

Hancock Water Works

Water Quality Report – 2009

What is the source of my drinking water?

Juggernaut Pond is the sole source of Hancock's drinking water. It was established in 1952. Juggernaut Pond is a 15 acre pond fed by an 85 acre watershed that is fully forested and has no development of any kind. Juggernaut pond is located in the Southwestern corner of Hancock

How can I get involved?

The Hancock Water Commissioners hold regularly scheduled meeting on the 3rd Thursday of every month at the Highway Department Office. These meetings are open to the public. The current Commissioners and their phone numbers are listed here for your convenience. Jeff Wilder 525-6655 Kurt Grassett 525-7800 or 525-4087 Sean Kerwin 525-4110.

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:

Hancock Water Works received a treatment technique violation during December 2008. During the extended power outage caused by the ice storm the back up generator failed on 3 separate occasions (December 13 (17 hours), December 15(5 hours), and December 17 (7.5 hours)) and the alarm failed to notify the primary operator. Each shutdown allowed water to enter the distribution system with a disinfection residual less than .2 mg/l for a period greater than 4 hours.

The failure of the generator was caused by an installation error that would only have been found during an extended power outage. As of December 17, 2008 the installation error has been corrected. The alarm failure was caused by operator error and has also been corrected.

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Tests taken during this same time period **did not** indicate the presence of bacteria in the water.

Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. 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.

Since corrections have been made the Hancock Water System has operated without any treatment technique violations.

Hancock's drinking water meets all federal and state regulations. To ensure safety and meet the State and Federal requirements, Hancock's drinking water undergoes extensive testing. Our current testing schedule is as follows: Total Coliform Bacteria-tested monthly. Fecal Coliform Bacteria-raw water- tested weekly

Inorganic contaminants-Every 3 years from 1997

Synthetic Organic Contaminates (SOC) 6 year waiver from 1997

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) 6 year waiver from 1997

(All SOC and VOC were "nd" on previous tests)

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 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 (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 2008. Results prior to 2008 will include the date the sample was taken. 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.

Turbidity: is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is monitored by surface water systems because it is a good indicator of water quality and thus helps measure the effectiveness of the treatment process. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants

DETECTED WATER QUALITY RESULTS

Contaminant (Units)	Level Detected	MCL	MCLG	Violation YES/NO	Likely Source of Contamination	Health Effects of Contaminant
Microbiological Contaminants						
Turbidity (NTU)	.2-1.0	TT	N/A	N	Soil runoff	Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches.
Radioactive Contaminants						
Combined Radium pCi/L 226 + 228	0.1-0.2 tested in 2003	5	0	N	Erosion of natural deposits	Some people who drink water containing radium 226 or 228 in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
Inorganic Contaminants						
Copper (ppm)	90 th percentile = 0.830 0 samples above 1.3 2/10/2006	AL=1.3	1.3	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives	Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor.

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.

Radon: Radon is a radioactive gas that you can't see, taste or smell. It can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in the foundation. Radon can also get into indoor air when released from tap water from showering, washing dishes, and other household activities. It is a known human carcinogen. Breathing radon can lead to lung cancer. Drinking water containing radon may cause an increased risk of stomach cancer. Presently the EPA is reviewing a standard for radon in water.

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>.

Source Water Assessment Summary:

The NH Department of Environmental Services has prepared a Source Water Assessment Report for the source serving this community water system, assessing the sources' vulnerability to contamination. The results of the assessment, prepared on August 12, 2002, are as follows:

Juggernaut Pond, received 0 high susceptibility ratings, 0 medium susceptibility ratings, and 13 low susceptibility ratings.

The complete Assessment Report is available for review at (water system office or other location). For more information call (water system's contact and telephone number) or visit NH Department of Environmental Services Drinking Water & Groundwater Bureau web site at www.des.nh.gov/dwgb