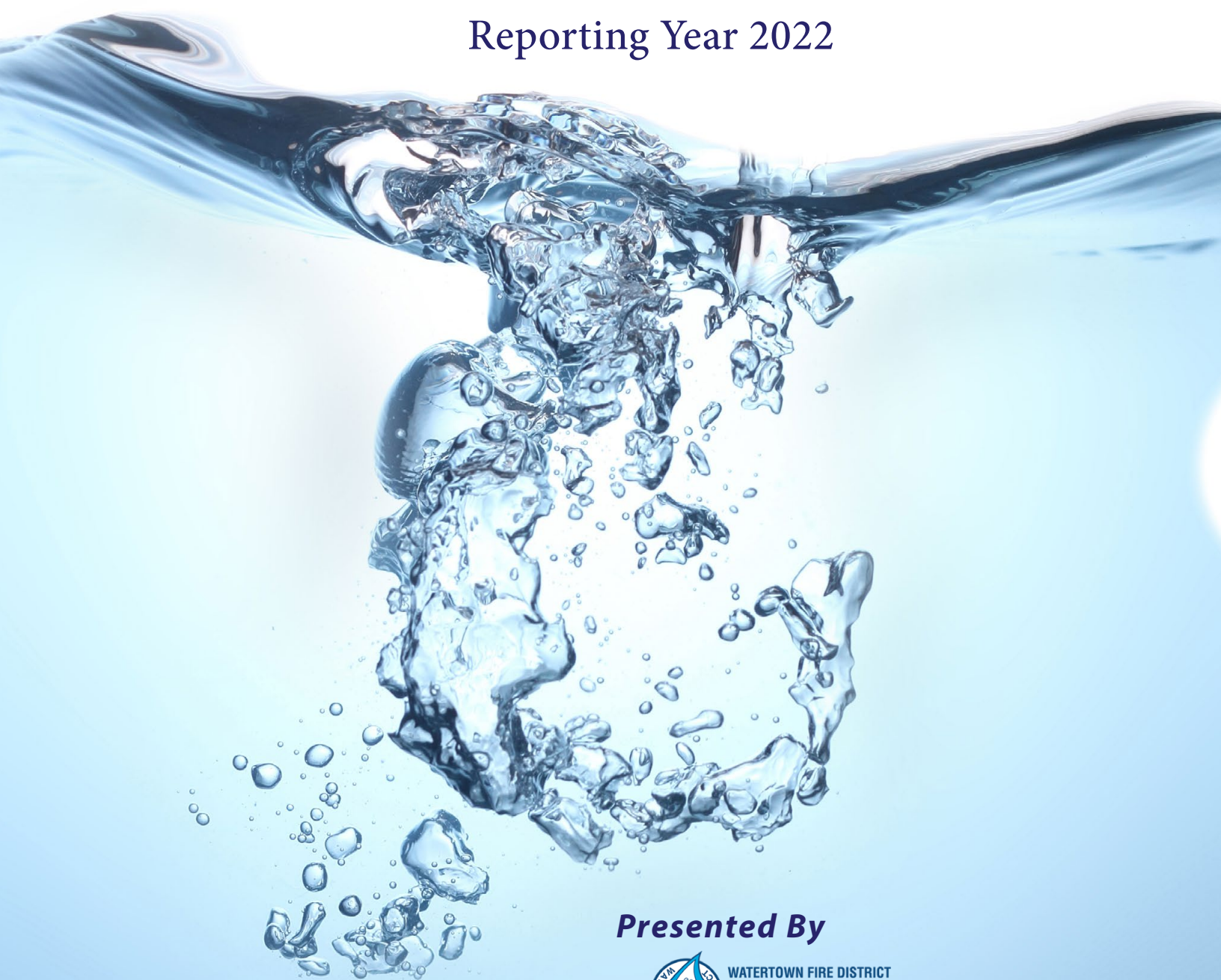


ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2022



Presented By



WATERTOWN FIRE DISTRICT
WATER • SEWER
Your Local Water Utility



Our Mission Continues

We are once again pleased to present our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2022. Over the years, we have dedicated ourselves to producing drinking water that meets all state and federal standards. We continually strive to adopt new methods for delivering the best-quality drinking water to you. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we remain vigilant in meeting the goals of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users. Please remember that we are always available should you ever have any questions or concerns about your water.

