

# 2008 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT



## Prudence Island Water District

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Prudence Island, RI  
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[www.pih2o.org](http://www.pih2o.org)  
PWS ID#1592023

We are very pleased to provide you with this year's Consumer Confidence Report. This report provides you with information on the water and services delivered to you in 2008. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies.

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. In November 2008, the Prudence Island Water District completed its acquisition of the assets of the Prudence Island Utilities Corp. The District holds meetings at the Prudence Island Fire Station every other Saturday at 1:00 p.m. throughout the year, with a brief holiday hiatus in December. A full annual calendar, as well as individual meeting notices, are available from the district web site at <http://www.pih2o.org/annual.htm>. If after reviewing this report you have any questions, or would like to know more about the Prudence Island Water District, please contact Patricia Richard at 401-682-2981.

### The Quality of Your Drinking Water

Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We're proud to inform you that your drinking water meets all Federal and State requirements. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

### The Source of Your Drinking Water

Our water source is four wells located throughout the island.

The RI Department of Health, in cooperation with other state and federal agencies, has assessed the threats to the Prudence Island Water District's water supply sources. The assessment considered the intensity of development, the presence of businesses and facilities that use, store or generate potential contaminants, how easily contaminants may move through the soils in the Source Water Protection Area (SWPA), and the sampling history of the water.

Our monitoring program continues to assure that the water delivered to your home is safe to drink. However, the assessment found that the water source is at LOW RISK of contamination. This does NOT mean that the water cannot become contaminated. Protection efforts are necessary to assure continued water quality. The complete Source Water Assessment Report is available from the

Prudence Island Water District or the Department of Health at (401) 222-6867.

### Why Are There Contaminants in My Drinking Water?

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 (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

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 and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity:

- **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 stormwater 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 stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

### Water Quality Test Results

The table on the reverse side of this page 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.

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2008 TEST RESULTS									
Inorganic Contaminants	Violation Y/N	Level Detected				Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
		Army Well	Bristol Colony Well	Indian Spring Well #1	Indian Spring Well #4				
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	N	0.28	0.49	*	*	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

\*Laboratory analysis indicated that the contaminant was not present.

DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM TEST RESULTS						
Microbial Contaminants	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria (June 2008)	N	1 positive sample	Highest monthly # of positive samples	0	1 positive	Naturally present in the environment
Inorganic Contaminants	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper*	N	0.53	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead**	N	14	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Volatile Organic Contaminants	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Carbon Tetrachloride	N	0.70	ppb	5	5	Discharge from chemical plants and other industrial activities
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	N	20.5	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination

\* There was one (1) site that exceeded the Copper Action Level.

**Copper:** 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.

\*\* There was one (1) site that exceeded the Lead Action Level.

**Lead:** Infants and young 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 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).

**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.

**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.

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Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from the January-December 2008 monitoring period. For those contaminants that are monitored less frequently the most recent test results are listed.

Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) 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. The Prudence Island Water District 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>.

We at the Prudence Island Water District work 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.

### IMPORTANT!!!!

The Rhode Island Dept. of Health recently incorporated Cross-Connection Control Plan regulations into the RI Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Drinking Water. Section 9.4 requires that all community water systems develop and implement a cross connection control program. The PIWD must certify to the RIDOH that they have implemented a plan that meets the requirements of the 10 components outlined in Section 9.4.

A cross-connection is defined by the EPA as any actual or potential connection between a public water supply and a source of contamination or pollution. Sources of cross-contamination include, but are not limited to, lawn irrigation systems, private wells and graywater systems. In order to protect the supply of drinking water, backflow prevention must be installed at any potential source of contamination.

Backflow is the flow of water or other liquids, mixtures or substances into the distribution pipes of a drinking water supply from any source other than its intended source. Backflow occurs when the pressure in an unprotected downstream piping system exceeds the pressure in the supply piping.

Backsiphonage is one type of backflow. Backsiphonage is the result of negative pressures in the distribution pipes of the drinking water supply. A typical example of backsiphonage is lawn chemicals backflowing through a garden hose into indoor plumbing, and potentially into the distribution system.

