

# 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 or 80 ppb (parts per billion). The standard for Haloacetic Acids is 0.060 mg/L or 60 ppb. Testing results for the Second 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. The 12-month running average level of TTHMs at the New Castle School site was 90 ppb. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter did not exceed the maximum contaminant level for both locations; 52 ppb at the New Castle school and 51 at the Shapleigh Island meter pit site.

#### 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 second 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 second quarter of TTHM is 90 ppb, hence the violation. Please take a minute and read the 2017 "Annual Water Quality Report" mailed out recently. This report can also be found on the town's website at [newcastlenh.org](http://newcastlenh.org).

The New Castle Water District receives its water from the Portsmouth Water Division. Organics, mixing with chlorinated water, are what cause TTHMs to form in the drinking water systems.

**Steps We Are Taking:** 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. It is anticipated that this project design will be complete in the fall of 2018 and will go out to bid after that for construction. Additionally, the Town of New Castle has hired an engineering firm to determine how to address this issue in the short term.

Stephen Tabbutt of Town of New Castle at (603) 431-6710  
49 Main Street, PO Box 367, 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.*