

2026 Consumer Confidence Report

Exeter Water Department

NH PWS ID# 0801010

Introduction

As a responsible public water system (PWS), our mission is to deliver the best quality drinking water and reliable service at the lowest, appropriate cost. Aging infrastructure presents challenges to drinking water safety, and continuous improvement is needed to maintain the quality of life we desire for today and for the future. In the past year, the replacement of water mains and drainage in the Westside Drive area began and will be completed in 2026. This year, the planning is well underway to do the same in the Union, School, and Kossuth and Garfield Street area. These investments along with on-going operation and maintenance costs are supported by the user rates and fees charged to our customers. When considering the high value placed on water, it is truly a bargain to have water service that protects public health, fights fires, supports businesses and the economy, and ensures high-quality drinking water is always available at your tap.

What is a Consumer Confidence Report?

The Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) details the quality of your drinking water, where it comes from, and where you can get more information. This annual report documents all detected primary and secondary drinking water contaminants and their respective standards known as Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs).

The sources of drinking water Both tap water and bottled water come from 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:

- **Contaminant**, any physical, chemical, biological, or radiological substance or matter in water
- **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**, generally, any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest
- **Herbicides**, any chemical(s) used to control undesirable vegetation
- **Organic chemical contaminants**, including per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, 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

To protect public health, EPA and the State of New Hampshire prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in tap water provided by public water systems. The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

What is the source of my drinking water?

The sources of drinking water for the Town of Exeter are the Exeter River and Dearborn Reservoir (both surface water supplies and treated at the Water Treatment Facility on Portsmouth Avenue), Skinner Springs (added to Clarified Water at the Treatment Plant and filtered), and the Ground Water Treatment Plant (GWTP), combining and treating water from the Stadium Well, Gilman Well and the Lary Lane Well.

The water is treated for color, turbidity, Iron, Manganese, corrosivity, Arsenic and is disinfected with Chlorine and Monochloramine.

Why are contaminants in my water?

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 contacting the Environmental Protection Agency by calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or visiting the website epa.gov/safewater.

Do I need to take special precautions?

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 on EPA's website epa.gov/safewater.

Source Water Assessment Summary

NHDES prepared a drinking water source assessment report for all public water systems between 2000 and 2003 in an effort to assess the vulnerability of each of the state's public water supply sources. Included in the report was a map of each source water protection area, a list of potential and known contamination sources, and a summary of available protection options. The results of the assessment, prepared on October 28, 2002 and updated on August 8, 2006.

□ The Exeter River, three susceptibility factors were rated high, five were rated medium, and four were rated low. □ The Dearborn Reservoir (Water Works Pond), three susceptibility factors were rated high, three were rated medium, and seven were rated low. □ The Skinner Springs, two susceptibility factors were rated high, three were rated medium, and seven were rated low. □ The Lary Lane Well, two susceptibility factors were rated high, three were rated medium, and seven were rated low. Since then, 2 abandoned wells were rehabilitated for reuse, and a NEW Groundwater Treatment Facility has been constructed. All facilities have improved fencing and security, with wireless intrusion alarm detection and notification to the local Authorities.

The information in the old report is over ten years old and included information that was current at the time that report was completed. Therefore, some of the ratings will be different when updated to reflect current information. At the present time, an update of this data and a new report, that was expected to be completed by December 2022, has been delayed due to new rules and regulations from Federal and State Authorities, necessitating a completely new review. The completed report will be made available as soon as it is approved and returned to us.

The completed, old Source Water Assessment Report, is available for review at the Public Works Office at 13 Newfields Road. For more information, call Steve Dalton, Water/Sewer Manager at (603) 772 - 6157 or visit the DES Drinking Water Source Assessment website

How can I get involved?

For more information about your drinking water, please call Steve Dalton, Water/Sewer Superintendent at 603-773-6157 or Michael Cheever, Operations Supervisor, at 603-773-6169. You are invited to voice your concerns at any of the Water / Sewer Advisory Committee Meetings, usually held on the second Wednesday of every other month at 6:30 pm at 10 Front Street and broadcast live on Chanel 2.

Definitions

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

Level I Assessment: A study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine, if possible, why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

Level II Assessment: A very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine, if possible, why an E.coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level or MRDL: 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 contaminant.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal or MRDLG: 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.

Treatment Technique or TT: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water

Abbreviations

NA: Not Applicable

NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Unit

pCi/L: picoCurie per liter

ppq: parts per quadrillion

ppt: parts per trillion OR ng/l: nanograms per liter

ppb: parts per billion OR µg/l: micrograms per liter

ppm: parts per million OR mg/L: milligrams per liter

RAA: Running Annual Average

Town of Exeter

Water & Sewer Department

Water Quality Report - 2026

Water testing performed in 2025

EPA NH 0801010

NOW IT COMES WITH A LIST OF INGREDIENTS.



