Portsmouth Water & Fire District
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POSTAL CUSTOMER

PORTSMOUTH WATER AND FIRE DISTRICT

2025 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

Dear Customer: Portsmouth Water and Fire District is pleased to present our 2025 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) as required by the federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This annual water quality report provides a snapshot of where your water comes from, what it contains, and the risks that our water testing and treatment are designed to prevent. We strive to provide you with the safest and most reliable water supply available. The District's drinking water meets or exceeds all federal and state drinking water standards.

About the Portsmouth Water and Fire District

The Portsmouth Water and Fire District is a quasi-municipal agency created by the RI General Assembly in 1952. The District is responsible for providing drinking water and water for fire protection for approximately ninety percent of Portsmouth on Aquidneck Island. The District is governed by a seven-member elected Administrative Board and holds an annual election of officers on the second Wednesday in June. Although the District is not affiliated legally or administratively with the Town of Portsmouth government, the District and Town work cooperatively to best serve their common constituents.

We encourage public interest and participation in our community's decisions affecting drinking water. Regularly scheduled Administrative Board meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM, at the District's office at 1944 East Main Road and via Zoom. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend these meetings.

Your Water Source

In 2025, the Portsmouth Water and Fire District purchased all of its water from the City of Newport. The majority of the water is treated at the Lawton Valley Water Treatment Plant in Portsmouth. On occasion, the water may be treated at Station One Water Treatment Plant in Newport. Newport Water draws its raw water supply from a system of nine surface water reservoirs: Lawton Valley Reservoir, Sisson Pond and St. Mary's Pond in Portsmouth; Nonquit Pond in Tiverton; Watson Reservoir in Little Compton; North and South Easton Ponds in Middletown and Newport; and Paradise Pond and Gardner Pond in Middletown. Both plants and all nine reservoirs are owned and operated by the City of Newport. The emergency supply from the Stone Bridge Fire District is treated at the Stone Bridge Water Treatment Plant in Tiverton, which draws surface water from Stafford Pond in Tiverton.

Portsmouth's Distribution System

The District services all of Portsmouth, exclusive of Redwood Farms, Bay View, Raytheon, Melville Areas, and Prudence Island. The District's water system maintains 6,922 services and consists of over 133 miles of water main, 4 water storage tanks, 2 pumping stations, 1,768 valves and 609 hydrants.

The District does not own any water supplies, but instead purchases its regular water supply on a wholesale basis from the City of Newport and relies on the Stone Bridge Fire District in Tiverton for emergency water supply.

The Administrative Board's goal is to provide the customers of the District with an adequate supply of the best quality water available. Recent and current efforts to improve water quality and customer service include:

- Web Portal that allows customers to pay their water and tax bills on-line using ACH drafts and credit and debit cards. **Go to portsmouthwater.org and click on the "PAY MY BILL" button.**
- Development of a Geographic Information System (GIS) for water system mapping and data analysis.
- Asset Management System web application/server that integrates GIS for record keeping and real-time mobile work orders.
- A new pump station to replace the 55-year-old Union Street Pumping Station.
- Annual uni-directional water main flushing program based on hydraulic modeling and analysis.
- Annual leak detection of the entire water system.
- Looping of new and existing water main extensions whenever possible to avoid dead-ends.
- Rehabilitation of the Sakonnet River Pipeline which is the emergency connection to Stone Bridge Fire District.
- Implementation of a cross-connection control program. Go to https://portsmouthwater.org/whats-a-cross-connection/ to learn more.
- Notifying customers of shut downs and emergencies via CodeRED. Go to https://portsmouthwater.org/codered-emergency-notification-system/ to learn more and to sign up.

Source Water Assessments

In 2003, the University of Rhode Island, in cooperation with the RI Department of Health (RIDOH) and other state and federal agencies, assessed the threats within the watersheds of Newport Water's water supply sources. The assessment found that the water sources on Aquidneck Island and in Little Compton and Tiverton are moderately susceptible to contamination. Monitoring and protection efforts are especially important to assure continued water quality. Newport Water updated the 2003 Assessment in 2010. The complete Source Water Assessment Report is available at our office.

