

ANNUAL CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT Monitoring Period January-December 2019

Block Island Water Company
www.blockislandwater.org
New Shoreham, RI
PWS ID#1858430



We are very pleased to provide you with this year's Consumer Confidence Report. This report provides you with information on the water and services that we delivered to you in 2019. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies.

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If after reviewing this report you have any questions, or would like to know more about the Block Island Water Company water system, please contact the Superintendent of the Water Company at (401) 466-3232 or visit our website www.blockislandwater.org. You are also invited to attend our regularly scheduled meetings that are held on the third Monday of every month at the Town Hall. Current schedules, agendas, and minutes of all of our meetings are also available online.

The Quality of Your Drinking Water

Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We're proud to inform you that your drinking water continues to meet all Federal and State requirements. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

The Source of Your Drinking Water

The Block Island Water Company continues to utilize state-of-the-art Reverse Osmosis (RO) technology to treat all of the water that ends up at your tap. RO technology is a proven leader in the manufacture of safe drinking water.

The RO system has allowed the Block Island Water Company to implement a level of quality assurance and quality control that exceeds both State and Federal drinking water standards.

Our sources of water are as follows:

- § **Wells 4A, 5A & 6:** These wells are our primary sources of water. Each well is located within an aquifer 200 feet below the surface.
- § **Wells 1, 2 & 3:** These wells are RI Department of Health (RI DOH) approved wells, which can be used in the ROs if they are needed. The wells are located within a shallower aquifer and are capable of producing approximately 70-80 GPM, respectively.
- § **Sands Pond:** Sands Pond is currently on stand-by as a back-up supply of water. Due to the high levels of organics within that source we are unable to treat that water within the ROs. If needed, we can treat the water within the old water production system on site.
- § **Fresh Pond:** Fresh Pond is a RI DOH approved alternative source of water. The Block Island Water Company (BIWC) does not utilize this source unless all others fail in the event of an emergency. As with Sands Pond, the high levels of organics within Fresh Pond do not allow its treatment within RO technology. However, we can treat the water within the old water production system on site if needed.

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.

Why Are There Contaminants in My Drinking 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 calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

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:

- § **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 stormwater 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 stormwater 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 stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- § **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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