In order to comply with the recently adopted regulations regarding cross-connection control, it will be necessary for the PIWD to survey all connections within the water system. This survey must be carried out by an individual that has completed a certification course that covers surveying facilities for cross-connections, determination of hazard levels, drafting of plans and programs, and the selection of appropriate backflow preventers.

The regulations also require that appropriate backflow preventers are installed at all service connections. All backflow preventers must be installed by a Rhode Island licensed plumber. The district must also have access to the services of a certified inspector/tester to inspect, clean, test, maintain and repair backflow prevention devices.

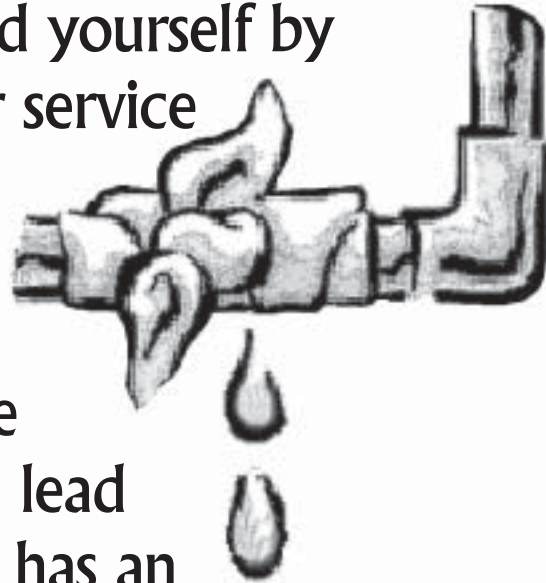
The water district team will be working diligently over the next few months to plan and implement its Cross-Contamination Control Program. The PIWD must certify to the RIDOH that it has a plan in place that meets the requirements of the regulations not later than December 31, 2009. A timeline for implementation of this plan is also required.

The district's progress in planning and implementing its cross connection control program will be discussed in detail at its Board meetings. The minutes of these meetings, along with other pertinent information about this program, will be available on the district web site. For more information, contact any member of the Board, or the district Facilities Manager.

A REMINDER FROM PIWD

# DON'T FORGET!

Help your community and yourself by shutting down your water service whenever your island home is unoccupied for an extended period of time, especially during the winter. Pipe breakage can lead to massive water loss that has an impact on the entire community. Prevent costly fines and damage to your home.



## SHUT DOWN YOUR WATER! DRAIN YOUR PIPES!

*Prudence Island Water District is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

## CONSERVE WATER!

### Every Drop Counts!

Growing populations and intermittent droughts are squeezing our water resources dry, causing natural habitat degradation and impacting our everyday use of water. We must pay more attention to how we are using water, and how we might be wasting it. We must recognize how important water is to our survival and do what we can to ensure that we have an adequate supply of clean water for years to come.

### You're In Control

- Try to do one thing each day to save water. Don't worry if the savings are minimal. Every drop counts, and every person can make a difference.
- Be aware of and follow all water conservation and water shortage rules and restrictions that might be in effect.
- Make sure your children are aware of the need to conserve water.

The district board continues to work on conservation bylaws designed to manage water usage. Information about ways to save water is available from the district office, and will soon appear on the district web site.

## THE DISTRICT TEAM:

- MODERATOR –  
Dave Buffum
- CLERK –  
Pat Richard
- BOARD MEMBER –  
Rick Brooks
- BOARD MEMBER –  
Phil Brooks
- BOARD MEMBER –  
Leo Perrotta
- FACILITIES MANAGER –  
William J. Capron
- ASST. FACILITIES MGR. –  
Nathanael Bacon
- GENERAL LABOR –  
Neil S.G. "Stevie" Butler

Remember, the Prudence Island Water District belongs to **YOU**. Make your voice heard by attending district meetings, and keep up to date with what the district is doing by visiting our web site.