TTHM: Total Trihalomethanes

UCMR: Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule

Drinking Water Contaminants:

Lead: Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for 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. This Exeter Water Dept. is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but can not 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 sample results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can 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 you 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 for your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact the Exeter Water Dept. by calling 603-773-6157. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Health Effects of Lead Exposure to Lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infant and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavioral problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems

Lead in Schools Per RSA 485:17-a, all NH schools and licensed child care facilities must test for lead at all drinking water outlets where children can drink the water and to remediate any outlets testing at or above 5 ppb. Three rounds of testing at least 6 months apart are required. A comprehensive list of facilities and results are available at www.gettheleadoutnh.org or direct link here: [View Results / NH Department of Environmental Services](#).

Lead Service Line Inventory

A service line inventory has been prepared and can be accessed by going to the Town website and doing a 'Search' for "Lead Service Line Inventory". The corrosion control effort by the Water Department has been successful by using a Poly-Ortho-Phosphate chemical that has kept our sample detect level below the Action Level.

RETURN ADDRESS:
Town of Exeter-DPW
13 Newfields Road
Exeter, NH 03833

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2026 Report (2025 data)

PER and POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS) CONTAMINANTS

Contaminant (Units)	Level Detected	Date	MCL	MCLG	Violation Yes/No	Likely Source of Contamination	Health Effects of Contaminant
PFHxS ppt Perfluorohexane sulfonic acid	2.01	Q3 & Q4 2024 Surface water ND in Ground-water	18	0	NO	Discharge from industrial processes, wastewater treatment, residuals from firefighting foam, runoff/leachate from landfills and septic systems.	Some people who drink water containing PFHxS in excess of the MCL over many years could experience problems with their liver, endocrine system, or immune system, may experience increased cholesterol levels. It may also lower a woman's chance of getting pregnant.
PFNA ppt Perfluorononanoic acid	ND	Q3 & Q4 2024 Surface water ND in Ground-water	11	0	NO	Discharge from industrial processes, wastewater treatment, residuals from firefighting foam, runoff/leachate from landfills and septic systems.	Some people who drink water containing PFNA in excess of the MCL over many years could experience problems with their liver, endocrine system, or immune system, may experience increased cholesterol levels.
PFOS ppt Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid	1.17	Q3 & Q4 2024 Surface water ND in Ground-water	15	0	NO	Discharge from industrial processes, wastewater treatment, residuals from firefighting foam, runoff/leachate from landfills and septic systems.	Some people who drink water containing PFOS in excess of the MCL over many years could experience problems with their liver, endocrine system, or immune system, may experience increased cholesterol levels, and may have an increases risk of getting certain types of cancer. It may also lower a woman's chance of getting pregnant.
PFOA ppt Perfluorooctanoic acid	3.67	Q3 & Q4 2024 Surface water ND in Ground-water	12	0	NO	Discharge from industrial processes, wastewater treatment, residuals from firefighting foam, runoff/leachate from landfills and septic systems.	Some people who drink water containing PFOA in excess of the MCL over many years could experience problems with their liver, endocrine system, or immune system, may experience increased cholesterol levels, and may have an increases risk of getting certain types of cancer. It may also lower a woman's chance of getting pregnant.

VIOLATIONS

Violation	Date of Violation	Explain Violation	Length of Violation	Action taken to resolve	Health Effects (Env-Dw 804-810)
Monitoring and Reporting	Q3-2025	DPB Exceedance	3 Months	Adjusted Process	YES Fine Organics not captured by treatment process See Inorganic Contaminants Health Effects explanations for TTHM's

ADDITIONAL TESTING

Additional Tests & Secondary MCLs (SMCL)	Results Average & Range	Date	Treatment technique (if any)	AL (Action Level), SMCL or AGQS (Ambient groundwater quality standard)	Specific contaminant criteria and reason for monitoring
Sodium (ppm)	Avg. 39 Range 34 to 44	Q3 - '25		100 - 250	We are required to regularly sample for sodium
Sulfate (ppm)	Avg. 17.4 Range 7.8 to 27	Q3- '25		250	Naturally occurring
Chloride (ppm)	Avg. 58 Range 43 to 72	Q3- '25		250	Wastewater, road salt, water softeners, corrosion
Nickel (ppm)	Avg. 0.0014 Range 0.0011 to 0.0017	Q3-2025		0.1 - 0.05	Geological; electroplating, battery production, ceramics
PFOA (ppt) UCMR5	5 ppt & 6 ppt	Q3-Q4 2024		4.0 ppt	Some people who drink water containing PFOA or PFOS in excess of the AGQS over many years could experience problems with their liver, endocrine system, or immune system, may experience increased cholesterol levels, and may have an increases risk of getting certain types of cancer. It may also lower a woman's chance of getting pregnant.
PFOS (ppt) UCMR5	4 ppt & 4 ppt	Q3-Q4 2024		4.0 ppt	See above...
PFHxA (ppt) UCMR5	3 ppt & 4 ppt	Q3-Q4 2024		10 ppt	Discharge from industrial processes, wastewater treatment, residuals from firefighting foam, runoff/leachate from landfills and septic systems
PFHpA (ppt) UCMR5	3 ppt	Q4-2024		10 ppt	Discharge from industrial processes, wastewater treatment, residuals from firefighting foam, runoff/leachate from landfills and septic systems
PFBS (ppt) UCMR5	3 ppt & 3ppt	Q3 -Q4 2024			Discharge from industrial processes, wastewater treatment, residuals from firefighting foam, runoff/leachate from landfills and septic systems
PFBA (ppt) UCMR5	6 ppt & 13ppt	Q3 -Q4 2024			EPA Integrated Risk Information assessment in process
PFPeA (ppt) UCMR5	4 ppt & 4ppt	Q3 -Q4 2024			No EPA health assessment
pH	8.3 (8.0 to 8.6)	Q3 & Q4 - 2025		6.5 - 8.5	Precipitation and geology and chemical addition
Cis- 1,2-Dichloroethene (ppt)	ND	Q4-2025		70	Some people who drink water containing cis01,2-Dichloroethene in excess of MCL over many years could experience problems with their Liver.