Concerning Lead in Our Water

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. Portsmouth Water and Fire District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Portsmouth Water and Fire District at 401-683-2090. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

As part of EPA's lead and Copper rule revision, every public supplier must take inventory of all water service lines in their distribution system primarily to identify any lead service lines. To view the District's service line inventory or to report your service line material go to https://portsmouthwater.org/lsl_inventory/ and follow the directions.

The District can help you obtain a certified lead test for your tap water for $35. Please call 683-2090 for more information.

Additional Health Information

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

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 microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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 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 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. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Concerning Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) in Our Water

The EPA sets standards for controlling the levels of disinfection byproducts (DBPs) in drinking water, one of which is TTHMs.

Many water systems disinfect their water with chlorine in order to inactivate pathogens that cause disease. The public health benefits of chlorine disinfection practices are significant and well-recognized. While disinfectants are effective in controlling many harmful microorganisms, they react with organic and inorganic matter in the water to form DBPs, some of which pose health risks at certain levels. 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. Consequently, one of the most complex questions facing water supply professionals is how to reduce risks from disinfectants and DBPs while providing increased protection against microbial contaminants.

Newport Water System Special Monitoring – Metals and Synthetic Organic Compounds

As part of Newport Water's ongoing monitoring programs, they have continued testing sites for metals and synthetic organic compounds once per quarter in 2025. The sample sites include: Station 1 total plant effluent, Lawton Valley clearwell tank effluent, and Lawton Valley tank effluent. This represents the water produced at both water plants, after treatment, to the distribution system. thirteen metals and thirty-six organic compounds were analyzed. The table presents only contaminants that were detected.

Station 1 TPE Metals	Unit	MCL	Detected Level	Range	Major Source
Barium	ppm	2	0.010	0.006 - 0.010	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Manganese	ppm	N/A	0.005	0.002 - 0.005	
Lawton Valley Clearwell Metals	**Unit**	**MCL**	**Detected Level**	**Range**	**Major Source**
Barium	ppm	2	0.008	0.006 - 0.008	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Manganese	ppm	N/A	0.004	ND - 0.004	
Lawton Valley Tank Effluent Metals	**Unit**	**MCL**	**Detected Level**	**Range**	**Major Source**
Barium	ppm	2	0.009	0.006 - 0.009	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Manganese	ppm	N/A	0.005	ND - 0.005	

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.

Questions

The Portsmouth Water and Fire District prepared this report. We'll be happy to answer any questions about the District and our drinking water quality. Please contact Jessica Lynch, General Manager and Chief Engineer (401-683-2090) or info@portsmouthwater.org.

Some water customers of the Newport Water Department and the Naval Station Newport water system, particularly in the Redwood Farms, Bay View and Melville areas, in addition to properties in the District with private wells, may receive this consumer notice, even though they are not customers of the District. This overcoverage is unavoidable in our effort to ensure that all potential water users within the District receive this legal notice through a Postal Customer mailing.

How Do I Read The Water Quality Tables?

It's easy! Our water is regularly tested to assure that it is safe and healthy. The column marked Detected Level shows the highest test results during the year. The column marked Major Sources in Drinking Water shows where substances usually originate. Footnotes explain important details. Abbreviations and definitions of key terms are shown below:

Abbreviations and Definitions used in the Water Quality Tables

AL	**Action Level:** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
MCL	**Maximum Contaminant Level:** 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.
MCLG	**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal:** 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.
MFL	**Million Fibers per Liter.**
MRDL	**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level:** 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.
MRDLG	**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal:** 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.
Mrem	**Millirems:** a measure of radiation absorbed by the body.
N/A	**Not Applicable.**
ND	**Not Detectable:** Not detectable at testing limits.
NTU	**Nephelometric Turbidity Units:** a measure of very small particulate matter in drinking water.
pCi/l	**Picocuries per liter:** a measure of radioactivity.
ppb	**parts per billion,** or micrograms per liter (µg/l).
ppm	**parts per million,** or milligrams per liter (mg/l).
ppt	**parts per trillion,** or nanograms per liter (nanograms/l).
RAA	**Running Annual Average.**
TT	**Treatment Technique:** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

PORTSMOUTH WATER AND FIRE DISTRICT **2025 WATER QUALITY TABLE** *

PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM # RI1592022

DETECTED CONTAMINANTS	YEAR TESTED	UNIT	MCL / MRDL	MCLG / MRDLG	DETECTED LEVEL (FOR COMPLIANCE)	DETECTED RANGE	MAJOR SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER	VIOLATION
Microbiological Contaminants			**MCL**	**MCLG**				
Total Coliform Bacteria (1)	2025	% of Positive Samples per Month	TT	N/A	0%	N/A	Naturally present in the environment.	NO
Total Organic Carbon (2)	2025	Removal Ratio	TT	N/A	1.24	0.93 – 1.38	Naturally present in the environment.	NO
Turbidity (2)(3)	2025	NTU	TT = 1.0 Lowest monthly % of samples meeting limit	N/A	0.32 99% < 0.3	N/A	Soil runoff.	NO
Disinfection Byproducts			**MCL**	**MCLG**				
Chlorite (2)	2025	ppm	1.0	0.8	0.48	<0.010 – 0.530	By-product of drinking water chlorination.	NO
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5s)	2025	ppb	60	N/A	21.4	8.6 – 20.6		NO
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) (4)	2025	ppb	80	N/A	73.3	35.3 – 105.0		NO
Disinfectants			**MRDL**	**MRDLG**				
Chlorine	2025	ppm	4	4	1.18	0.30 – 2.12	Water additive used to control microbes.	NO
Chlorine Dioxide (2)	2025	ppb	800	800	740	10 – 740		NO
Inorganic Contaminants			**MCL**	**MCLG**				
Barium (6)	2025	ppm	2	2	0.005	0.005 – 0.011	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge of drilling wastes	NO
Chromium (5)	2025	ppb	100	100	2	ND – 2	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits	NO
Copper (7)	2024	ppm	AL = 1.3	1.3	0.044	0.012 – 0.099	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.	NO
Fluoride (2) (8)	2025	ppm	4	4	0.34	0.01 – 0.34	Water additive, promotes strong teeth	NO
Lead (9)	2024	ppb	AL = 15	0	4.8	ND - 164	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.	NO
Nitrate (5)	2025	ppm	10	10	0.86	ND – 0.86	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewerage; erosion of natural deposits	NO
Asbestos	2020	MFL	7.0	7.0	<0.062	N/A	Decay of asbestos cement in water mains; erosion of natural deposits	NO
Synthetic Organic Contaminants			**MCL**	**MCLG**				
Simazine	2025	ppb	4	4	0.20	ND – 0.20	Runoff from herbicide use; runoff from manufacturing sites.	NO
Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring (10)			**MCL**	**MCLG**				
Chlorate (2)	2025	ppb	N/A	N/A	210	55-210	By-product of drinking water chlorination	N/A
Iron (6)	2025	ppm	N/A	N/A	0.90	ND – 0.90	Erosion of natural deposits, runoff from orchards	N/A
Sodium	2025	ppm	N/A	N/A	32.3	26.6 – 32.8	Erosion of natural deposits; road-salt runoff; contained in water treatment chemicals.	N/A
Manganese (2)	2025	ppm	N/A	N/A	0.16	ND – 0.16	Naturally occurring; road runoff; contained in water treatment chemicals; EPA regulations require us to monitor this contaminant while EPA considers setting a limit on it.	NO
PFBS (5)	2025	ppt	N/A	N/A	4.40	ND – 4.40	Industrial / manufacturing byproduct. Fire training / fire response sites.	N/A
PFBS (2)	2025	ppt	N/A	N/A	2.32	ND – 2.32		N/A
PFHxA (5)	2025	ppt	N/A	N/A	5.22	ND – 5.22		N/A
PFHxA (2)	2025	ppt	N/A	N/A	3.92	ND – 3.92		N/A

*The data presented in this table is from the most recent testing done in accordance with regulations. Test results are from the Portsmouth Water and Fire District's distribution system unless otherwise noted by the footnotes.

