

Water Quality Test Results

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected through our water quality monitoring and testing. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from the January – December 2019 monitoring period. For those contaminants that are monitored less frequently the most recent test results are listed

2019 Test Results											
Radioactive Contaminants	Violation Y/N	Level Detected (Range: single samples)						Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
		Well #1,2,3	Well #4A	Well #5A	Well #6	Fresh Pond	Sands Pond				
Gross Alpha (2018)	N	0.20	4.58 (2015)	0.60	2.67 (2014)	0.88	-0.43	pCi/L	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium (2018)	N	0.60	2.96 (2015)	1.63	1.57 (2015)	ND (2015)	1.27 (2015)	pCi/L	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta Particles (2017)	N	ND	10.74 (2015)	3.04	ND	ND	ND	pCi/L	0	4	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Inorganic Contaminants	Violation Y/N	Level Detected (Range: single samples)						Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
		Well #1,2,3	Well #4A	Well #5A	Well #6	Fresh Pond	Sands Pond				
Antimony (2019)	N	ND (2018)	ND (2017)	ND (2017)	ND (2018)	ND	ND	ppb	6	6	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder
Arsenic (2019)	N	0.0016 (2018)	2.2 (2017)	2.1 (2017)	0.0048 (2018)	ND	ND	ppb	0	10	Erosion of natural deposits, runoff from orchards, runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (2019)	N	0.044 (2018)	0.148 (2017)	0.091 (2017)	0.124 (2018)	0.01	0.010	ppm	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits
Beryllium (2019)	N	ND (2018)	0.2 (2017)	0.1 (2017)	ND (2018)	ND	ND	ppb	4	4	Discharge from metal refineries and coal-burning factories; discharge from electrical, aerospace, and defense industries
Cyanide (2019)	N	ND (2018)	0.012 (2017)	0.012 (2015)*	ND (2018)	ND	ND	ppb	200	200	Discharge from steel/metal factories; discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories
Fluoride (2019)	N	0.078 (2018)	0.139 (2017)	0.144 (2017)	0.111 (2018)	ND	ND	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits, water additive which promotes strong teeth. Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (2019)	N	0.71	ND	ND	ND	0.39	ND	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite [as Nitrogen] (2019)	N	ND (2018)	0.007 (2017)	ND (2017)	0.014 (2018)	ND	ND	ppm	1	1	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (2019)	N	ND (2018)	5.0 (2017)	ND (2017)	ND (2018)	ND	ND	ppb	50	50	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines

Distribution System Results

Microbiological Contaminants	Violation Y/N	Level Detected (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria (2019)	N	In the month of July, 1 sample was returned as positive	Highest monthly # of positive samples	0 positive	1 positive	Naturally present in the environment
Inorganic Contaminants	Violation Y/N	Level Detected (90 th percentile)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (2017)	N	0.016	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing system, natural deposit erosion, leaching from wood preservation
Lead (2017)	N	0.8	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing system
Disinfectant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine (2019)	N	RAA: 0.28 Range: 0.19 – 0.34	ppm	MRDLG 4	MRDL 4	Water additive used to control microbes

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/L) - One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (ug/L) - One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - Picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

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

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - The 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.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) - The MCLG is 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 Disinfection 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

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) - The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that the addition of disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

ND - Not Detected

*Result from Well #5, was not active during 2017.

The State of Rhode Island requires testing for other contaminants not regulated by the US EPA. The following contaminant was detected in our well water:

Alkalinity, Total: In 2017, Total Alkalinity was detected in Well #5A at 32ppm.

Calcium: In 2017, Calcium was detected in Well #3 at 7.68 ppm.

Iron: In 2017, Iron was detected in Well #5A at 10.2 ppm.

Sodium: In 2019, Sodium was detected in Well 1,2,3 at 24 ppm, Well #4A at 110 ppm, Well #5A at 37 ppm, Well #6 at 72 ppm, Fresh Pond at 14 ppm, and Sands Pond at 14 ppm.

Sulfate: In 2017, Sulfate was detected in Well #5A at 22.2 ppm.

Sodium Notification

The reason for this notification is so that consumers on low or restricted sodium diets may take into account their sodium intake from the drinking water. If you have been placed on a sodium restricted diet, please inform your physician that your water contained elevated concentrations of sodium in some of the wells in as a result of testing completed in 2017.

The Block Island Water Company works hard to provide top quality water to every tap. We encourage all of our customers to conserve and use water efficiently and remind you to help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future. Please do not hesitate to call our office with any questions.

Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL's) are set at very stringent levels. The Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) is set at a level where no health effects would be expected, and the MCL is set as close to that as possible, considering available technology and cost of treatment. A person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day, as recommended by health professionals, at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect. For most people, the health benefits of drinking plenty of water outweigh any possible health risk from these contaminants. However, 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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

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. Block Island Water Company 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>