We participated in the Stage 5 U.S. EPA Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) program by performing additional tests on our drinking water. UCMR5 sampling benefits the environment and public health by providing the U.S. EPA with data on the occurrence of contaminants suspected to be in drinking water. This data helps assessing the need for new regulatory standards to improve drinking water. If you are interested in obtaining more information on the U.S.EPA Unregulated Monitoring Rule, please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

LEAD AND COPPER

Contaminant (Units)	Action Level	90 th percentile sample value *	Date	# of sites above AL	Violation Yes/No	Likely Source of Contamination	Health Effects of Contaminant
Copper (ppm)	1.3	0.100	Q3 -2025 0.009 to 0.130	0 of 30	NO	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.
Lead (ppb)	15	0	Q3 -2025 0	0 of 30	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits	(15 ppb in more than 5%) Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). (above 15 ppb) Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

Microbiological Contaminants

<i>E. coli</i> Bacteria	0 Absent	0	0	NO	Human and animal fecal waste matter	<i>E. coli</i> are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Human pathogens in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a greater health risk for infants, young children, the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems.
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	1.5 to 3.2 mg/l Avg. = 2.79 mg/l	TT	N/A	NO	Naturally present in the environment	Total organic carbon (TOC) has no health effects. However, total organic carbon provides a medium for the formation of disinfection byproducts. These byproducts include trihalomethanes (THMs) and Haloacetic acids (HAAs). Drinking water containing these byproducts in excess of the MCL may lead to adverse health effects, liver or kidney problems, or nervous system effects, and may lead to an increased risk of getting cancer.
Turbidity (NTU)	highest avg. monthly value <u>0.192</u> highest monthly value <u>0.450</u> 99.9757% meet limit	TT	N/A	NO	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. NOTE: it was found that a failing sample pump caused some extraneous spikes giving some false high readings, and was replaced.

Radioactive Contaminants -- Next testing = Q3 & Q4 2034

Compliance Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	<3 to 3.0 2025	15	0	NO	Erosion of natural deposits	Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation know as alpha radiation. Some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
Uranium (ug/L)	ND	30	0	NO	Erosion of natural deposits	Some people who drink water containing uranium in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer and kidney toxicity.
Combined Radium 226 + 228 (pCi/L)	ND	5	0	NO	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

Arsenic (ppb)	1.5 to 2.1 Avg.: 1.8	5	0	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes	(2.5 ppb through 5 ppb) 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. (above 5 ppb) Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
Asbestos (MFL)	None Detected (2022) Due 2031	7	7	NO	Decay of asbestos cement water mains; erosion of natural deposits	Some people who drink water containing asbestos in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of developing benign intestinal polyps.
Barium (ppm)	0.011	2	2	NO	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits	Some people who drink water containing barium in excess of the MCL over many years could experience an increase in their blood pressure.
Chloramines (ppm)	Annual Avg.; 2.11 Range Avg.; 1.98 to 2.59	MDRL = 4	MDRL = 4	NO	Water additive used to control microbes	Some people who use water containing chloramines well in excess of the MRDL could experience irritating effects to their eyes and nose. Some people who drink water containing chloramines well in excess of the MRDL could experience stomach discomfort.
Fluoride (ppm)	0.013 Naturally Occurring in groundwater	4	4	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories	Some people who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the MCL over many years could get bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones. Fluoride in drinking water at half the MCL or more may cause mottling of children's teeth, usually in children less than nine years old. Mottling also known as dental fluorosis, may include brown staining and/or pitting of the teeth, and occurs only in developing teeth before they erupt from the gums.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA)(ppb)	14.9 to 68.3 RAA = 35.3	60	NA	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection	Some people who drink water containing Haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	30.6 to 107.1 RAA = 62.63	80	N/A	NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination	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 systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.