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Gary Pendzick

# Riverhead Water District 2007 Drinking Water Quality Report

Public Water Supply Identification No. 5103705

**ANNUAL WATER SUPPLY REPORT**

**May 2008**



Phil Cardinale, Supervisor

Dear Water District Resident:

I am pleased to present to you the Riverhead Water District 2007 Consumer Confidence Report/ Annual Water Supply Statement. As shown in this report, the Riverhead Water District continues to provide the residents with a source of water for all of our domestic needs which is reliable and of high quality. Our water is continuously tested to ensure that it meets all drinking water standards. As the Town grows, so does our Water Department. We are planning the construction of additional wells and pumping stations. Simultaneously, we encourage all of our residents to conserve water so we can limit the expense connected with the construction of new facilities.

Our Water Department staff works hard to make sure every resident has clean water every time he or she turns on the tap. Additional information about our Water District and our water supply can be found on our Town website, [www.riverheadli.com](http://www.riverheadli.com).

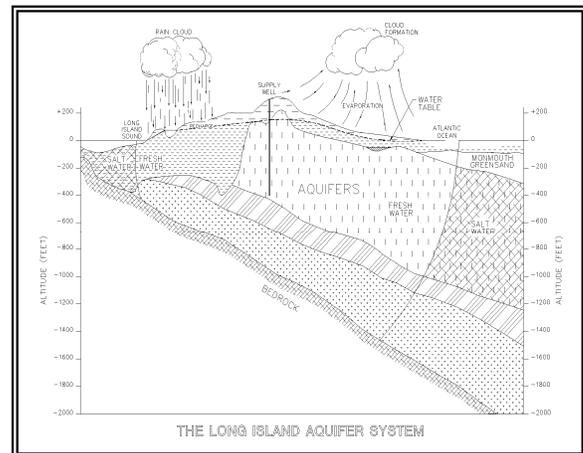
**INFORMATION ABOUT OUR DRINKING WATER**

This report is required to be delivered to all residents of our District in compliance with Federal and State regulations. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. The Riverhead Town Board and the District employees are committed to ensuring that you and your family receive the highest quality water.

**SOURCE OF OUR WATER**

The source of water for the District is groundwater pumped from thirteen (13) wells located throughout the community that are drilled into the Glacial and Magothy aquifers beneath Long Island, as shown on the following figure. Generally, the water quality of the aquifer is good to excellent, although there are localized areas of contamination.

The population served by the Riverhead Water District during 2007 was 42,500. The total amount of water withdrawn from the aquifer in 2007 was 2.82 billion gallons, of which approximately 91.8 percent was billed directly to the residents of the District.



### **COST OF WATER**

The District utilizes a unit price billing schedule with the consumer being billed at a rate of \$10.90 for the first 7,000 gallons per quarter plus \$1.10 for each additional 1,000 gallons for the District's 3/4 inch service.

### **CONTACTS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

We are pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meet all Federal and State requirements. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Water District Supt. Gary Pendzick at (631) 727-3205 or the Suffolk County Department of Health Services at (631) 852-5778. Water District issues are normally discussed at Town Board meetings that are held on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.

The Riverhead Water District monitors for different parameters and contaminants in your drinking water as required by Federal and State laws. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. It's important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk. For more information on contamination and potential health risks, please contact the USEPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to disease-causing microorganisms or pathogens 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 from their health care provider about their drinking water. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by microbial pathogens are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

The USEPA established a Lead and Copper Rule that requires all public water suppliers to sample and test for lead and copper at the tap. The first testing was required in 1992. All results were excellent indicating that the District's corrosion control treatment program was effective in preventing the leaching of lead and copper from your home's plumbing into your drinking water. The same testing was last conducted in 2007 with the same excellent results. Retesting is scheduled to occur in 2010.

### **WATER CONSERVATION MEASURES**

The underground water system of Long Island has more than enough water for present water demands. However, saving water will ensure that our future generations will always have a safe and abundant water supply.

