

ROWLEY WATER DEPARTMENT
P.O. BOX 29
ROWLEY, MA 01969
978-948-2640

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT
WATER QUALITY REPORT 2009
PWSID #3254000

Statistics 2009

Department:

- Water Commissioners: Scott Martin, Chairman
Tim Toomey, Clerk
Roy Ricker, Member
John Rezza, Water Superintendent
Marie Grover, Administrative Assistant
 - Number of Employees – Six full-time
 - Water Office-401 Central Street, Rowley, MA Open Mon.-Fri.-7:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M.
 - Pumping & Treatment Facilities: Haverhill St., Well #2
Boxford Rd., Well #3
Pingree Farm Rd., Well #5
- Water Storage Tanks – Haverhill St., Prospect Hill, capacity of 1.27 million gallons
Miles of Water Main – 43
Hydrant – 350
Active Services – 1728
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Dear Customer: We are pleased to present a summary of the quality of the water provided to you during the past year. The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires that all utilities issue an annual “Consumer Confidence Report” to customers in addition to other notices that may be required by law.

Our Rowley water source, being well water, tends to be high in minerals. Iron, manganese and hardness are the most troublesome. Some staining can occur in dishwashers and washing machines. Chlorine products should not be used in washing. Vitamin C (Tang, Glisten), Iron-Out, Rover and Rust-Be-Gone products containing sodium hydrosulfite and/or sodium bisulfate are helpful to remove stains.

Our system is in compliance with EPA’s Lead & Copper Rule. Lead and copper are below action levels. If the water in your home has been dormant for more than six hours, EPA recommends flush (running) the faucet for two to three

minutes. This will remove copper and lead levels above recommended limits.
Fluoride is not added to our water supply.

All residents have on site sewage disposal utilizing leaching systems. Care of this system should be practiced. This is extremely important within our aquifer area where chemicals could affect the water quality. Do not use tank treatments or dispose of toxic chemicals down the drain. Pump your system regularly. Be careful with crankcase oil and anti-freeze flushing. One gallon of petroleum-base products can contaminate approximately 750,000 gallons of water disposal.

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 shall 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 WATER HOTLINE AT 1-800-426-4791.

Your water comes from three municipal wells sunk about 50 feet into an underground

Source of water off the Parker River Basin. These wells are located west of town off

Haverhill St., Boxford Rd., and Pingree Farm Rd. The town owns the land around these

Wells and restricts any activity that could contaminate them.

After the water comes out of the wells, we treat it to remove corrosive properties and add disinfectant to protect you against microbial contaminants. Source water assessments and yearly testing reports are available the Water Department Office.

Our Water Board meets once a month at 401 Central St. Feel free to come. All meetings are posted at the Town Clerk's office at Town Hall, 139 Main St. for your convenience or call 978-948-2640.

Drinking water, including bottled water may reasonable be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate the water poses a health risk. Call EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotli8ne at 1-800-426-4791 for more information about contaminants and potential health effects. 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 radio-active

materials that can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water before treatment include: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria. They may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife

Inorganic contaminants such as salts and metals 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 may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture and residential uses.

Radioactive contaminants are naturally occurring. Organic chemical contaminants including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals are by products of industrial processes and petroleum productions and can come from gas stations, urban storm water runoffs and septic systems.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (SWAP) A SWAP report has been completed for the Rowley Water System. This report includes: discussion of land uses in the Water Supply Protection District, Protection recommendation and a geographic information map. The overall ranking of susceptibility to contamination for Rowley is high based on continually monitoring these zones to insure the safety of the water system. The complete report is available at Rowley Water Dept. office or online at www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/dws. For more information please call the Rowley Water Dept. at 978-948-2640. This notice is being sent to you by the Rowley Water Dept. – PWS ID#3254000. Date distributed prior to 6/30/2010.

Questions and Comments: Do you want to learn more about your drinking water? Do you have questions about information in this report? If you do, please call John Rezza, Water Superintendent, of the Rowley Water Department at 978-948-2640.

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. The Rowley Water Dept. 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>.”

NITRATE: In drinking water levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High Nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.

Is our water system meeting other rules that govern our operations?

The State and EPA require us to test our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety. We have implemented backflow prevention, facility and Zone II regulations. We are also working on corrosion control.

TIPS FOR WATER CONSERVATION

Repair leaky toilets as they can waste 200 gallons of water a day. Add food coloring to the toilet tank water and check the bowl in 15 minutes, don't flush. Color in the toilet bowl probably means there's a leak.

Run the dishwasher only when it is full.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER Tests Showed Coliform Bacteria in Rowley Water

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct this situation

We routinely monitor for drinking water contaminants. We took forty-seven (47) samples to test for the presence of coliform bacteria during September. Nine (9) of our samples showed the presence of total coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than 1 sample per month may do so.

What should I do?

- You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.
- People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves.

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.

Usually coliforms are a sign that there could be a problem with the systems treatment or distribution system (pipes). Whenever we detect coliform bacteria in any sample, we do follow-up testing to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or *E. coli*, are present. **We did not find any of these bacteria in our subsequent testing.**

What is being done?

Chlorine levels being injected into the water system have been elevated to counteract any coliform in the future. Further testing shows that this problem has been resolved. For more information, please contact the Rowley Water Dept. at 978-948-2640 or at P.O. Box 29, Rowley, MA 01969

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example people in apartments, nursing homes, schools and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by the Rowley Water Dept. State Water System ID# 325400

Date distributed: October 23, 2009.