

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Drinking Water Contains High Levels of Disinfection By-Products

NOTICE OF STANDARD MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL ("MCL") VIOLATIONS

The New Castle water system recently violated drinking water standards. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers in the area of the violation, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. The standard for Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) is 0.080 mg/L. The standard for Haloacetic Acids is 0.060 mg/L. Testing results for the First quarter sampling in 2018 showed that our system 12-month rolling average exceeded the maximum contaminant level for TTHMs at one of the two required sample locations. This site is located at the New Castle School. The 12-month running average level of TTHMs at this site is 0.095 mg/L. The 1st Quarter did not exceed the maximum contaminant level for both locations; 53 ppb at the New Castle school and 46 ppb at the Shapleigh Island meter pit.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been you would have been notified immediately. However, *some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.*

What should I do?

It is not necessary to use alternate water; however, if you have specific health concerns, please contact your health care professional. General health related questions may be directed to Dave Gordon of the DES Environmental Health Program at (603) 271-4608.

What Caused this Violation? Although we passed the first quarter, the Town is required to pass a running total of four quarters for TTHM under 80 ppb and for HAA5 for under 60 ppb. The running total at the New Castle School for the four quarters for TTHM is 95 ppb, hence the violation. Please take a minute and read the 2016 Annual Water Quality Report which can be found on the Portsmouth Public Works' website under drinking water. This report gives in depth information about water source, assessment, treatment and contaminants for New Castle.

Steps We Are Taking: The New Castle Water District receives its water from the Portsmouth Water Division. Portsmouth continues to proactively address the evolving water quality regulations related to new, lower, standards for TTHMs. The Portsmouth 2013 Water System Master Plan recommended aeration of the Newington Booster Tank to treat for this parameter. Therefore, a consultant was hired by the City in 2014 to perform preliminary design of that system and to also assist the water operations staff with optimizing treatment system operations to lower the levels of TTHMs. Their recommendations were implemented and a design of the Newington Booster upgrades is underway and went out to bid on January 19, 2018. This pumping station is designed to reduce the TTHMs. The Town of New Castle has also hired an engineering firm that made recommendations to mitigate these issues.

Stephen Tabbutt of Town of New Castle at (603) 431-6710
49 Main Street, New Castle, NH 03854

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 or distributing copies by hand or mail.

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