



## Town of Bennington, Vermont Water Quality Report 2014

Our goal is to provide you with a safe dependable supply of drinking water. This report is a snapshot of the quality of water that we provided for January 1 through December 31, 2013. It also includes the date and results of any regulated contaminants that have been detected within the past five years tested less than once a year. Any contaminants detected within the past five years are listed along with the date of detection and concentration as it compares with the current Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and State of Vermont Standards. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day.

**Public Water System Name:** Bennington Water Department

**WSID #:** 5016

**Town:** Bennington

### Water Source Information

Vermont Source Type: **Stream**

EPA Source Type: **Surface, non-purchased**

Source Name: **BOLLES BROOK**

Location: **Woodford, Vermont**

The Bennington Water Systems relies on two sources of water to supply its customers. The first source is referred to as the Bolles Brook Source. This source consists of an intake in Bolles Brook (located in the Town of Woodford). Water is fed by gravity from the Bolles Brook intake to a 3.0 million gallon per day water filtration plant located approximately 1 mile southwest of the Bolles Brook intake. The water is treated (filtered and chlorinated) at the filtration plant and then supplied to the users by gravity flow into the distribution system.

Vermont Source Type: **Spring**

EPA Source Type: **Groundwater, non-purchased**

Source Name: **MORGAN SPRING**

Location: **Bennington, Vermont**

The Second water source used by the Bennington Water System is referred to as the Morgan Springs Source. This source is located in downtown Bennington. It consists of a spring box which serves to collect the naturally occurring flow from the spring, and a "constant pressure" water booster station which pumps the water from the springs into the Bennington distribution system at differing flow rates in order to maintain constant pressure in the system. The Morgan Springs are estimated to have a reliable yield of about 1500 gpm.

A source protection plan is required for all municipal drinking water supplies. Bennington's source protection plan was submitted and approved by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources/Water Supply Division on December 4, 2007. The plan provides information on potential sources of contamination as well as control and contingency plans. A copy of this plan is available for public review at the Bennington Town Offices located at 205 South Street, Bennington, Vermont.

As stated in the plan, the most probable source of contamination to the Bolles Brook Water Supply is natural, human and animal waste. This is because a majority of the Bolles Brook water sources come from non developed National Forest Lands. This supply receives full treatment and disinfection at our Filtration Plant on Route 9 in the Town of Woodford.

The Morgan Spring Water Supply being located in a Downtown area faces more potential hazards from existing or pre-existing chemical waste sites and underground fuel storage facilities. However, previous studies indicate that this type of groundwater source may be unusual for Vermont. A report entitled "Bennington Water Study, Morgan Spring 1986 Long-Term Test" prepared by Wagner, Heindel, and Noyes, concludes that the Morgan Springs Sources are likely to be of "karst" or cavernous limestone origin and may have a lateral extent of 3 to 5 square miles. It is also concluded in this report that the actual time of travel within the recharge area may be as much as 33 years and that the spring is hydro-geographically isolated from nearby surface waters and sources of contamination within the shallow sand and gravel underlying the Morgan Springs area.

**Owner/Operator and Public Participation Opportunities**

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water quality utility, please contact the person(s) listed below. We want our customers to be informed about their water quality. The Bennington Select Board acts as the governing body for our water system. If you want to learn more, please feel free to attend any of the regularly scheduled meetings or view the meetings on Channel 17 of the local cable access.

Town of Bennington  
205 South Street  
Bennington, VT 05201  
Phone Number (802) 442-1037

Town Manager	Stuart A. Hurd
Water Resources Superintendent	Terrance A. Morse
Working Foreman	Mark D. White
Operator	Brian Billert
Operator	Anthony Onorato
Operator	Jason Olansky
Operator	Lawrence Gates, Jr.

**Regularly scheduled meetings** are held on:

Date: Second and Fourth Monday of each Month

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Bennington: Village Fire House, River Street

**Sources of Drinking Water and Contaminants**

**The sources of drinking water** (both tap water and bottled water) include surface water (streams, lakes) and ground water (springs and wells). 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 human activity and from animals. 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 tap 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:

- t Microbial contaminants (such as viruses and bacteria) that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- t Inorganic contaminants (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.
- t Pesticides and herbicides may come from a variety of sources such as storm water runoff, agriculture, and residential uses as well as careless disposal of household chemicals.
- t Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or the result of mining activity.
- t Organic 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 stormwater runoff, septic systems, as well as careless disposal of household chemicals.

### WATER QUALITY DATA

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2007 calendar year. It also includes the date and results of any contaminants that we detected within the past five years tested less than once a year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily show that the water poses a health risk.

