

# ERVING WATER DEPARTMENT PWS #1091000



## 2015 CONSUMER AWARENESS REPORT

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### Special Points of Interest

- Our drinking water is safe and meets both Federal and State Regulations.
- Erving Water Department has delivered excellent water and services to you over the past year.
- Information about contaminants and health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

### WATER SOURCES AND SYSTEM OVERVIEW

We're pleased to present to you, this year's Consumer Awareness Report for our monitoring period Jan. 1, 2014 to Dec 31, 2014. We want to keep you informed about the excellent water and services we have delivered to you over the past year. Our goal is and always has been to provide you a safe and dependable supply of drinking water.

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, radio-active material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water before we treat it 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 may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture

and residential uses.

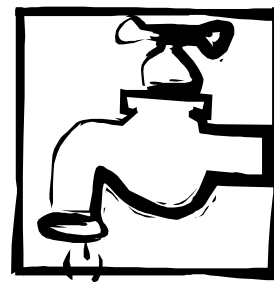
*Radioactive contaminants* are naturally occurring.

*Organic chemical contaminants* including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals. These are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production. They can also result from gas stations, urban storm-water runoff, and septic systems.

Groundwater is the source for the Erving Water Department. Well #1 is located off of River Road, which is an aquifer formed by a deep, narrow buried river valley. This is an ancient location of the Connecticut River Valley (pre-glacial). The well and storage tank were constructed and brought on line in 1983 and was recently re-coated inside and out in the Fall of 2009. Many drinking water sources in New England are naturally corrosive (i.e. they have a pH of less than 7.0). For this reason, it is beneficial to add chemicals that make the water neutral or slightly alkaline. The Erving Water Department adds sodium hydroxide to its water to adjust the water to a non-corrosive pH.

The Water Department has a source Water Assessment Plan, a Well Head Protection Plan, and an Emergency Response Plan. In addition, Erving's Board of Health has adopted a floor drain regulation for the Zone II area of the well.

The Erving Water Department maintains a cross-connection and back flow testing and surveying program on an on-going basis. In our continuing efforts to maintain a safe and dependable water supply, it might be necessary to make improvements to our water system. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments may be necessary in order to address these improvements.



# ERVING WATER DEPT. TEST RESULTS FOR 2014

## DETECTION OF CONSTITUENTS

*We routinely monitor for drinking water contaminants. In January 2014, 5 of our samples showed the presence of total coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than 1 sample per month. Repeat sampling still showed bacteria present, so we flushed the system. Again repeat testing still came up positive, the system was then chlorinated and flushed and resampled. These samples showed **NO** presence of bacteria. The cause of the bacteria hits was undetermined.*

CONTAMINANT	RESULT	MCL	SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Nitrate-Sampled 4/15/14	0.19 mg/l	10.0 mg/l	Runoff from fertilizer use Leaching from septic tanks Sewage Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium-Sampled 1/14 thru 12/14	20.0 mg/l to 78.0 mg/l	none	
Calcium-Sampled 1/14 thru 12/14	3.8 mg/l to 13.0 mg/l	none	
Chloride-Sampled 1/14 thru 12/14	9.4 mg/l to 100.0 mg/l	none	
Barium-Sampled 4/16/14	.056 mg/l	2.0 mg/l	Discharge of drilling waste Discharge from metal refineries Erosion of natural deposits

## FEDERAL AND STATE REQUIREMENTS

We are pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets both Federal and State requirements.

All 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 Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. All test results are available by contacting the Erving Water Department 413-422-2800 ext. 100.

## CONTAMINANTS

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-compromised individuals (cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy, organ transplant recipients, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders), some elderly, and infants can be particu-

larly 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 Sage Drinking Water Hotline, 1-800-426-4791. If you have

questions about this report or concerning the Water Department, please contact Pete Sanders, system operator, at 413-423-3354. The Water Commissioners have regularly scheduled meetings on the first Monday of each month beginning at 6:30 p.m. at Erving Town Hall, 12 East Main Street.



All test results are available by contacting Erving Water Dept.  
**413-422-2800 x 100**

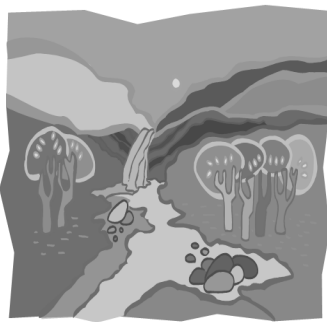
## HEALTH TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

In the table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand, we've provided the following definitions:

- ◆ Maximum Contamination Level or MCL: The highest level of a contaminant in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to MCLGs as feasible using the best available technology.
- ◆ Maximum Contamination Level Goal or MCLG: 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.
- ◆ Non-Detects (ND) : Laboratory analysis indicated that the constituent is not present.
- ◆ Action Level (AL): the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- ◆ n/a: not applicable
- ◆ nd: not detectable at testing limit
- ◆ ppb: parts per billion or micrograms per liter
- ◆ ppm: parts per million or milligrams per liter
- ◆ pCi/l: picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)

*"MCLs are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink two (2) liters of water everyday at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect."*

### NEWLY REVISED FEDERAL LEAD AND COPPER RULE



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 Erving Water Department 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>.

WE HAVE MET THE REQUIREMENTS AND ARE PRESENTLY IN A REDUCED SAMPLING AND TESTING SCHEDULE, THIS INCLUDES FIVE SAMPLES FROM THE SYSTEM EVERY THREE YEARS.

	90%	# Sites	# Exceed
<b>Lead</b>	Action level .015 mg/l	0.0056 ppb	Sample 5
<b>Copper</b>	1.3 mg/l	.024 ppm	Action level 0

RESULTS ARE FROM SEPTEMBER, 2012 TESTING. THE LIKELY SOURCE FOR CORROSION IS HOUSEHOLD PLUMBING. 90% MEANS THAT FOR EVERY 10 TEST SITES, 9 ARE AT OR BELOW THAT NUMBER. ACTION LEVEL MEANS THAT THE CONCENTRATION OF A CONTAMINANT THAT, IF EXCEEDED, TRIGGERS TREATMENT OR OTHER REQUIREMENTS, THAT A WATER SYSTEM MUST FOLLOW.

### Erving Water Department

**PWS #1091000**

12 East Main St.

Erving, MA 01344

**413-422-2800 X 100**