



# ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

REPORTING YEAR 2020

*Presented By*  
**Rye Water District**



## Quality First

Once again, we are pleased to present our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2020. As in years past, we are committed to delivering the best-quality drinking water possible. To that end, we remain vigilant in meeting the challenges of new regulations, source water protection, water conservation, and community outreach and education, while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to serve you and your family.

We encourage you to share your thoughts with us on the information contained in this report. After all, well-informed customers are our best allies.

## Count on Us

Delivering high-quality drinking water to our customers involves far more than just pushing water through pipes. Water treatment is a complex, time-consuming process. Because tap water is highly regulated by state and federal laws, water treatment plant and system operators must be licensed and are required to commit to long-term, on-the-job training before becoming fully qualified. Our licensed water professionals have a basic understanding of a wide range of subjects, including mathematics, biology, chemistry, and physics. Some of the tasks they complete on a regular basis include:

- Operating and maintaining equipment to purify and clarify water;
- Monitoring and inspecting machinery, meters, gauges, and operating conditions;
- Conducting tests and inspections on water and evaluating the results;
- Maintaining optimal water chemistry;
- Applying data to formulas that determine treatment requirements, flow levels, and concentration levels;
- Documenting and reporting test results and system operations to regulatory agencies; and
- Serving our community through customer support, education, and outreach.

So, the next time you turn on your faucet, think of the skilled professionals who stand behind each drop.

## Where Does Rye's Water Come From?

Rye Water District has two main sources of water, Rye production wells and water purchased from Portsmouth for customers on Wentworth Road, a section of Frontier Street, and Elizabeth Lane (off Pioneer Road).

Our primary source is the Garland well, a gravel-pack well developed in the mid-seventies, which yields 400-470 gallons per minute (GPM). Our secondary sources are two deep-driven high-yielding bedrock wells. The first is the Bailey Brook well developed in the early eighties and yields 300-325 GPM.

The second is the Cedar Run well, our most recent source, developed and brought online in the mid-nineties. The Cedar Run well yields 325-340 GPM. Combined, these three wells supplied over 155 millions gallons in 2020. The water you receive at your home is a blend of all three wells.

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## Treatment Train Description

The water you receive at your tap is untreated groundwater. However, we adjust the pH of the water from the Garland well as part of our corrosion control program. Additionally, we use chlorination during our semiannual flushing to aid in disinfection of the distribution system.

**QUESTIONS?** For more information about this report, or for any questions related to your drinking water and/or system operations, please call Mr. Arik Jones, District Superintendent, at (603) 436-2596, or contact the Rye Water District Commissioners via email at [commissioners.ryewater@comcast.net](mailto:commissioners.ryewater@comcast.net). Also, many reports and information can be viewed on our website at [www.ryewaterdistrict.com](http://www.ryewaterdistrict.com).

## Lead in Home Plumbing

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. We are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but we 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 at (800) 426-4791 or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).



## Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

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, in some cases, radioactive material, and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances that may be present in source water include:

Microbial Contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, or wildlife;

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may 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 agriculture, urban storm-water runoff, and residential uses;

Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and may also come from gas stations, urban storm-water runoff, and septic systems;

Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

## PFAs Monitoring

Since 2016, Rye Water District has performed monthly sampling for PFAs. Currently, the District is sampling quarterly on a yearly basis. All sample results can be viewed on our website ([www.ryewaterdistrict.com](http://www.ryewaterdistrict.com)), and required sample results can be viewed on the NHDES website, for PFAS and all sample results reported to or completed by NHDES, visit <https://www4.des.state.nh.us/DESOnestop/PWSDetail.aspx?ID=2041010>

## Community Participation

You are always welcome and invited to attend the District's monthly meetings and provide your inputs about your drinking water. Rye Water District Commissioners meet the first Wednesday of each month, beginning at 9 a.m., at the Rye Water District office, located at 60 Sagamore Rd Rye, NH.

Again, please feel free to email your questions or comments to: Water District Commissioners at [commissioners.ryewater@comcast.net](mailto:commissioners.ryewater@comcast.net). Also, please attend our annual meeting for voting on the Water District's annual budget, warrant articles, and proposed projects. This meeting is normally held the last Saturday of March; see our website ([www.ryewaterdistrict.com](http://www.ryewaterdistrict.com)) for details.

## Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health-care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.



## Source Water Assessment Summary

NHDES prepared drinking water source assessment reports for all public water system between 2000 and 2003 in an effort to assess the vulnerability of each of the state public water supply sources. Included in the report is 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 May 2, 2002, and November 12, 2004, are noted below.