Where Does My Water Come From?

The Watertown Fire District customers are fortunate because we enjoy an abundant water supply. Our water source is groundwater pumped by wells located along the Nonnewaug River in Woodbury. The district also owns and operates two surface reservoirs: Lockwood Reservoir, which is located in Bethlehem, and Judd Pond, which is located in Watertown. These reservoirs are used to augment the flow of water in the Nonnewaug River to replenish the groundwater removed by our wells.



Important Health Information

Sources of lead in drinking water include corrosion of household plumbing systems and erosion of natural deposits. 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.

Sources of copper in drinking water include corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits, and 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 doctor.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice

about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) 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 (800) 426-4791.



Water Treatment Processes

Water pumped from the district wells is treated with a disinfectant (chlorine) as a precaution to protect consumers from potentially harmful bacteria. We carefully monitor the amount of chlorine, adding the lowest quantity necessary to protect the safety of your water without compromising taste. The water is also treated with a small amount of sodium hydroxide to make the water less corrosive. This is important in reducing the amounts of metals such as copper and lead that may be picked up by the water from the plumbing in consumers' homes and businesses. This finished water is then pumped into our network of distribution pipes to reach our residential and business customers.

Public Meetings

Please remember that we are always available to assist you should you ever have any questions or concerns about your water. We want you, our valued customers, to be informed about your water utility. You can attend the District Commission's regularly scheduled monthly meetings on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the district office, 24 DeForest Street.

QUESTIONS?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Michael Tanuis, Superintendent, at (860) 274-6332.

Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

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, in some cases radioactive material, and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances 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, or wildlife;

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may 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 may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems;

Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Think before You Flush!

Flushing unused or expired medicines can be harmful to your drinking water. Properly disposing of unused or expired medication helps protect you and the environment. Keep medications out of our waterways by disposing responsibly. To find a convenient drop-off location near you, please visit <https://bit.ly/3IeRyXy>.

Source Water Assessment

The State of Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH), in cooperation with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), completed an assessment of the Hart Farm Well Field, a source of public drinking water that is maintained and operated by the Watertown Fire District Water Department. The assessment report can be found on the DPH website at www.dir.ct.gov/dph/Water/SWAP/Community/CT1530011.pdf.

This one-time assessment is part of a nationwide effort mandated by Congress under the Safe Drinking Water Act amendments of 1996. The assessment aims to evaluate the susceptibility of all public drinking water sources in Connecticut to potential sources of contamination. The assessment is intended to provide Watertown Fire District Water Department consumers with information about where their public drinking water comes from, sources of potential contamination that could impact it, and what can be done to help protect it. Based on a combination of current field and source water area conditions, existing potential contaminant sources, and level of source protection measures currently in place, the source water assessment for this well field indicates that it has an overall low risk of contamination from identified potential sources. For more information on the assessment report, or to view a copy, contact the Watertown Fire District office by calling (860) 274-6332.

Water Conservation Tips

You can play a role in conserving water and save yourself money in the process by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using and looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Here are a few tips:

- Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from an invisible toilet leak. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.
- Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water-using appliances. Then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.



Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule, and the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.

The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES

| SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE) | YEAR SAMPLED | MCL [MRDL] | MCLG [MRDLG] | AMOUNT DETECTED | RANGE LOW-HIGH | VIOLATION | TYPICAL SOURCE |
|---|--------------|------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------|---|
| Alpha Emitters (pCi/L) | 2021 | 15 | 0 | -0.649 | NA | No | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Asbestos (MFL) | 2021 | 7 | 7 | ND | NA | No | Decay of asbestos cement water mains; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Barium (ppm) | 2022 | 2 | 2 | 0.0199 | NA | No | Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Chlorine (ppm) | 2021 | [4] | [4] | 1.01 | 0.75–1.22 | No | Water additive used to control microbes |
| Combined Radium (pCi/L) | 2021 | 5 | 0 | 0.732 | 0.161–0.732 | No | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Haloacetic Acids [HAAs]–Stage 2 (ppb) | 2022 | 60 | NA | 6.83 | 3.67–6.83 | No | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| Nitrate (ppm) | 2022 | 10 | 10 | 0.424 | NA | No | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits |
| TTHMs [total trihalomethanes]–Stage 2 (ppb) | 2022 | 80 | NA | 11.0 | 7.91–11.0 | No | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| Turbidity ¹ (NTU) | 2022 | TT | NA | 2.48 | ND–2.48 | No | Soil runoff |
| Uranium (ppb) | 2021 | 30 | 0 | <1.02 | NA | No | Erosion of natural deposits |

