

BLOCK ISLAND WATER COMPANY RI1858430

Consumer Confidence Report – 2024

Covering Calendar Year – 2023

This brochure is a snapshot of the quality of the water that we provided last year. Included are the details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies. If you would like to learn more about our decision-making processes that affect drinking water quality, please call JOHN BREUNIG at 401-466-3232.

Your water comes from:

Source Name	Source Water Type
WELLS 1,2,3 COMPOSITE (GP)	Ground Water
WELL 4A (GP)	Ground Water
WELL 5A (GP)	Ground Water
WELL 6A (GP)	Ground Water

The RI Department of Health, in cooperation with other state and federal agencies, has assessed the threats to Block Island Water Company water supply sources. The assessment considered the intensity of development, the presence of businesses and facilities that use, store, or generate potential contaminants, how easily contaminants may move through the soils in the Source Water Protection Area (SWPA), and the sampling history of the water. For a copy of the SWPA for Block Island Water Company visit www.blockislandwater.org.

Our monitoring program continues to assure that the water delivered to your home is safe to drink. The assessment found that the water source is at LOW RISK of contamination. This does NOT mean that the water cannot become contaminated. Protection efforts are necessary to assure continued water quality. The complete Source Water Assessment Report is available from Block Island Water Company or the Department of Health at (401) 222-6867

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as those 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).

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) included 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 sources water before we treat it include:
Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, 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 storm water run-off, agriculture, and residential users.
Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or the result of mining

activity.

Organic contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also come from gas stations, urban storm water run-off, and septic systems.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulation which limits 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.

Our water system is required to test a minimum of 10 samples per month in accordance with the Total Coliform Rule for microbiological contaminants. Coliform bacteria are usually harmless, but their presence in water can be an indication of disease-causing bacteria. When coliform bacteria are found, special follow-up tests are done to determine if harmful bacteria are present in the water supply. If this limit is exceeded, the water supplier must notify the public.

Water Quality Data

The following tables list all of the drinking water contaminants which were detected during the 2023 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate the water poses a health risk. Unless noted, the data presented in this table is from the testing done January 1- December 31, 2023. The state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old. **Our water system makes every effort to provide you with safe drinking water.**

Terms & Abbreviations

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): the "Goal" is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to human health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): the "Maximum Allowed" MCL is 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.

Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL): recommended level for a contaminant that is not regulated and has no MCL.

Action Level (AL): the concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements.

Treatment Technique (TT): a required process intended to reduce levels of a contaminant in drinking water.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (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 contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (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.

Non-Detects (ND): lab analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present.

Parts per Million (ppm) or milligrams per liter (mg/l)

Parts per Billion (ppb) or micrograms per liter (µg/l)

Picocuries per Liter (pCi/L): a measure of the radioactivity in water.

Millirems per Year (mrem/yr): measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

Monitoring Period Average (MPA): An average of sample results obtained during a defined time frame, common examples of monitoring periods are monthly, quarterly and yearly.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU): a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person. Turbidity is not regulated for groundwater systems.

Running Annual Average (RAA): an average of sample results obtained over the most current 12 months and used to determine compliance with MCLs.

Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA): Average of sample analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters.

Testing Results for: BLOCK ISLAND WATER COMPANY

Microbiological	Result	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source	Violation
No Detected Results were Found in the Calendar Year of 2023					No

Regulated Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range (low/high)	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source	Violation
ARSENIC	10/10/2023	3.6	2.7 - 3.6	ppb	10	0	Erosion of natural deposits	No
BARIUM	4/20/2023	0.15	0.11 - 0.15	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits	No
BERYLLIUM, TOTAL	10/10/2023	1	0 - 1	ppb	4	4	Discharge from metal refineries and coal-burning factories; Discharge from electrical, aerospace, and defense industries	No
FLUORIDE	6/13/2023	0.14	0.13 - 0.14	ppm	4	4	Natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth	No
SELENIUM	10/10/2023	1.1	0 - 1.1	ppb	50	50	Erosion of natural deposits	No
TOTAL RI REGULATED PFAS	5/22/2023	4** From backup source ponds	4** From backup source ponds	NG/L	20	* See PFAS info below	Manmade chemicals used in products to make them stain, grease, heat and water resistant.	No

