25 Fifth Avenue
Narragansett, RI 02882

Narragansett Water Division-North End

2008 Water Quality Report

The Quality of Your Drinking Water

We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the water quality and services that we delivered to you in 2008. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies.

Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We're proud to inform you that your drinking water meets all Federal and State requirements. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

Narragansett Water does not hold regularly scheduled meetings; therefore, if you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Ed Sylvia, Water Superintendent, at (401) 782-0639. You can also call this number to obtain information about proposed or planned system improvement projects, such as main line replacements, new hydrant locations, etc. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility.

It is our goal to provide you with the highest quality and best tasting drinking water.

The Source of Your Drinking Water

We purchase our water from the Town of North Kingstown and United Water of Rhode Island (UWRI). North Kingstown draws its water from 10 municipal wells. Most of the water purchased from North Kingstown comes from wells 3, 4, 5, 7, and/or 8. Wells 3, 7, and 8 are drawn from the Pettaquamscutt Aquifer. Wells 4 and 5 are drawn from the Annaquatucket Aquifer. UWRI draws its water from seven different wells in two well fields. Both of the well fields are located in western South Kingstown off Tuckertown Road.

The RI Department of Health, in cooperation with other State and Federal agencies, has assessed the threats to Narragansett's water supply sources. The assessment considered the intensity of development; the presence of businesses and facilities that use, store or generate potential contaminants; how easily contaminants may move through the soils in the Source Water Protection Area; and the sampling history of the water.

Our monitoring program continues to assure that the water delivered to your home is safe and wholesome. The assessment found that the water source is at LOW RISK of contamination. This does NOT mean that the water cannot become contaminated. Protection efforts are necessary to assure continued water quality. Complete Source Water Assessment Reports are available from UWRI and the Town of North Kingstown or the Department of Health at (401) 222-6867.

Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water

Water Conservation:

- ***The Town of Narragansett offers water conservation kits free of charge to any customer requesting one.*** *Please contact the Water Division for further information about this service.*

Narragansett Water
Division-North End
Phone: (401) 782-0639

Why Are There Contaminants in My Drinking 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 (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

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:

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 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 can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

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

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 the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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 Narragansett Water Division-North End 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.

Understanding Our Water Quality Test Results

Your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State standards for quality and safety!

The table on page 3 lists all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected through our water quality monitoring and testing. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from the January – December 2008 monitoring period. For those contaminants that are monitored less frequently, the most recent test results are listed.

Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL's) are set at very stringent levels. The Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) is set at a level where no health effects would be expected, and the MCL is set as close to that as possible, considering available technology and cost of treatment. A person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day, as recommended by health professionals, at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

Units & Definitions

Not Detected (ND) - Laboratory analysis indicated the contaminant was not present

Parts per million (ppm) or **Milligrams per liter** (mg/l) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in $10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or **Micrograms per liter** (ug/L) - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in $10,000,000.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

Action Level (AL) - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. A violation will occur only if the supplier fails to take corrective action.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - the MCL is 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 (MCLG) - the MCLG is 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 Disinfection 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 the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (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.

2008 TEST RESULTS FROM UNITED WATER RHODE ISLAND & THE NORTH KINGSTOWN WATER DEPARTMENT

The ranges listed are results from each of the systems wells. Test results are from 2008 unless otherwise noted.

Radioactive Contaminants	Violation Y/N	Level Detected		Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
		United Water	North Kingstown				
Alpha Emitters	N	ND — 5.26*	ND	pCi/L	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium	N	ND — 3.19*	ND — 1.24	pCi/L	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium	N	ND — 5.65*	ND	ug/L	0	30	Erosion of natural deposits

*No radioactive contaminants were detected in UWRI's Wells #1-6. The ranges listed above are from Well #7.

