

**NORTHELD**

**CONSUMER  
CONFIDENCE  
REPORT**

**JUNE 2010**

**WATER DEPARTMENT**

# NORTHFIELD WATER DEPARTMENT

## INTRODUCTION

The Northfield Water Department Consumer Confidence Report contains information about your water system. The report contains Water Quality data that was collected during 2009. This report is required by the State of Vermont as part of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

There are several key areas in the document that are explained in detail. You will receive a Consumer Confidence Report each year that will help you to better understand the quality of Northfield's water and other pertinent information about the system.

The next report will be delivered by June 2011. We hope you will read the information and, if you have any questions, please contact the Utility Office at 1-802-485-5411.

Thank you for your continued support.

## WATER QUALITY REPORT - 2009

This report is a snapshot of the quality of water that we provided from January 1 through December 31, 2009. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of water and services we deliver to you every day. Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards.

**Public Water System Name:** Northfield Water Dept.      **Date:** June 1, 2010

**WSID #:** 5275      **Town:** Northfield

### Water Source Information:

Northfield's water sources are:

Vermont Source Type:	<b>Gravel Screened Well</b>
EPA Source Type:	<b>Groundwater, non-purchased</b>
Source Name:	<b>WELL 1 - Drilled 1939 - 400 GPM</b>
Vermont Source Type:	<b>Gravel Screened Well</b>
EPA Source Type:	<b>Groundwater, non-purchased</b>
Source Name:	<b>WELL 2 - Drilled 1946 - 700 GPM</b>
Vermont Source Type:	<b>Gravel Screened Well</b>
EPA Source Type:	<b>Groundwater, non-purchased</b>
Source Name:	<b>WELL 3 - Drilled 1999 - 1000 GPM</b>

Recent sampling indicates that these sources are not under the influence of surface waters.

**Source Protection Plan:** We have a source protection plan available from our office that provides more information such as potential sources of contamination. The Water Supply Division approved our Source Protection Plan on May 23, 2002.

Our system's susceptibility to potential sources of contamination is: road salt, vehicle, or train accidental spill, septic systems, fertilizer, runoff, pesticides, herbicides, and chemicals.

Please contact the Utility office (1-802-485-5411) if you notice any chemical or petroleum spills in the source area.

**Owner/Operator and Public Participation Opportunities:**

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water quality, please contact by telephone or in writing the persons listed below. We want our customers to be informed about their water quality. If you want to learn more or discuss the water system, please attend any of our regularly scheduled public Trustees meetings. You may also request to be put on the Public Participation part of the agenda by contacting the Municipal Manager.

For updated information regarding any of Northfield’s municipal departments or boards, please check the official Northfield Municipal website ([www.northfield-vt.gov](http://www.northfield-vt.gov)).

**MUNICIPAL  
MANAGER:**  
Nanci Allard  
51 South Main Street  
Northfield, VT 05663  
1-802- 485-6121 (W)  
[nanciallard@northfield.vt.us](mailto:nanciallard@northfield.vt.us)

**SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC WORKS:**  
William C. Lyon  
51 South Main Street  
Northfield, VT 05663  
1-802- 485-6121 (W)  
1-802- 485-8443 (H)

**OPERATORS:**  
Patrick Demasi  
James Russo  
Phil Gleason  
Peter Demasi, Jr.

**THE ELECTED OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SYSTEM ARE THE VILLAGE TRUSTEES:**

Samantha Baraw, Chair  
Colin Bright                      Libby Hambleton  
Doug Lawson                      Thomas McCarney

**REGULARLY SCHEDULED PUBLIC TRUSTEES MEETINGS ARE HELD:**

**Date:**                      2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of each month  
**Time:**                      7:00 P.M.  
**Location:**                Community Room, Brown Public Library  
                                    93 South Main Street, Northfield, VT, 05663

The Annual Northfield Village Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 1, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. in the Northfield High School's Mary Granai Corrigan Auditorium.

**FOR BILLING INFORMATION:** Contact the Utility Office, 1-802-485-5411

**Sources of Drinking Water and Contaminants:**

**General Information**

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include surface water (streams, lakes) and ground water (wells, springs). As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals. It also picks up substances resulting from the presence of animals and human activity. Some “contaminants” may be harmful. Others, such as iron and sulfur, are not harmful. Public water systems treat water to remove contaminants, if any are present.

In order to ensure that your water is safe to drink, we test it regularly according to regulations established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the State of Vermont. These regulations limit the amount of various contaminants:

- ★ *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 storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- ★ *Pesticides and herbicides* may come from a variety sources such as storm water runoff, 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.

## NORTHFIELD WATER QUALITY DATA

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the last year. It also includes the date and results of any contaminants that we detected within the past five years if tested less than once a year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

**Terms and abbreviations** - In this table you may find terms with which you might not be familiar. To help better understand these terms we have provided the following definitions:

- ◆ **Maximum Contamination Level Goal (MCLG):** The “Goal” is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG’s allow for a margin of safety.
- ◆ **Maximum Contamination Level (MCL):** The “Maximum Allowed” is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water, MCL’s are set as close to the MCLG’s as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- ◆ **Maximum residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health.
- ◆ **Maximum residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. Additional disinfectant may help control microbial contaminants.
- ◆ **Action Level:** The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- ◆ **90<sup>th</sup> Percentile:** Ninety percent of the samples are below the action level. (Nine of ten sites sampled were at or below this level).
- ◆ **Treatment Technique (TT):** A process aimed to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- ◆ **Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l):** (one penny in ten thousand dollars)
- ◆ **Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (µg/l):** (one penny in ten million dollars).
- ◆ **Picocuries per liter (pCi/L):** a measure of radioactivity in water.
- ◆ **Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU):** NTU is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.
- ◆ **Running Annual Average (RAA):** The average of 4 consecutive quarters (when on quarterly monitoring); values in table represent the highest RAA for the year.

