



2006 Water Quality Report

Chester Village West Water System

Public Water system ID# CT0261081

This report was prepared to meet the water quality reporting requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act

We are pleased to present a summary of the quality of the water provided to you during the past year. This report was prepared under the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act. This report details where our water comes from, what it contains, and the risks our water testing and treatment are designed to prevent.

Water Source: Chester Village West System serves Connecticut Water Company customers in the Chester Village West Retirement Community off West Main Street near Butter Jones Road in Chester. Water from the Chester Village West (CVW) water system comes from Wells 5, 8 and 9, a groundwater source located in the Chester Village West community in Chester.

Water Quality Testing: Connecticut Water has tested for contaminants and other water quality parameters in the Chester Village West system that could adversely affect the quality of your drinking water. Samples for testing were taken at several places within the water system, including:

- At the source well.
- In the distribution system.

All of the samples were tested at laboratories certified by the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH). The test results were submitted to the DPH Drinking Water Division, as required.

Protecting Water Sources: Sources of tap water and bottled water include reservoirs, ponds, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it can dissolve naturally occurring minerals and in some cases, radioactive material, and pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity, including:

- Viruses and bacteria, which may come from septic systems, livestock, or wildlife.
- Salts and metals, which can be natural or may result from storm runoff or farming.
- Organic chemicals, which originate from industrial processes, gas stations, storm runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive substances, which can be naturally occurring.

To ensure safe tap water, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes limits on these substances in water provided by public water systems.

Many people don't know that most contaminants enter rivers, lakes, and reservoirs from storm water runoff of streets, golf courses, athletic fields, construction sites, farms, and neighborhoods like yours. You can help reduce polluted runoff using the following guidelines:

- Restrict the use of lawn chemicals, especially before heavy rains.
- Dispose of pet or animal waste properly so that it does not wash into a nearby stream or storm drain.
- Have septic tanks inspected every two years, and cleaned as needed. Make septic system repairs as soon as possible.
- Do not pour used motor oil on the ground or into storm drains. Contact your town for proper disposal of household chemicals.
- Report muddy runoff from construction sites to your town's zoning or wetland officials.

The State of Connecticut DPH has completed an assessment of Chester Village West Wells 5, 8 and 9, and has assigned the source with an overall susceptibility rating of "Low". This rating indicates that the water source has a low risk of contamination. The completed assessment report is available on the Drinking Water Division's Web site.

(http://www.dph.state.ct.us/BRS/water/Source_Protection/source_protection.htm). More information on the source water assessment program can also be found on the EPA's Web site: epa.gov/safewater/protect/swap.html.

Educational Information about Lead and Copper: All of Connecticut Water Company water systems are in full compliance with standards for lead and copper in drinking water. However, because the primary source of lead and copper in tap water is household plumbing, and plumbing can vary from house to house within the same neighborhood, we believe it is important to provide you with more information about the sources of lead and copper in drinking water and the health effects associated with them. For information on the levels of lead and copper detected in your drinking water system, please refer to the table in this water quality report.

What is lead: Major sources of lead in drinking water are corrosion of household plumbing systems and erosion of natural deposits. 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 water containing lead in excess of the action level over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

What is copper: Major sources of copper in drinking water are corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits, and 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.

If you are concerned about elevated lead or copper levels, you may wish to have your water tested. Running your tap for 30 seconds to two minutes before use will significantly reduce the levels of lead and copper in the water. Additional information is available from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Conserving Water Indoors and Outdoors: Conserving water helps to ensure that we have an adequate supply of water for public health and safety, especially during peak demand seasons. Conserving can lower your water bill, and depending on the community where you live, it may reduce your sewer bill.

Here are some things you can do to conserve:

- Repair leaking toilets - check for toilet leaks by putting a drop of food coloring in the tank. If the food coloring seeps into the bowl without flushing, there is a leak.
- Consider installing a low-flow 1.6 gallon per flush toilet.
- Don't use toilets as a wastebasket.
- Fix leaking fixtures.
- Run full loads in the dishwasher.
- Set the water level in the washing machine to match the amount of clothes being washed.
- Water lawns and gardens in the early morning.
- Use mulch around plants and shrubs.

Use a bucket rather than a running hose to wash cars.

About our violation: In 2006, the Chester Village West water system violated the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for Uranium. The MCL represents the highest level of a substance allowed in drinking water by state and federal standards. The MCL for Uranium is a running annual average of 30 micrograms per liter (g/L), and the level detected between January and December 2006 was 40 g/L. A public notice regarding this MCL violation was delivered to Chester Village West in March 2007. Customers were updated again in May 2007 indicating we have increased monitoring of the wells that supply the CVW System and made some operational changes.

There is not an immediate risk. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. However, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets drinking water standards and has determined that the presence of Uranium is a possible health concern. The presence of Uranium in drinking water is naturally occurring. Some people who drink water containing Uranium in excess of MCL over many year (EPA standards are based on 70 years exposure) may have an increased risk of getting cancer or kidney toxicity.

You do not need to use an alternative (e.g., bottled water) supply. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

If you would like more information, please call Customer Service at 1-800-286-5700, write to Connecticut Water Company, 93 West Main Street, Clinton, CT 06413 or e-mail us at publicaffairs@ctwater.com.

Water Quality Data

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that were detected in water quality testing conducted by Connecticut Water between January 1 and December 31, 2006. The “Highest level detected” column represents the highest concentration detected throughout the monitoring period.

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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791.

Inorganic	MCL	MCLG	Highest Detected Level	Range of Detection	Met Drinking Water Standards	Typical Source of Contaminant
Copper (ppm)	AL 1.3	AL 1.3	0.11	--	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead (ppb)	AL 15	0	2	--	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Chloride (ppm)	250	NA	22.3	11 - 22.3	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.1	<0.1 - 0.1	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	0.92	<0.1 - 0.92	Yes	Runoff from fertilizer
Nitrite (ppm)	1	1	0.01	<0.001 - 0.010	Yes	Runoff from fertilizer
Sodium (ppm)	NL=28	NA	11.9	8.9 - 11.9	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits
Microbiological						
Turbidity	TT 5 NTU	0	0.50	100%	Yes	Soil runoff
Radioactive						
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	15	0	8.14	ND - 8.14	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	5	0	3.67	2.77 - 3.67	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (ppb)	30	0	39.657	34 - 43.9	No¹	Erosion of natural deposits
Organic						
TTHMs (ppb) [Total Trihalomethanes]	100	0	1.3	<0.5 - 1.3	Yes	By-produce of drinking water disinfection
HAA ₅ (ppb) [Haloacetic Acids]	60	NA	1	<0.5 - 1	Yes	By-produce of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine (mg/L)	MRDL 4	MRDLG 4	0.6	0.1 - 0.6	Yes	Water additive used to control microbes

¹ See explanation on page 2

Terms and Abbreviations

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

MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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.

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.

MRDL = Maximum Residual Disinfection Level - 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.

MRDLG = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal - 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 contamination.

NA = not applicable

NL = notification level (There is no MCL for sodium. However, the Connecticut DPH requires customers to be notified if sodium exceeds 28 ppm.

NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Unit: A measure of water clarity.

ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)

ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/l)

pCi/l = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

TT = Treatment Technique – a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.