In 2007, the Riverhead Water District continued to implement a water conservation program in order to minimize any unnecessary water use. Residents of the District can also implement their own water conservation measures such as retrofitting plumbing fixtures with flow restrictors, modifying automatic lawn sprinklers to include rain sensors, repairing leaks in the home, installing water conservation fixtures/appliances and maintaining a daily awareness of water conservation in their personal habits. Besides protecting our precious underground water supply, water conservation will produce a cost savings to the consumer in terms of both water and energy bills (hot water).

### **WATER TREATMENT**

The Riverhead Water District provides treatment at all wells to improve the quality of the water pumped prior to distribution to the consumer. The pH of the pumped water is adjusted upward to reduce corrosive action between the water and water mains and in-house plumbing by the addition of lime. The water is also chlorinated with calcium hypochlorite to protect against the growth of bacteria in the distribution system. The District also adds iron sequestering agents at all wells as part of the District's overall water treatment program to supplement corrosion control and to maintain iron in the soluble state to minimize water stains on laundry and plumbing fixtures.

A granular activated carbon filter is installed at Plant No. 12 to treat the water from Well Nos. 12-1 and 12-2 to remove any volatile organic contaminants.

### **WATER QUALITY**

In accordance with State regulations, the Riverhead Water District routinely monitors your drinking water for numerous parameters. We test your drinking water for coliform bacteria, turbidity, inorganic contaminants, lead and copper, nitrate, volatile organic contaminants, total trihalomethanes and synthetic organic contaminants. Over 135 separate parameters are tested in each of our wells numerous times per year. The table presented on page 3 depicts the quality of your drinking water. It should be noted that many of these parameters are naturally found in all Long Island drinking water and do not pose any adverse health effects.

### **SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT**

The NYSDOH has completed a source water assessment for this system, based on available information. Known and possible contamination sources to this drinking water source were evaluated. The state source water assessment includes a susceptibility rating based on the risk posed by each potential source of contamination and how easily contaminants can move through the subsurface to the wells. The susceptibility of a water supply well to contamination is dependent upon both the presence of potential sources of contamination within the well's contributing area and the likelihood that the contaminant can travel through the environment to reach the well. The susceptibility rating is an estimate of

**RIVERHEAD WATER DISTRICT  
2007 WATER QUALITY REPORT  
TABLE OF DETECTED PARAMETERS**

| Contaminants  | Violation (Yes/No) | Date of Sample | Level Detected (Maximum) (Range) | Unit Measurement | MCLG | Regulatory Limit (MCL or AL) | Likely Source of Contaminant                                     |
|---|--------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|------------------|------|------------------------------|--|
| <b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>   |                    |                |                                  |                  |      |                              |  |
| Lead  | No                 | Sept. 2004     | ND - 2.5 <sup>(1)</sup>          | ug/l             | 0    | AL = 15                      | Leaching from plumbing   |
| Copper  | No                 | Sept. 2004     | ND - 0.29 <sup>(1)</sup>         | ug/l             | n/a  | AL = 1.3                     | Leaching from plumbing   |
| Arsenic   | No                 | 10/02/06       | ND - 5-6                         | ug/l             | n/a  | MCL = 10                     | Naturally occurring  |
| Zinc  | No                 | 03/01/06       | ND - 0.02                        | mg/l             | n/a  | MCL = 5.0                    | Naturally occurring  |
| Sodium  | No                 | 03/01/06       | 3.7 - 16.4                       | mg/l             | n/a  | No MCL <sup>(2)</sup>        | Naturally occurring  |
| Chloride  | No                 | 03/01/06       | 4.9 - 25.6                       | mg/l             | n/a  | MCL = 250                    | Naturally occurring  |
| Iron  | Yes <sup>(3)</sup> | 03/24/06       | ND - 750                         | ug/l             | n/a  | MCL = 300 <sup>(3)</sup>     | Naturally occurring  |
| Nitrate   | No                 | 03/01/06       | ND - 4.0                         | mg/l             | 10   | MCL = 10                     | Runoff from fertilizer and leaching from septic tanks and sewage |
| Sulfate   | No                 | 03/01/06       | ND - 27.3                        | mg/l             | n/a  | MCL = 250                    | Naturally occurring  |
| Manganese   | No                 | 03/24/06       | ND - 0.04                        | ug/l             | n/a  | MCL = 300                    | Naturally occurring  |
| Fluoride  | No                 | 02/24/06       | ND - 0.2                         | mg/l             | n/a  | MCL = 2.2                    | Naturally occurring  |
| Perchlorate   | No                 | 05/19/06       | ND - 2.3                         | ug/l             | n/a  | AL = 18 <sup>(4)</sup>       | Fertilizers  |
| <b>Synthetic Organic Contaminants Including Pesticides and Herbicides</b> |                    |                |                                  |                  |      |                              |  |
| None Detected   | --                 | --             | ND                               | --               | --   | --                           | --   |
| <b>Volatile Organic Contaminants</b>                                      |                    |                |                                  |                  |      |                              |  |
| Total Trihalomethanes   | No                 | 12/21/06       | ND - 8.9                         | ug/l             | 0    | MCL = 80                     | Disinfection By-Products   |
| Total Haloacetic Acids  | No                 | 09/18/06       | ND - 14.9                        | ug/l             | 0    | MCL = 60                     | Disinfection By-Products   |