## Detected Contaminants in NORTHFIELD WATER DEPT

Microbiological	Result	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
No Detected Results were Found in the Calendar Year of 2009				

Regulated Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
FLUORIDE	10/31/2007	1.1	1.1	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
NITRATE	04/15/2009	0.9	0.9	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

Radionuclides	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
No Detected Results were Found in the Calendar Year of 2009							

Disinfection Byproducts	Monitoring Period	RAA	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
No Detected Results were Found in the Calendar Year of 2009							

Lead and Copper	Date	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	95 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	Range	Unit	AL	Sites over AL	Typical Source
COPPER, FREE	2005-2007	0.105	0.132	0.021-0.161	ppm	1.3	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
LEAD	2005-2007	2	2	1-21	ppb	15	1	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Violation(s) that occurred during the year

Type	Category	Analyte	Compliance Period
No Detected Results were Found in the Calendar Year of 2009			

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Northfield Water System continues to provide chlorination to the water supply.

We add fluoride to our water supply to promote public health through the prevention of tooth decay.

There are three (3) chemicals added to your water supply:

1. **Corrosion Control:** The well water is low in pH; this results in the leaching of lead and copper from the customers' plumbing and thus deposits those contaminants in the water. In order to eliminate the lead and copper, a very small amount of caustic soda is added to the water. Our recent sampling results indicate that this treatment is working. We also recommend that you let a faucet run until the water is cold each morning. This will eliminate the water that has set in the plumbing during the night and assure you that the water is fresh.
2. **Fluoride:** A small amount of fluoride (approximately 1 ppm) is added to the water in order to promote dental health and strong bones.
3. **Chlorine:** the water supply is chlorinated at an average rate of 0.5 ppm.

These treatments have been approved and are monitored by the State of Vermont Water Supply Division.

### Health information regarding drinking water

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/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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 the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline.

Infants and children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

The State of Vermont Water Supply Division's telephone number is 1-802-241-3400. Their website address is [www.vermontdrinkingwater.org](http://www.vermontdrinkingwater.org)

## **Fluoride in the Drinking Water:**

The Northfield Water Department's first priority is the protection of public health. We are in full compliance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's standard for fluoride in the drinking water. We pay close attention to new health effects research and are interested in the new report on fluoride in drinking water from the National Research Council.

The fluoride level in our community drinking water is 1.0 to 1.2 mg/L, which is well below EPA's current standard of 4 mg/L to protect against adverse health effects. In fact, our fluoride level is below EPA's secondary level of 2 mg/L, which was set to protect against cosmetic dental effects that can occur from excess fluoride consumption.

The NRC report examined water supplies with high levels of naturally-occurring fluoride. The NRC report **does not** examine health risks or benefits associated with community water fluoridation. Community water fluoridation is the process of adding fluoride to public water supplies to reach an optimal level of .7-1.2 parts per million in order to protect people against tooth decay.

Community water fluoridation is supported by the American Dental Association (ADA), the American Medical Association (AMA), the U.S. Public Service and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Community water fluoridation has dramatically reduced child cavity rates and tooth decay where it has been implemented.

We will pay close attention to any action U.S. EPA takes based on this new report. Local residents can be assured that we will continue to take the necessary steps to protect public health.

## **Source Protection**

The Village of Northfield owns thirty (30) acres around the wells and this offers a considerable amount of protection to the source. However, other activities in the surrounding area can affect the water. Some of these include septic systems, chemicals, oil storage, floor drains, etc. The Source Protection Plan was updated in June 2007. There is a plan in place to extend the wastewater collection system to serve the area where the wellfield is located. The Town/Village Inter-Local Agreement Committee is working on this project as well as exploring funding for it.

## **Improvements**

As you know, especially those of you who live in the Water Project (West Phase) construction area, a new 12" main was installed from Garvey Hill to Main Street. This line followed Cross Street, Union Street, Pleasant Street, and Wall Street to Main Street; in the process, aging 8", 6" and 4" lines were replaced. The Village obtained a grant that funded 57% of these improvements. This project improved flows for firefighting as well as water quality; you will notice less rust in the system when the hydrants are flushed.

The third and final phase of the Water Project has been designed; it consists of a new 12" line from the Wellfield to the Village Common. Pending funding, it may be possible to begin this phase this coming summer. You, the owners of the system, will be asked to approve a bond vote in order to complete this last phase.

Should you have any questions concerning this project or any other water system improvement, please do not hesitate to contact Superintendent of Public Works William C. Lyon at 485-6121.

Information concerning operations, costs, and financing of your system can be found in the Village Report. As always, thank you for your support and cooperation.