*PFAS refers to Per- and Polyfluorinated Substances. During calendar years 2017 and 2019, many public water systems in Rhode Island collected samples for PFAS as part of a statewide investigation into the occurrence of PFAS in drinking water. In June of 2022, Rhode Island passed a state law regulating PFAS in drinking water. The data above show PFAS detected for the past 5 years. Prior to June 2022, there were no State or federal Maximum Contaminant Levels for PFAS. During the sampling years of 2017 and 2019, there was an established lifetime health advisory levels for PFOS (perfluorooctane sulfonate) and PFOA (perfluorooctanoic acid) of 70 parts per trillion. A health advisory considers the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which adverse health effects are not expected to occur. Health advisories are not regulations and they are not Maximum Contaminant Levels. In June 2022, EPA changed the 70ppt health advisory for PFOA and PFOS to 0.004 ppt. This was updated based on new data, including human health studies in populations exposed to these chemicals. Currently, there is still no final federal Maximum Contaminant Level for PFAS. In the above table, the Maximum Contaminant Level for PFAS is listed as 20 ppt. This is only a state law at this time. Since the law to regulate PFAS was passed in 2022, public water systems have been working diligently to be in compliance. For compliance with the newly enacted state PFAS law, public water systems must sample on or before July 1, 2023 and comply with an the INTERIM MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL of 20ppt for 6 PFAS compounds on or before July 1, 2023. The data shown above that was collected prior to 2022 was collected at a time when there was no state Maximum Contaminant Level or updated health advisory.

**PFAS Detection is from emergency back-up ponds (Sands and Fresh Ponds). All groundwater sources (wells) that are used for drinking water had NO DETECTIONS of PFAS.

Disinfection Byproducts	Sample Point	Monitoring Period	Highest LRAA	Range (low/high)	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source	Violation
No Detected Results were Found in the Calendar Year of 2023									

Lead and Copper	Monitoring Period	90 th Percentile	Range (low/high)	Unit	AL	Sites Over AL	Typical Source
COPPER, FREE	2021 - 2023	0.017	0.0039 - 0.022	ppm	1.3	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
LEAD	2021 - 2023	0		ppb	15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems

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. Your water system is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds 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. 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>.

Maximum Disinfection Level	MPA	MPA Units	RAA	RAA Units	Violation
2023 - 2023	0.3000	MG/L	0.3	MG/L	No

Radiological Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range (low/high)	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source	Violation
COMBINED RADIUM (-226 & -228)	8/15/2023	2.15	0.294 - 2.15	pCi/l	5	0	Erosion of natural deposits	No
GROSS ALPHA, EXCL. RADON & U	4/1/2020	8.8	8.8	pCi/l	15	0	Erosion of natural deposits	No

GROSS BETA PARTICLE ACTIVITY	6/13/2023	4.12	0.06 - 4.12	pCi/l	4	0	Decay of natural and man-made deposits	No
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Please Note: Because of sampling schedules, results may be older than 1 year.

During the 2023 calendar year, we had the below noted violation(s) of drinking water regulations.

Federal Compliance Period	Analyte	Comments
7/1/2023 - 9/30/2023	CDS FOR SOC 525.2	Some, but not all monitoring samples were taken or reported
<i>A lab error resulted in first year quarterly SOC samples on new Well 6A to be late. The samples were made up with No Detection of SOC's.</i>		

Additional Required Health Effects Language:

Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit forms of radiation known as photons and beta radiation. Some people who drink water containing beta particle and photon radioactivity in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. There are no additional required health effects violation notices.