Inorganic Contaminants	Violation Y/N	Level Detected		Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
		United Water	North Kingstown				
Barium	N	0.01 Range: ND — 1.01	0.02 Range: 0.01 — 0.02	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium	N	10 Range: ND — 10	3 Range: ND — 3	ppb	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	N	ND	0.21 Range: ND — 0.21	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	N	3.35 Range: 0.64 — 3.35	3.80 Range: ND — 3.80	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Synthetic Organic Contaminants	**Violation Y/N**	**Level Detected**		**Unit of Measurement**	**MCLG**	**MCL**	**Likely Source of Contamination**
		United Water	**North Kingstown**				
Di (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate	**Y-United Water*** N-North Kingstown	Average* 12 Range: 3 - 30	ND	ppb	0	6	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories

***The average and range are from UWRI's Well #7 ONLY. Di(2-ethylhexyl)Pthalate was NOT detected in Wells#1-6 which supply your water**. It is important to note that Well #7 is a back-up well and was NOT in use when these test results were taken. **No customers were exposed to this contaminant.** Follow-up testing has shown sample results within acceptable levels. Some people who drink water containing Di(2-ethyhexyl)phthalate in excess of the MCL over many years my have problems with their liver, or experience reproductive difficulties, and may have an increase risk of getting cancer.

Volatile Organic Contaminants †	Violation Y/N	Level Detected		Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
		United Water	North Kingstown				
Chlorine	N	Average 0.19 Range: 0.12 – 0.29	Average 0.31 Range: 0.24 – 0.43	ppm	**MRDLG** 4	**MRDL** 4	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA)	N	Average 3 Range: ND - 6	Average 0.78 Range: ND - 1	ppb	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	N	Average 26 Range: 19 – 32	Average 5.75 Range: 2.10 – 7.60	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination

†The averages presented in this section are the Running Annual Averages and results are from UWRI's & North Kingstown's distribution system.

DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM TEST RESULTS FROM THE NARRAGANSETT WATER DIVISION – NORTH END

Inorganic Contaminants	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (2006)	N	0.53	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead* (2006)	N	13	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits

*There were two (2) sites that exceeded the Lead Action Level. Lead: 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 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 (1-800-426-4791).

The State of Rhode Island requires testing for other contaminants not regulated by the US EPA. The following contaminants were detected:

Chloroform: North Kingstown detected Chloroform at a level of 0.60 ppb in Well #10.

Dacthal (DCPA): UWRI detected Dacthal at a range of 0.41—5 ppb in Well #5, and a range of 14 —20 ppb in Well #7. North Kingstown detected Dacthal at a range of 1.08—6.5 ppb in Well #4 and at a range of 7.55—8.20 ppb in Well#5a.

Metolachlor: UWRI detected Metolachlor at a range of 0.12 — 0.13 ppb in Wells# 6 and a range of 0.10—0.11 in Well #7.

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Important Information:
We're pleased to inform you that your water is safe to drink!

The Town of Narragansett News

THE SCOOP ON MUTT MITTS

Narragansett recently received a $5,000 grant from the RI Department of Environmental Management to install 10 new mutt mitt dispensers. The dispensers will be placed in the Narrow River watershed, at locations to be determined. Dispensers are already at Mettatuxet Beach, on Circuit Drive, on the seawall and in Jerusalem. Don't forget to look for them when you're walking your dog, and, please, tell all your pet-owning friends!

GET 'EM WHILE THEY'RE HOT

Stormwater Currents, the newsletter for all things stormwater, is hot off the press and on the web. The latest issue includes updates on Town projects, citizen action, and everything you ever wanted to know about reducing chemical and water use on your property, and saving money, too! There's even a family-fun quiz about the lawn. Find it at: www.narragansettri.gov, follow the link for Stormwater Currents. (Print copies are available at the library and the Engineering and Town Clerk's Offices at the Town Hall on Fifth Avenue.)

RIWIS SYSTEM MAKES TRACKING ONSITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS (OWTS) SEPTIC SYSTEMS—EASY

RIWIS, Rhode Island Wastewater Information System, is a statewide, internet-accessed system that organizes local information about OWTS (septic systems) and cesspools, including their location and condition, inspection results, and maintenance. This tracking is not only required, but is crucial to protecting water quality and public health. The easy-to-use system was developed by Carmody Data Systems in collaboration with URI, and is provided virtually free ($100 annual fee) to municipalities in Rhode Island. The Town's septic system tracking needed upgrading and RIWIS has more than met that need. The system eliminates the paper report submission by homeowners. Instead, septic and cesspool pumpers now have the responsibility of submitting the pumping receipt online, and have access to the system free of charge. RIWIS uses passwords to access various levels of data, so homeowners can know that their private information is secure.