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community

| SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE) | YEAR SAMPLED | AL | MCLG | AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE) | RANGE LOW-HIGH | SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES | VIOLATION | TYPICAL SOURCE |
|-----------------------------|--------------|-----|------|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|-----------|--|
| Copper (ppm) | 2021 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 0.493 | NA | 0/20 | No | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Lead (ppb) | 2021 | 15 | 0 | 1.81 | NA | 0/20 | No | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits |

¹ Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is monitored because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of disinfectants.

Lead in Home Plumbing

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. We are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but we cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, or doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by the American National Standards Institute to reduce lead in drinking water. Contact us if you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Definitions

90th %ile: The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

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

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): 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.

MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal): 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.

MFL (million fibers per liter): A measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level): 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.

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal): 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.

NA: Not applicable.

ND (Not detected): Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units): Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

pCi/L (picocuries per liter): A measure of radioactivity.

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

TT (Treatment Technique): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Source Water Protection

Source water is untreated water from streams, rivers, lakes, or aquifers that is used to supply public drinking water. Preventing drinking water contamination at the source makes good public health sense, good economic sense, and good environmental sense. You can be aware of the challenges of keeping drinking water safe and take an active role in protecting drinking water.

There are lots of ways that you can get involved in drinking water protection activities to prevent the contamination of our groundwater sources: Dispose of household chemicals properly, help clean up the watershed that is the source of your community's water, and attend public meetings to ensure that the community's need for safe drinking water is considered in making decisions about land use. Contact us at the Watertown Fire District, (860) 274-6332, for more information on source water protection, or contact the U.S. EPA at (800) 426-4791. You may also find information at www.epa.gov/sourcewaterprotection.

What Are PFAS?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of manufactured chemicals used worldwide since the 1950s to make fluoropolymer coatings and products that resist heat, oil, stains, grease, and water. During production and use, PFAS can migrate into the soil, water, and air. Most PFAS do not break down; they remain in the environment, ultimately finding their way into drinking water. Because of their widespread use and their persistence in the environment, PFAS are found all over the world at low levels. Some PFAS can build up in people and animals with repeated exposure over time.

The most commonly studied PFAS are perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS). PFOA and PFOS have been phased out of production and use in the United States, but other countries may still manufacture and use them.

Some products that may contain PFAS include:

- Some grease-resistant paper, fast food containers/wrappers, microwave popcorn bags, pizza boxes
- Nonstick cookware
- Stain-resistant coatings used on carpets, upholstery, and other fabrics
- Water-resistant clothing
- Personal care products (shampoo, dental floss) and cosmetics (nail polish, eye makeup)
- Cleaning products
- Paints, varnishes, and sealants

Even though recent efforts to remove PFAS have reduced the likelihood of exposure, some products may still contain them. If you have questions or concerns about products you use in your home, contact the Consumer Product Safety Commission at (800) 638-2772. For a more detailed discussion on PFAS, please visit <http://bit.ly/3Z5AMm8>.



BY THE NUMBERS

The number of Olympic-sized swimming pools it would take to fill up all of Earth's water.

800
TRILLION

1

The average cost in cents for about 5 gallons of water supplied to a home in the U.S.

The percent of Earth's water that is salty or otherwise undrinkable, or locked away and unavailable in ice caps and glaciers.

99

50

The average daily number of gallons of total home water use for each person in the U.S.

The percent of Earth's surface that is covered by water.

71