- Garland Well, three susceptibility factors were rated high, four were rated medium, and five were rated low.
- Bailey Brook Well, one susceptibility factor was rated high, four were rated medium, and seven were rate low.
- Cedar Run Well, one susceptibility factor was rated high, four were rated medium, and seven were rated low.

It is important to understand that this susceptibility rating does not imply poor water quality, only the system's potential to become contaminated within the assessment area.

Note: This information is over 10 years old and includes information that was current at the time the report was completed. Therefore, some of the ratings might be different if updated to reflect current information. At the present time, DES has no plans to update this data.

The complete Assessment is available for review at the RWD office, 60 Sagamore Rd., Rye, NH. For more information, call the RWD office at (603) 436-2596, or visit the DES Drinking Water Source Assessment website at <https://www.des.nh.gov/resource-center/publications?keys=swpassessments&purpose=Reports&subcategory=Drinking+Water>, then click on Part 1. Viewing an Assessment Table by Town, then search for Rye alphabetically.

## Level 1/2 Assessment Update

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms, indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessment(s) to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments.

During the past year, we were required to conduct one Level 1 assessment, which was completed. We were required to take no corrective actions.

Also during the past year, one Level 2 assessment was required to be completed for our water system, which was also completed with no corrective actions required.

## Water Stress

Water stress occurs when the demand for water exceeds the amount available during a certain period or when poor water quality restricts its use. Water stress causes deterioration of fresh-water resources in terms of quantity (aquifer overexploitation, dry rivers, etc.) and quality (eutrophication, organic matter pollution, saline intrusion, etc.).

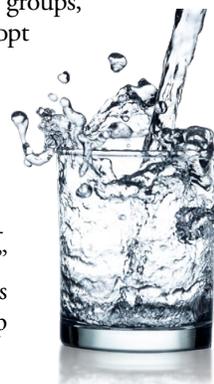
According to the World Resource Institute (WRI, [www.wri.org](http://www.wri.org)), the Middle East and North Africa remain the most water-stressed regions on earth. However, several states in the western half of the U.S. are similarly experiencing extremely high levels of water stress from overuse. It is clear that even in countries with low overall water stress, individual communities within a country may still be experiencing extremely stressed conditions. For example, South Africa and the United States rank #48 and #71 on WRI's list, respectively, yet the Western Cape (the state home to Cape Town) and New Mexico experience extremely high stress levels.

There are undeniably worrying trends in water quality. But by taking action now and investing in better management, we can solve water issues before it is too late.

## Safeguard Your Drinking Water

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides – they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use U.S. EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with others in your neighborhood. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste – Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.



## Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule. And, the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.

The State recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

### REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Arsenic <sup>1</sup> (ppb)	2016	10	0	1.1	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium <sup>2</sup> (ppm)	2018	2	2	0.0489	0.0126–0.0489	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride <sup>1</sup> (ppm)	2019	4	4	0.25	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive, which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate <sup>3</sup> (ppm)	2019	10	10	3.3	NA	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

### Tap Water Samples Collected for Copper and Lead Analyses from Sample Sites throughout the Community

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2020	1.3	1.3	1.17	0/20	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2020	15	0	0	0/20	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

### SECONDARY SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chloride <sup>3</sup> (ppm)	2019	250	NA	85	37–90	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Copper <sup>3</sup> (ppm)	2019	1.0	NA	0.0696	NA	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Iron <sup>2</sup> (ppb)	2018	300	NA	4850	NA	No	Leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes
Manganese <sup>2</sup> (ppb)	2018	50	NA	376.5	NA	No	Leaching from natural deposits
Sulfate <sup>2</sup> (ppm)	2018	250	NA	140	16–140	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes

### UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Sodium <sup>2</sup> (ppm)	2018	133	44.5–133	Naturally occurring

<sup>1</sup> Samples taken from Bailey Brook well.

<sup>2</sup> Samples taken from Cedar Run well.

<sup>3</sup> Samples taken from Garland well.

## Definitions

**90th %ile:** The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

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

**Level 1 Assessment:** A Level 1 assessment is 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 2 Assessment:** A Level 2 assessment is 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.

**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.

**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.

**MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant 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 contaminants.

**NA:** Not applicable.

**ND (Not detected):** Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

**ppb (parts per billion):** One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

**ppm (parts per million):** One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

**SMCL (Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level):** These standards are developed to protect aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.

**TT (Treatment Technique):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.