

Cogswell Spring Water Works (Town of Henniker Water Supply) Water Quality Report – 2010

What is the source of my drinking water? The water supplied is from groundwater sources. It is pumped from two gravel packed wells. A third well is available and maintained as an emergency supply. Wells #1 & #2 are each housed within individual pump stations and are treated by sodium hydroxide injection. The sodium hydroxide is added to raise the pH of the water. Water is less corrosive to your internal plumbing at higher pH levels. Well #3 is currently off-line. This well is maintained as an emergency backup for the system. The water from Well #3 meets all current contaminant limits but has a yellow color. Water is pumped from wells #1 & #2 to two storage tanks. One is a 300,000-gallon concrete underground reservoir and the second is a 500,000-gallon concrete tank. Customers receive water directly from the wells, or from the tanks depending on demand. There are approximately 511 service connections on the system.

How can I get involved? The Water Commissioners hold their meetings at the Water Company office located on Davison Road. Meeting dates are posted at the Town Hall, Post Office and Water Company Office. The system operator is Norman Bumford. He can be reached at 428-3237. To report water emergencies outside regular work hours, please contact the Henniker Police Department. The Water Commissioners are Joseph P. Damour, Donald G. Blanchard and Ronald C. Taylor.

Why are contaminants in my water? Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of 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 US Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Violations and Other information: The water supplied by Cogswell Spring Water Works met all criteria for safe drinking water during 2009.

Do I need to take special precautions? 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 trans-plants, 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 (1-800-426-4791).

Definitions:

MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal, or 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.

MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. They are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

AL: Action Level, or the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

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

MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfectant level goal or the level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants (for water systems that use chlorine).

MRDL: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level or the highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that the addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants (for water systems that use chlorine).

Abbreviations:

ppm: parts per million **ppb:** parts per billion **ppt:** parts per trillion **ppq:** parts per quadrillion **pCi/L:** pico curies per liter
NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Unit **NA –** Not applicable **nd:** not detectable at testing limits **AL:** Action Level **TT:** Treatment Technique

Sample Dates: The results for detected contaminants listed below are from the most recent monitoring done in compliance with regulations ending with the year 2009. The State of New Hampshire allows water systems to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Thus some of the data present, though representative, may be more than one year old.

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 can not 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 your tap for at least 30 seconds before using water for drinking or cooking. Don 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://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

DETECTED WATER QUALITY RESULTS

Contaminant (Units)	Level Detected	MCL	MCLG	Violation YES/NO	Likely Source of Contamination	Health Effects of Contaminant
---------------------	----------------	-----	------	------------------	--------------------------------	-------------------------------

Radioactive Contaminants

Compliance Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	Range nd - 5.4 Average 1.6 Sampled 2007	15	0	No	Erosion of natural deposits	
Uranium (ug/L)	Range nd - 0.4 Average 0.2 Sampled 2007	30	0	No	Erosion of natural deposits	
Combined Radium 226 + 228 (pCi/L)	Range nd - 0.2 Average 0.1 Sampled 2007	5	0	No	Erosion of natural deposits	

Inorganic Contaminants

Barium (ppm)	Range 0.004 - 0.23 Average 0.01 Sampled 2009	2	2	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits	
Copper (ppm)	90 th Percentile 0.17 Sampled 2007	AL=1.3	1.3	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives	
Lead (ppb)	90 th Percentile 9 Sampled 2007	AL=15	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits	

Volatile Organic Contaminants

Chlorine (ppm)	Range 0.07 - 0.22 Average 0.17 Sampled 2009	MRDL = 4	MRDL G = 4	No	Water additive used to control microbes	
----------------	---	----------	------------	----	---	--

Description of Drinking Water Contaminants:

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 storm water 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 storm water runoff, and septic systems.

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 prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Source Water Assessment Summary:

The NH Department of Environmental Services has prepared a Source Water Assessment Report for the source(s) serving this community water system, assessing the sources' vulnerability to contamination. The results of the assessment, prepared on (date(s)), are as follows:

Well 1 received 3 high susceptibility ratings, 0 medium susceptibility ratings, and 9 low susceptibility ratings.

Well 2 received 3 high susceptibility ratings, 0 medium susceptibility ratings, and 9 low susceptibility ratings.

Well 3 received 3 high susceptibility ratings, 1 medium susceptibility ratings, and 8 low susceptibility ratings.

The complete Assessment Report is available for review at Water System Operators, Inc. For more information call 603/428-3525 or visit NH Department of Environmental Services Drinking Water & Groundwater Bureau web site at www.des.nh.gov/dwgb.