

# 2013 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

## Cromwell Fire District - Water Division

Dear Customer: We are pleased to present a summary report of the quality of the water provided to you during the past year. The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires that utilities issue an annual water quality report to customers in addition to other notices that may be required by law. This report details where our water comes from, what it contains, and the risks our water testing and treatment are designed to prevent. The Cromwell Fire District - Water Division is committed to providing you with a safe and reliable water supply. Informed consumers are our best allies in maintaining safe drinking water.

**The bottom line: Is the water safe to drink? Absolutely! Cromwell Fire District - Water Division's drinking water meets or surpasses all federal and state drinking water standards.**

### Overview

In 2012 our Water Division pumped 586 million gallons of water. We are continually upgrading our production, transmission and quality control systems. Additionally, we continue to upgrade our meter reading system by installing efficient radio readers. The District has completed the construction of a new pumping station/well house for Well No. 4 and the well is in full production. With Well No. 4, the Gardiner Wellfield now has a total capacity of approximately 10.5 mgd. This increase in system capacity enables the District to rotate and rest wells, and improve water quality for our customers. Recently, we have successfully completed a ground water under the direct influence study as required by the State Health Department for Well #3. A similar study is in process for Well #4.

### Water Source

The District's water is supplied by groundwater pumped from four wells located in the northeast corner of the town. This facility is known as the Gardiner Wellfield. The average flow is about 1.2 million gallons per day (mgd) and the peak flow is about 3.0 mgd. These wells extend into an enormous aquifer, which runs below the Connecticut River Valley.

### Important 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. For additional information, call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791; visit EPA's web site on local drinking water at [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater) or you may also contact the CTDPH Drinking Water Division (DWD).

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:

(A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

(B) 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.

(C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

(D) 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.

(E) 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. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

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) or EPA's web site on local drinking water at [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater).

Questions relating to the technical data contained herein should be directed to William Jarzavek, our Operations Director, at 860-635-4420, or in writing to Mr. Jarzavek at the Cromwell Fire District - Water Division, 1 West Street, Cromwell, CT 06416. For more information, call Cromwell Fire District - Water Division at 860-635-4420

We encourage public interest and participation in our community's decisions affecting drinking water. Regular meetings of the Board of Commissioners occur on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, at 7:00 P.M. Coles Road Firehouse, 105 Coles Road, Cromwell, CT. The public is welcome.

### How to Read This Table

It's easy! Our water is tested regularly to assure that it is safe and healthy. The column marked Level Detected shows the highest test results during the period tested. Source of Contaminant shows where this substance usually originates. Important definitions follow:

**Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL:** 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.

**Maximum Contaminant 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.

**Detected Level:** The highest level detected of a contaminant for comparison against the acceptance levels for each parameter. These levels could be the highest single measurement, or an average of values depending on the contaminant.

**Action Level:** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**Range:** The lowest to the highest values for all samples tested for each contaminant. If only one sample is tested, or no range is required for this report, then no range is listed for that contaminant in the table.

**Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.


### Water Quality Table

Inorganic Contaminants	Date Tested	Units	MCLG	MCL	Detected Level	Range	Major Sources
Nitrate	2012	ppm	10	10	1.2	0-1.2	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks and sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrite	2012		1	1	ND	ND	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage.
Microbiological Contaminants	Date Tested	Units	MCLG	MCL	Detected Level	Range	Major Sources/Comments
Turbidity	2012	NTU	NA	NA	ND	ND	Soil runoff/ Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It's another indicator of water quality.
Volatile Organic Contaminants	Date Tested	Units	MCLG	MCL	Detected Level	Range	Major Sources
Trichloroethane	2012	ppb	200	200	0.57	0-0.57	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
Total Trichalometanes	2012	ppb	0	100	8.5	8.5-10.6	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Bomodichloromethane	2012	ppb	NA	NA	2.6	2.6-3.0	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Bromoform	2012	ppb	NA	NA	1.1	1.1-2.0	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Dibromomethane	2012	ppb	NA	NA	3.1	3.1-3.9	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chloroform	2012	ppb	NA	NA	1.4	1.4-1.7	By-product of drinking water chlorination
<b>NATURAL RADIO ACTIVITY</b>							
Net Gross Alpha	2011	Pci/L	0	15	ND	ND	
Combined Radium	2011	Pci/L	0	5	ND	ND	
Uranium	2011	Pci/L	0	5	ND	ND	

**Key To Table**

AL = Action Level  
MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level  
MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal  
NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units  
TT = Treatment Technique  
NA = Not Applicable  
ND = None Detected  
ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)  
ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/L)

**Member of:**  
American Water Works Association



**Copper and Lead** are naturally occurring metals which are generally found at very low levels in source waters. If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. The District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. Information on copper and lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead). The results of the latest tests (2010) for copper and lead are presented below:

**Copper:** Of 30 samples taken, none were above the 1.30 Mg/l action level. Level detected was 0.503Mg/L.

Major Sources in Drinking Water:

Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.

Health Effects Statement:

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 disease. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal physician.

**Lead:** Of 30 samples taken none were above the action level of .15 Mg/L. Level detected was .015Mg/L

Major Sources in Drinking Water:

Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

Health Effects Statement:

Infants and children who drink water-containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical and mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink water-containing lead in excess of the action level over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.