Water Quality Table Footnotes

(1) In 2025, the District collected 563 samples that were tested for Total Coliform Bacteria. All samples were negative for Total Coliform Bacteria.

(2) Measured after treatment at the Newport Water Department Lawton Valley Treatment Plant.

(3) Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.

(4) Detected level is Stage 2 DBPR highest locational running annual average. *Some people who drink water containing TTHM's in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.*

(5) Measured in the Newport Water Department raw water reservoirs prior to treatment.

(6) Measured in the Newport Water Department raw water supply and entry points to the distribution system.

(7) The detected level indicates the 90th percentile value of the 33 samples obtained at 33 high-risk homes. None of the samples exceeded the Action Level.

(8) Fluoride is added to the water to help prevent tooth decay in children.

(9) The detected level indicates the 90th percentile value of the 33 samples obtained at 33 high-risk homes (one home was resampled). One of the 33 samples exceeded the Action Level.

(10) Unregulated contaminants are those that do not yet have a primary drinking water standard set by the US EPA. The purpose of monitoring for these contaminants is to help the US EPA develop regulatory decisions for these contaminants.

2025 PFAS/PFOA Source Water Data

As part of Newport Water Division's ongoing source water monitoring program they continue to sample all of the surface body reservoirs for PFAS compounds. Below is a summary of detections in the source water.

Source Water RIDOH Regulated PFAS/PFOA Monitoring	Period	Unit	Detected Level	Range	Major Sources
PFHpA	2025	parts per trillion	2.95	ND - 2.95	Industrial / manufacturing byproduct. Fire training / fire response sites.
PFHxS	2025	parts per trillion	2.36	ND - 2.36	
PFOA	2025	parts per trillion	5.07	ND - 5.07	
PFNA	2025	parts per trillion	2.97	ND - 2.98	
PFOS	2025	parts per trillion	23.7	ND - 23.7	
PFDA	2025	parts per trillion	2.47	ND – 2.47	
Total of RI Six PFAS Compounds	2025	parts per trillion	37.6	ND – 37.6	

2025 RIDOH PFAS/PFOA Finished Water Data

The Rhode Island "PFAS in Drinking Water, Groundwater, and Surface Water Act of 2022" required the Newport Water Division to monitor our finished water for PFAS compounds quarterly. Six PFAS/PFOA compounds were specifically targeted by the legislation setting an interim Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 20 Parts Per Trillion (PPT) either individually or combined. Below is a summary of the detections in the finished water from both treatment plants.

Finished Water RIDOH Regulated PFAS/PFOA Monitoring	Period	Unit	MCL	Detected Level	Range	Major Sources	Violation
PFHpA	2025	parts per trillion	20 ppt	2.12	ND - 2.12	Industrial / manufacturing byproduct. Fire training / fire response sites.	NO
PFHxS	2025	parts per trillion	20 ppt	1.40	ND - 1.40		NO
PFOA	2025	parts per trillion	20 ppt	2.97	ND – 2.97		NO
PFNA	2025	parts per trillion	20 ppt	ND	ND		NO
PFOS	2025	parts per trillion	20 ppt	1.18	ND - 1.18		NO
PFDA	2025	parts per trillion	20 ppt	ND	ND		NO
Total of RI Six PFAS Compounds	2025	parts per trillion	20 ppt	7.33	ND – 7.33		NO