

# FAIRFAX WATER DEPT - VT0005117

## Consumer Confidence Report - 2017

This report is a snapshot of the quality of the water that we provided in 2017. Included are the details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. To learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings which are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of every month. Meetings start at 7:00 pm and are held at the Town Office. To be placed on the Agenda, please call the Administrative Assistant at 849-6111 x 15 by 2:00 pm of the preceding Wednesday. **Randy DeVine can also answer any questions about this report. You can reach Randy at 849-6033**

### Water Source Information

Your water comes from:

Source Name	Source Water Type
WELL	Groundwater

The State of Vermont Water Supply Rule requires Public Community Water Systems to develop a Source Protection Plan. This plan delineates a source protection area for our system and identifies potential and actual sources of contamination. Please contact us if you are interested in reviewing the plan.

### Drinking Water 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 land's surface or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals. It also picks up substances resulting from the presence of animals and human activity. 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 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**, may come from a variety of sources such as storm water run-off, agriculture, and residential users.

**Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or the result of mining activity

**Organic contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also come from gas stations, urban storm water run-off, and septic systems.

### Water Quality Data

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the past year. It also includes the date and results of any contaminants that we detected within the past five years if tested less than once a year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily show that the water poses a health risk.

**Terms and abbreviations** - In this table you may find terms you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we have provided the following definitions:

**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:** A level 1 Assessment is 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 2 Assessment:** A 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.

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

**Maximum Contamination Level (MCL):** The “Maximum Allowed” MCL is the highest 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 technology.

**Maximum Contamination Level Goal (MCLG):** The “Goal” is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to human health. MCLG’s allow for a margin of safety.

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

**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.

**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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Detected Contaminants FAIRFAX WATER DEPT

Disinfection Residual	RAA	RANGE	Unit	MRDL	MRDLG	Typical Source
Chlorine	0.435	0.210 - 0.630	mg/l	4	4	Water additive to control microbes

Chemical Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
Arsenic	09/02/2015	2	2 - 2	ppb	10	0	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.

Radionuclides	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
Combined Radium	03/06/2017	0.208	0.208 - 0.208	pCi/L	5	0	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha	03/04/2014	0.401	0.401 - 0.401	pCi/L	15	0	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium-226	03/06/2017	0.208	0.208 - 0.208	pCi/L	5	0	Erosion of natural deposits

## Detected Contaminants FAIRFAX WATER DEPT

Disinfection By Products	Monitoring Period	ERAA	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
Total Trihalomethanes	2017	10.3	10.3 - 10.3	ppb	80	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Lead and Copper	Monitoring Period	90th Percentile	Range	Unit	AL*	Sites Over AL	Typical Source
Copper	2014 to 2016	0.17	0.04 - 0.18	ppm	1.3	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Lead	2014 to 2016	0.00	0 - 0	ppb	15.0	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.

We had no violations in the Calendar Year 2017. Additional information is available on page 4

### 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).

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.

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. FAIRFAX 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>.

### Distribution Information

*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 and distributing copies by hand or mail.*

## Fairfax Utility Water Department 2017

The total demand (usage) on the water system for 2017 was 12,132,200 gallons, at an average daily demand of 32,144 gallons. In 2016, the demand on the system was 13,811,500 gallons, averaging 37,737 gallons per day. We contribute the less demand of water in 2017 to two factures; a considerably wetter year and more low flow fixtures being installed. There was a total rainfall in 2017 of 53 inches compared to 30 inches in 2016 and yes, we did have a hot + dry spell but it was short lived compared to 2016, which the summer months were extremely hot + dry. We continue to monitor these events so we can make adjustments when needed before an emergency situation may occur.

During the 2017 year the department had **NO LINE LEAKS**, however there were 6 private line (house lines) leaks. Other water usages were; Our yearly flushing event, Fire Dept. training + fire hose pressure tests and refilling Fire Trucks after a fire.

Activities during the year were; a water disconnect at a burned house, installed some extensions stems to main line water valves, repairs to a flooded out booster station, explore water rates, booster pump failures, review relocating some Fire Hydrants required by the Agency of Trans., develop a new Total Coliform + Lead and Copper sampling plan required by the State of VT. Water Division, up-dated our O+M manual, explore a new generation of water meters (which our present meters are 10 years past their accuracy life design), up-dated our Source Protection Plan, completed our Consumer Confidence Report, entertained school tours, rebuilt a booster pump (20+ yrs. Old), locate water lines for GMP pole replacements, responded to power outage-windstorm damage (power outage for 2 1/2 days), set up our emergency generator to continue to provide water, accessing storm damage + clearing debris (more to do in spring), Flushing Hydrant destroyed from a car crash and many meetings, training classes, regular maintenance + equipment repairs. Major highlights and on going projects include; replacement of our water control computer system (it crashed with no return! \$\$),entertaining a new business with needs to water with a possible new water source.

### Our yearly flushing event will be May 21-25

We had no violations due to unacceptable water quality in 2017 or for any other year for a matter of fact.

Please contact us with any questions you may have about the Fairfax Water Department and/or our water quality.

If you notice any suspicious activity related to the water system, please do not hesitate to contact us our any Town Official immediately.

You can now pay your water bill with your debit/credit card on line or in the office.

**Visit us on the Town Web Site – “Click on Utility”**

<u>Owner/ Official</u>	<u>Utility</u>	<u>Water Superintendent</u>
Selectboard	Amy Sears	Randy L. DeVine
Water Commissioners	Utility Manager	Superintendent
12 Buck Hollow Rd.	12 Buck Hollow Rd.	12 Buck Hollow Rd.
Fairfax, VT. 05454	Fairfax, VT. 05454	Fairfax, VT. 05454
(802)-849-6111 X 16	(849)-849-6111 X 15	(802)-849-6033 (W)
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