

**Health information regarding drinking water**

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 microbiological contaminants are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

All 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 the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline.

**---Security**

Many additional security checks of areas related to the water supply are made daily and have been since 9/11/01. Please report any suspicious activities related to the water system to water department personnel at 442-3883.

**Distribution Information**

Please share this information with all 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.

**Water Efficiency**

Currently a new EPA Program to encourage water efficiency use has been started. Information on this can be referenced at [www.epa.gov/watersense/](http://www.epa.gov/watersense/)

# Village of North Bennington 2019 Water Quality Report



**(802) 442-3883**

**WSID #5017**

**The North Bennington Water Department is committed to providing a safe and reliable supply of high quality drinking water to its customers.**

**Our Goal**

Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. This report is a snapshot of the quality of water that we provided for January 1 through December 31, 2019. It also includes the date and results of any contaminants that we detected within the past five years tested less than once a year. Any contaminants detected within the past five years are listed along with the date of detection and concentration. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of water that we deliver to you every day.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water quality, please contact the person(s) listed below. We want our customers to be informed about their water quality. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. Regular meetings are held monthly on the second Tuesday after the first Wednesday at 7 pm. Meetings are held at the Railroad Station.

<b>Board of Water Commissioners</b>		<b>Operators</b>
Steven Goodrich - Chairman	Arla Sampsell	Theodore Fela
Gerald Elwell	David Shaughnessy	Zachary Bull
Joseph Herrmann	P.O. Box 343 North Bennington, Vermont 05257	James Ostrander
		802-442-3883

**Water Source Information**

Your Water Comes From

Source Name	Source Water Type	Source Name	Source Water Type
WELL #1	Ground Water under the Influence of Surface Water	WELL #4	Ground Water under the Influence of Surface Water
WELL #2	Ground Water under the Influence of Surface Water	WELL #5	Ground Water under the Influence of Surface Water
WELL # 3	Ground Water under the Influence of Surface Water	Basin Brook	Surface Water

The Water Department does have emergency plans included in our O & M manual. In planning for any emergency situation, it is recommended that each customer have a 2 - 3 day supply of bottled water for drinking on hand in their home.

No. Bennington, VT 05257  
PO Box 343



## Sources of Drinking Water and Contaminants

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include surface water (streams, lakes) and ground water (wells, springs). As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals. It also picks up substances resulting from human activity and from animals. Some “contaminants” may be harmful. Others, such as iron and sulfur, are not harmful. Public water systems treat water to remove contaminants, if any are present.

In order to ensure that your water is safe to drink, we test it regularly according to regulations established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the State of Vermont. These regulations limit the amount of various contaminants:

- **Microbial organisms** (viruses and bacteria) may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- **Inorganic chemicals** (salts and metals) can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, or farming.
- **Synthetic Organic Chemicals** (pesticides and herbicides) may come from agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses, and careless disposal of household chemicals.
- **Volatile Organic Chemicals** (gasoline and solvents) may come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, septic systems, industrial process, and careless disposal of household chemicals.
- **Naturally Occurring Radioactivity**

## Source Protection Plan

We have a source protection plan available from our office that provides more information such as potential sources of contamination. The Water Supply Division approved our source protection plan on: 4/12/95 (Updated January 2019)

## Terms and Abbreviations

In the table on the facing page, you may find terms you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we have provided the following definitions:

- **Maximum Contamination Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG’s allow for a margin of safety.
- **Maximum Contamination Level (MCL):** The high-est level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL’s are set as close to the MCLG’s as feasible using the best available treatment.

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

- **Level 1 Assessment:** The level 1 Assessment is a very detailed 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 2 Assessment:** The level 2 Assessment is 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.

- **90th Percentile:** Ninety percent of the samples are below the action level. (Nine of ten sites sampled were at or below this level).

- **Treatment Technique (TT):** A process aimed to reduce the level of a contaminate in drinking water.

- **Parts per million (ppm) or milligrams per liter (mg/l):** (one penny in ten thousand dollars)

- **Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (ug/l):** (one penny in ten million dollars)

- **Parts per trillion (ppt) or Nanograms per liter (ng/l):** (one penny in ten billion dollars)

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

- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant 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 disinfectants in controlling microbial contaminants.

- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. Addition of a disinfectant may help control microbial contaminants.

- **Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU):** NTU is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

- **Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA):** The average of sample analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during four consecutive calendar quarters.

- **Running Annual Average (RAA):** The average of 4 consecutive quarters (when on quarterly monitoring); values in table represent the highest RAA for the year.

By conducting all testing for contaminants in both source water and finished water and operating our filtration plant in accordance with state regulations, the North Bennington Water Dept. has not detected anything that poses a health risk to our customers. **We had no violations during the year.**

### Interesting Facts

- The average water use per adult is 10,000 gals. every 6 months.
- Your water meter is in your cellar and has a leak detector on the top. If all faucets in your house are closed and the short red dial is turning you have a leak in your house.
- Toilets are usually the source of most leaks and can be repaired easily.
- Even small leaks add up. There are 1440 minutes in a day. A leak of 1/10 of a gallon per minute for 6 months will be 25,920 gals.