**Definitions:**

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)**- The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)**- 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.

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

**Milligrams per liter (mg/l)** - Corresponds to one part of liquid in one million parts of liquid (parts per million - ppm).

**Micrograms per liter (ug/l)** - Corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid (parts per billion - ppb).

**Non-Detects (ND)** - Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

<sup>(1)</sup> - During 2004, we collected and analyzed 30 samples for lead and copper. The 90% percentile is presented as the maximum result. The Action Levels for both lead and copper were not exceeded at any site tested. Retesting is scheduled for 2007.

<sup>(2)</sup> - No MCL has been established for sodium. However, 20 mg/l is a recommended guideline for people on high restricted sodium diets and 270 mg/l for those on moderate sodium diets.

<sup>(3)</sup> - Iron is only a secondary drinking water standard. Iron has no health affects. Therefore, exceeding the MCL for iron represents a level at which adverse aesthetic effects start to occur.

<sup>(4)</sup> - Perchlorate is an unregulated contaminant. However, the NYS Dept. of Health has established an action level of 18 ug/l.

Town of Riverhead  
Riverhead Water District  
1035 Pulaski Street  
Riverhead, New York 11901

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the potential for contamination of the source water, it does not mean that the water delivered to consumers is, or will become, contaminated. (See section "Water Quality" for a list of contaminants that have been detected.) The source water assessments provide resource managers with additional information for protecting source waters into the future.

As mentioned before, our water is derived from 13 wells. The source water assessment has rated most of the wells as having a high susceptibility to industrial solvents, pesticides and nitrates and microbial contamination. The elevated susceptibility ratings are due primarily to the various land uses and their related point sources of contamination in the assessment area. The land uses include unsewered commercial, industrial and residential, as well as agricultural land use. While the source water assessment rates our well as being susceptible to microbials, please note that our water is disinfected to ensure that the finished water delivered into your home meets New York State's drinking water standards for microbial contamination.

A copy of the assessment, including a map of the assessment area, can be obtained by contacting the Water District.

#### **WATER QUALITY**

The Riverhead Water District has recently installed additional transmission mains to improve the pumping of water throughout the District. An additional booster pump system should be constructed this summer to help fill the water storage tanks during peak water use days. The District is currently repainting the water storage tanks in Baiting Hollow and Wading River, as part of our preventive maintenance program.

Copies of a Supplemental Data Package, which includes the water quality data for each of our supply wells utilized during 2007, are available at the Riverhead Water District office located at 1035 Pulaski Street, Riverhead, New York, the Town Clerk's office and the local Public Library.

We, at the Riverhead Water District, work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap throughout the community. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water supply, which will improve our way of life and our children's future.