sampled for a series of unregulated contaminants. Unregulated contaminants are those that don't yet have a drinking water standard set by EPA. The purpose of monitoring for these contaminants is to help EPA decide whether the contaminants should have a standard. As our customers, you have a right to know that these data are available. If you are interested in examining the results, please contact Michael Kirkwood at 253 Pascoag Maine Street, PO Box 107, Pascoag, RI 02859 or at 401-568-6222. Following are the 2013 UCMR3 detects:

#### January, 2013 – Well #5

Chromium-6: 0.114 ug/L  
Molybdenum: 6.217 ug/L  
Strontium: 21.445 ug/L  
Vanadium: 0.478 ug/L

#### July, 2013 – Well #5

Chromium-6: 0.11 ug/L  
Molybdenum: 5.9 ug/L  
Strontium: 21.0 ug/L  
Vanadium: 0.5 ug/L

#### January, 2013 – Interconnect Pit

Chlorate: 177.339 ug/L  
Chromium-6: 0.07 ug/L  
Manganese: 42.818 ug/L  
Strontium: 50.845 ug/L

#### July, 2013 – Interconnect Pit

Chlorate: 97.0 ug/L  
Chromium-6: 0.07 ug/L  
Manganese: 4.7 ug/L  
Strontium: 43.0 ug/L

#### January, 2013 – Distribution

Chlorate: 270.572 ug/L  
Chromium-6: 0.114 ug/L  
Manganese: 14.567 ug/L  
Molybdenum: 1.771 ug/L  
Strontium: 38.229 ug/L

#### July, 2013 - Distribution

Chlorate: 330.0 ug/L  
Chromium: 0.2 ug/L  
Chromium-6: 0.16 ug/L  
Manganese: 11.0 ug/L  
Molybdenum: 2.2 ug/L  
Strontium: 41.0 ug/L

### **Total Coliform Bacteria MCL Violation**

In August 2017, our water testing results were positive and 1 repeat original sample was positive for the presence of coliform bacteria. To resolve this problem, we chlorinated our wells and the distribution system. Public notification was posted or distributed to all concerned residents. Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems. Subsequent tests have been negative. **Total Coliform:** The Total Coliform Rule requires water systems to meet a stricter limit for coliform bacteria. Coliform bacteria are usually harmless, but their presence in water can be an indication of disease-causing bacteria. When coliform bacteria are found, special follow-up tests are done to determine if harmful bacteria are present in the water supply.

### **Sanitary Defect (RTCR)**

In 2017, we found a couple of items which needed corrective action. Item #1 – The water main cleaning and lining disinfection in one limited area may not have been done in accordance with AWWA standards. We submitted SOPs & sampling documents to the Rhode Island Department of Health's Center for Drinking Water Quality. Item #2 – An operator witnessed improper sampling technique. Therefore, the PWS changed labs and submitted the new lab's sampling SOP's to the Rhode Island Department of Health's Center for Drinking Water Quality.

For most people, the health benefits of drinking plenty of water outweigh any possible health risk from these contaminants. However, 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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

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 Pascoag Utility District 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 for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water 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 <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

We at the Pascoag Utility District work to provide top quality water to every tap. We encourage all of our customers to conserve and use water efficiently and remind you to help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future. Please do not hesitate to call our office with any questions.