## Detected Contaminants NORTH BENNINGTON WATER DEPARTMENT

Disinfection Residual	RAA	Range	Unit	MRDL	MRDLG	Typical Source
Chlorine	0.425	0.300 - 0.500	mg/l	4.0	4.0	Water additive to control microbes

Chemical Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
NITRATE (AS N)	4/2/2019	0.4	0.4 - 0.4	PPM	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from Septic Tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

Disinfection Byproducts	Monitoring Period	LRAA	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5)	2019	47	19 - 71	ppb	60	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TOTAL TRIHALOMETHANES (TTHM)	2019	46	25 - 53	ppb	80	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Radionuclides	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
No Detected Results were Found							

Chemical Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
BARIUM	07/09/2012	0.017	0.017-0.017	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
FLOURIDE	07/09/2012	0.12	0.12 - 0.12	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

Lead and Copper	Date	90th Percentile	Range	Unit	AL*	Sites Over AL	Typical Source
COPPER	2018	0.079	0-0.1	PPM	1.3	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
LEAD	2018	0	0-0	PPB	15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

\* The lead and copper AL (Action Level) exceedance is based on the 90th percentile concentration, not the highest detected result.

*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. NORTH BENNINGTON 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 drinking 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>.*

### Violation(s) that occurred during the year

*We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. The below table lists any drinking water violations we incurred during 2019. A failure to perform required monitoring means we cannot be sure of the quality of our water during that time.*

Type	Category	Analyte	Compliance Period
<b>No Violations Occurred in the Calendar Year of 2019</b>			

**Level 1 Assessment(s)** During the past year we were required to conduct one Level 1 Assessment(s). One Level 1 Assessment(s) were completed. In addition, we were required to take corrective actions and we completed [INSERT NUMBER OF CORRECTIVE ACTIONS] of these actions.

**Level 2 Assessment(s) No Level 2 Assessment was required.**

### Additional Information

Ground water sources under the direct influence of surface water may contain disease causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. All ground water sources for North Bennington are treated at our filtration plant the same as surface water.

**Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have increased risk of getting cancer.**

**Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) are contaminants you may see reported in your Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) for the first time.**

### **What are PFAS?**

PFAS are a group of over 4,000 human-made chemicals (they do not occur naturally) that have been used in industry and consumer products worldwide since at least the 1950s. These chemicals are used to make household and commercial products that resist heat and chemical include non-stick cookware, water-resistant clothing and materials, cleaning products, cosmetics, food packaging materials, and some personal care products. Due to their resilient chemical nature, they don't readily degrade once they are released into the environment. In addition, the common use of these chemicals in industry and consumer products has led to their widespread impact on the environment. The impact of these chemicals on your drinking water continues to be studied.

### **Why are PFAS being tested in my drinking water?**

In May 2019, Act 21 (S.49), an act relating to the regulation of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking and surface waters, was signed by Governor Scott. This Act provides a comprehensive framework to identify PFAS contamination and to issue new rules to regulate PFAS levels in drinking water.

### **What if PFAS have been detected in my drinking water?**

Act 21 set an interim standard for the detected concentration of five PFAS in drinking water, or the combined concentration of any of the 5 PFAS, which should not exceed 20 parts per trillion (ppt). The interim standard is based on the Health Advisory established by the Vermont Department of Health. The five PFAS are:

**(PFNA):** Perfluorononanoic Acid

**(PFOA):** Perfluorooctanoic Acid

**(PFOS):** Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid

**(PFHpA):** Perfluoroheptanoic Acid

**(PFHxS):** Perfluorohexane Sulfonic Acid

If your water has been tested and the **sum any of the five PFAS listed above is confirmed to exceed 20 ppt**, a Do Not Drink notice will be issued informing you not to use your water for drinking or cooking, brushing teeth, making ice cubes, making baby formula, washing fruits and vegetables or any other consumptive use. You will be advised to use another source of water for consumption which may include bottled water.

An additional 13 PFAS were required to be tested for, per Act 21. These additional 13 PFAS, listed below, currently do not have an established health-based standard and are not counted toward the combined standard of 20 ppt:

**(11CI-PF3OUdS):** 11-Chloroeicosafluoro-3-oxaundecane-1-sulfonic Acid

**(9CI-PF3ONS):** 9-Chlorohexadecafluoro-3-oxanonane-1-sulfonic Acid

**(DONA):** 4,8-Dioxa-3H-perfluorononanoic Acid

**(HFPO-DA):** Hexafluoropropylene Oxide Dimer Acid

**(NEtFOSAA):** N-ethyl perfluorooctanesulfonamidoacetic Acid

**(NMeFOSAA):** N-methyl perfluorooctanesulfonamidoacetic Acid

**(PFBS):** Perfluorobutane Sulfonic Acid

**(PFDA):** Perfluorodecanoic Acid

**(PFDoA):** Perfluorododecanoic Acid

**(PFHxA):** Perfluorohexanoic Acid

**(PFTA):** Perfluorotetradecanoic Acid

**(PFTrDA):** Perfluorotridecanoic Acid

**(PFUnA):** Perfluoroundecanoic Acid

### **Where can I learn more about PFAS in drinking water?**

For information about the health effects of PFAS, please visit [www.healthvermont.gov/water/pfas](http://www.healthvermont.gov/water/pfas) or call the Vermont Department of Health at 1-800-439-8550. If you have specific health concerns, contact your health care provider.