2021 Consumer Confidence Report

For the

Littleton Water & Light

In

Littleton, NH

Public Water System ID 1381010

Introduction

Like any responsible public water system our mission is to **"maintain a staff of professional service – orientated employees dedicated to providing and delivering a safe product to our customers".** This is accomplished in a manner that protects public health, preserves our environment, and supports the economic growth and well-being of the community and all at a "reasonable cost" (about 0.41 cents per 100 gallon). Our aging infrastructure combined with geopolitical pressures, rising operational costs and declining water use/sales presents challenges in managing and accomplishing this goal. Capital improvements and routine maintenance to the system is ongoing and are made to optimize system performance to preserve the reliability and the operational integrity of our potable (drinking) water system. When considering the high value we place on water, it is truly a bargain to have water service that protects public health, fights fires, supports the economy and the economic growth and provides us with the very high-quality of life we enjoy in our community.

What is a Consumer Confidence Report?

The Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) details the quality of your drinking water, where it comes from, and where you can get more information. This annual report documents all detected primary and secondary drinking water parameters found in 2020 and compares them to 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 (PFAS), 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.

LWL sampled quarterly for PFAS in 2020 in both its surface water and groundwater supplies. No PFAS were detected in LWL's drinking water.

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?

Our primary drinking water source comes from the Gale River basin and is economically supplied to most of our customers by gravity. Located within the White Mountain National Forest this protected water supply can be supplemented, as needed, by a bedrock artesian well located in Littleton. Fortunately, both these pristine water

sources are of the highest quality and require only minimal treatment and disinfection to comply with the Safe Water Drinking Act.

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 to assess the vulnerability of each of the state's public water supply sources. Included in the report is a map of each source water protection area, a list of potential and known contamination sources, and a summary of available protection options. The results of the assessment prepared on May 2002 are noted below.

1. Gale River, Surface Water, received a zero (0) susceptibility factors that were rated high, zero (0) were rated medium and eleven (11) were rated low.

2. Well, Groundwater, received two (2) susceptibility factor that were rated high, four (4) were rated medium, and six (6) were rated low.

Note: This information is over 15 years old and includes information that was current at the time the report was completed. Therefore, some of the ratings might be different if updated to reflect current information. At the present time, DES has no plans to update this data. The complete Assessment Report is available for review at the Littleton Water & Light located at 65 Lafayette Avenue. For more information, please call 603-444-2915 or visit the NHDES Drinking Water Source Assessment website: http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/dwspp/dwsap.htm.

How can I get involved?

For more information about your drinking water, please call the **Littleton Water and Light (LWL) at 603-444-2915 or visit us on the web at www.littletonwaterandlight.org.**

The Board of Commissioners meet on the first and third Mondays of each month and this regular business meeting is open to the public for general comment and discussion. To participate or to address a specific concern in greater detail please feel free to contact us and we can place you on our agenda.

For more information about your drinking water, please contact the owner representative Tom Considine or the primary water system operator Kevin Sorrell at 603-444-2915 Although we do not have specific dates for public participation events or meetings, feel free to contact us with any questions you may have.

Violations and Other information:

The LWL was not cited for any violations in 2020 and is full compliance with all USEPA and NHDES rules and regulations.

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.

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 or at http://water.epa.gov/drink/info/lead/index.cfm

Abbreviations:

BDL: Below Detection Limit

BRW: Bedrock Well supply

LRAA: Location Running Annual Average

mg/L: milligrams per Liter

NA: Not Applicable

ND: Not Detectable at testing limits

NHDES: NH Department of Environmental Services

NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Unit

ppb: parts per billion

ppm: parts per million

ppt: parts per trillion

SW: Surface Water supply

TTHM: Total Trihalomethanes

UCMR: Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule

USEPA: US Environmental Protection Agency

pCi/L: picoCurie per Liter

ug/L: micrograms per Liter

System Name: LITTLETON PWS ID: 1381010

2021 Report (Reporting 2020 data)

VIOLATIONS - NONE

ASSESSMENTS - NONE

ASSESSMENTS NOT COMPLETED – NOT APPLICABLE

SIGNIFICANT DEFICIENCY – NONE FOUND – SANITARY SURVEY COMPLETED NOV. 2019

ADDITIONAL TESTING – NOT APPLICABLE

LEAD AND COPPER RULE

Contaminant (Units)	Action Level	90th percentile sample value	Date	# of sites above AL	Violation Yes/No	Likely Source of Contamination	Health Effects of Contaminant
Copper (ppm)	**1.3**	**.039**	**AUG 2019**	**NONE**	**NO**	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives	Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper more than 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.
Lead (ppb)	**15**	**6**	**Aug 2019**	**1**	**NO**	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits	(15 ppb in more than 5%) Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). (above 15 ppb) 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.

DETECTED WATER QUALITY RESULTS

Contaminant (Units)	Level Detected*	MCL	MCLG	Violation YES/NO	Likely Source of Contamination	Health Effects of Contaminant
Microbiological Contaminants						
Turbidity (NTU)	**High Month Jul: .036** **Annual Average .032** **Max Day July 13th: .076** **100 % Passing**	TT	N/A	NO	Soil runoff	Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.
Radioactive Contaminants – Below Method Detection Limit						
Inorganic Contaminants						
Barium (ppm)	**WELL .022 (2019)**	2	2	NO	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits	Some people who drink water containing barium in excess of the MCL over many years could experience an increase in their blood pressure.
Chlorine (ppm)	**Annual Average 0.65** **Max. Day Aug 28th: 0.95**	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	NO	Water additive used to control microbes.	Some people who use water containing chlorine well in excess of the MRDL could experience irritating effects to their eyes and nose. Some people who drink water containing chlorine well in excess of the MRDL could experience stomach discomfort.
Fluoride (ppm)	**Surface Water 0.18**	4	4	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories	Some people who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the MCL over many years could get bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones. Fluoride in drinking water at half the MCL or more may cause mottling of children's teeth, usually in children less than nine years old. Mottling also known as dental fluorosis, may include brown staining and/or pitting of the teeth, and occurs only in developing teeth before they erupt from the gums.

Inorganic Contaminants - Continued						
Contaminant (Units)	**Level** Detected*	**MCL**	**MCLG**	**Violation YES/NO**	**Likely Source of Contamination**	**Health Effects of Contaminant**
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	**Well 0.4**	10	10	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits	(5 ppm through 10ppm) Nitrate in drinking water at 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. (Above 10 ppm) Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue baby syndrome.

Synthetic Organic Contaminants including Pesticides and Herbicides – Below Method Detection Limits

Volatile Organic Contaminants						
Haloacetic Acids (HAA) (ppb)	**Low: 5.5 High: 47.2 LRAA: 33.6**	60	NA		By-product of drinking water disinfection	Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids more than the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (Bromodichloro-methane Bromoform Dibromochloro-methane Chloroform) (ppb)	**Low: 13.1 High: 66.7 LRAA: 54.8**	80	N/A		By-product of drinking water chlorination	Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes more than the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS) CONTAMINANTS – Not Detected

SECONDARY CONTAMINANTS					
Secondary MCLs (SMCL)	**Level Detected**	**Date**	**Treatment technique (if any)**	**AL (Action Level), SMCL or AGQS (Ambient groundwater quality standard)**	**Specific contaminant criteria and reason for monitoring**
PH (ppm)	**6.8 - 6.9 Raw Water**	**Annual Ave**	N/A	6.5-8.5	Precipitation and geology
Sodium (ppm)	**2.0**	**August**	N/A	100-250	We are required to regularly sample for sodium