Consumer Confidence Report 2018

The City of New Plymouth routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water in accordance with federal and state regulations. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, would not always provide increased protection of public health. Last year, we conducted tests for over 80 contaminants. We only detected 8 of those contaminants and found only 1 at a level higher than the EPA allows. The following table shows the detection of the following constituents in your drinking water. This table provides information on your drinking water quality for the period of January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018.

CONTAMINANT TABLE							
Contaminant	**Violation (Y/N)**	**MCL**	**MCLG**	**Lowest Level Detected**	**Highest Level Detected**	**Year Tested**	**Typical Sources of Contamination**
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS							
Arsenic (ppb)	N	10	0	4	8	2016	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Copper (ppm)	N	1.3 (AL)	1.3	N/A	0.23	2016	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	N	4	4	0.32	0.37	2016	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (ppm)	N	10	10	N/A	3.3	2018	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppb)	Y	50	50	8	52	2016	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines
RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS							
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L)	N	15	0	N/A	7.97	2016	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (ug/L)	N	30	0	N/A	9	2016	Erosion of natural deposits

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or at its website, www.epa.gov/safewater/hotline/.

The City of New Plymouth provides drinking water to our customers from three groundwater wells **(Wells #7, #8, #9).**

As water travels 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.
Drinking water may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems, ensuring its safety to public health.

Contaminants that may be present in source water can include:

- **Inorganic contaminants**: salts and metals that can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or agriculture.
- **Pesticides and herbicides:** may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- **Microbial contaminants:** viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- **Organic chemical contaminants:** 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:** naturally-occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

These potential constituents are measured and recorded using these units of measurement:

- **Micrograms per Liter (ug/L):** Equivalent to one part per billion (ppb)
- **Picocuries per Liter (pCi/L):** a measurement of radioactive substance per Liter
- **Parts per billion (ppb):** One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years
- **Parts per million (ppm):** One part per million corresponds to one penny in $10,000

These regulations are the health and safety standards to which your drinking water is held:

- **AL (Action Level):** The concentration of a contaminant which, when 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.

Water Quality for 2018

Selenium

Selenium is an essential nutrient. However, some people who drink water containing selenium in excess over many years could experience hair or fingernail losses, numbness in fingers or toes, or problems with their circulation. It is our duty to inform you of one contaminant violation within the City of New Plymouth drinking water system. A drinking water sample taken on 9/21/16 from Well #7 contained levels of Selenium beyond the EPA standards. This sample was taken at the source point. The water from Well #7 was blended with the waters of New Plymouth's two additional wells, which reduced the Selenium levels to well within the EPA limits long before it reached consumer taps.

Level 2 Assessment and Sanitary Defects

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliform indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we conduct assessment(s) to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments. During the past year we were required to conduct three Level 2 Assessment(s). Three Level 2 Assessment(s) were completed.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population.

These individuals can include:

- persons undergoing chemotherapy
- persons who have undergone organ transplants
- people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders
- Elderly individuals
- infants and young children

These individuals should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

Additional Information for 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. You can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for up 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.

***Additional Information for Arsenic*:** While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

Reduce Your Water Bill!
Tips for Conserving Water In Your Home

- Take short showers - a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up t50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.

- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.

- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.

- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
- Visit www.epa.gov/watersense for more information.

For additional information, please contact your water operator.

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