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

- **Maximum Contamination Level Goal (MCLG):** The “Goal” is the level of contamination in drinking water below, which there is no known or expected risk to human health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- **Maximum Contamination Level (MCL):** The “Maximum Allowed” MCL is the highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs 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. MRDLG’s do not reflect the benefits of disinfectants in controlling microbial contaminants.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. Addition of a disinfectant may help control microbial contaminants.
- **Action Level:** The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements, which 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 (ug/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.
- **N/A:** Not applicable

<i>Microbiological</i>	<i>Results</i>	<i>MCL</i>	<i>MCLG</i>	<i>Typical Source</i>
<i>No detected results were found in the calendar year of 2013</i>				

**Level of Detected Contaminants**

Contaminant Detected	Highest Level Detected	MCL	MCLG	Range of Detection	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Barium	0.023 ppm	2.0	2.0	0.023 – 0.023	05/20/13	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Bromodichloromethane	0.6 ppb	N/A	N/A	0.6 ppb	02/05/07	No	Produced as a by-product of chlorination
Chloroform	13.0 ppb	N/A	N/A	13.6 ppb	02/05/07	No	Produced as a by-product of chlorination
Cyanide	<10.0 ppb	N/A	N/A	10.0 ppb	01/09/07	No	Naturally occurring
Fluoride	0.11 ppm	4.0	4.0	0.11 – 0.11 ppm	02/13/13	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Gross Alpha	1.30 pci/L	15 pci/L	0	1.30 pci/L	04/09/08	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Manganese	<5.0 ppb	50.0 ppb	N/A	<5.0 ppb	07/10/07	No	Erosion of natural deposits. No adverse health effects but can cause staining to plumbing fixtures
Methyl Ethyl Keytone	0.77 UG/L	N/A UG/L	N/A	0.77 UG/L	07/10/08	No	
Total Nitrate	0.65 ppm	10.0 ppm	10.0 ppm	0.59 – 0.65 ppm	02/13/13	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

<b>Radionuclides</b>	<b>Results</b>	<b>MCL</b>	<b>MCLG</b>	<b>Typical Source</b>
<i>No detected results were found in the calendar year of 2013</i>				

Disinfection By-Products	Monitoring Period	RAA	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Haloacetic Acid (HAA5)	2013	44	24.5 – 73.1	ppb	60	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
TTHM	2013	48	24.8 – 58	ppb	80	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination

**Lead and Copper Action Levels**

Lead & Copper	Date	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	95 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	Range	Unit	AL	Sites Over AL	Typical Source
Copper, Free	2011 - 2013	0.12	0.17	0.00 – 0.2	ppm	1.3	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Lead	2011 - 2013	6.0	9	0.0 – 94.0	ppb	15	1	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

**Lead in Drinking Water Information**

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant woman and young children. Lead in drinking water is **primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing**. The Bennington Water System 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 drinking 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>.

Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Lowest % of monthly samples meeting MCL during the year	Highest Measurement / Date	Violation	Date of Sample	Typical Source of Contaminant
Turbidity	TT= percentage of samples < 0.5 NTU	N/A	>90 %	0.50 04/04/09	No	Continuous	Soil runoff

**Turbidity** is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

**Explanation of Violation(s) that occurred in 2013:**

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. The below table lists any drinking water violations we incurred during 2013. A failure to perform required monitoring means we could not be sure of the quality of our water during that time.

**Violation(s) that occurred during 2013:**

Type	Category	Analyte	Compliance Period
<b>NONE</b>			

**Health Information Regarding Drinking Water**

Some people *may* be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population.

**Immune-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 the 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.

**Possible Health Effects for High TTHM and HAA5's:**

*Some* people who drink water-containing trihalomethanes (TTHM) in excess of the MCL over many years *may* experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. In animal studies, **some** total trihalomethanes have been associated with reproductive or developmental effects.

*Some* people who drink water containing haloacetic acids (HAA5) in excess of the MCL over many years *may* have an increased risk of getting cancer.

### **Public Notice – Operating Permit Issued March 26, 2013**

The Water System is required to notify all users of the following compliance schedule contained in the Permit to Operate issued by the State of Vermont Agency of Natural Resources:

1. **On or before December 1, 2015:** the Permittee (Town of Bennington) shall complete the replacement of water distribution mains on Northside Drive, in accordance with the Town of Bennington's Capital Improvement Plan updated February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013, and resolve inadequate water distribution system pressures, pipe failure, and unplanned interruption of water service, resulting in drinking water quantity, quality, and inadequate water pressure violations.
2. **On or before December 1, 2018:** the Permittee (Town of Bennington) shall make all improvements to the South End of the water distribution system, within the low water pressure zone, in accordance with the low water pressure zone, in accordance with the Town of Bennington's Capital Improvement Plan updated February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013, and raise minimum water distribution system pressure to 35 psi or greater under all conditions of flow (normal, maximum and peak), which includes fire flow.

**Public Notice - Uncorrected Significant Deficiencies:** The system is required to inform the public of any significant deficiencies identified during a sanitary survey conducted by the Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division that have not yet been corrected. For more information please refer to the schedule for compliance in the system's Permit to Operate issued on March 26, 2013.

NO significant Deficiencies were identified.

### **Distribution Information:**

Please share this information with all other people who drink this water, especially those who *may not* have received this notice directly, for example people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses. The Town of Bennington now distributes a postcard notification to alert all property owners serviced by the Bennington Water System the availability of this report. These property owners are responsible for providing this information to their tenants. If a tenant has not received this information from their landlord they may request to pick up a copy from the Town Offices in Bennington Monday through Friday between 8:00am and 5:00pm. The report may also be viewed at one of the following publicly posted locations: Bennington Free Library, Town Office, and the Bennington Website (Benningtonvt.org).