

**Reporting Period from January 1, 2005 - December 31, 2005**

**How do I read this table?**

It's easy! This table shows the results of our water-quality analyses. Every regulated contaminant that we detected in the water, even in the most minute traces, is listed here along with the highest levels allowed by regulation (MCL), the ideal goals for public health, the amounts detected, the usual sources of such contamination, footnotes explaining our findings and a key to units of measurement.

<b>Inorganic Contaminant</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>MCL</b>	<b>MCLG</b>	<b>Highest Detected Level</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Major Source</b>	<b>SDWA Violation</b>
Fluoride <sup>1</sup>	2005	ppm	4	4	1.6	0.11 - 1.60	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.	NO
Copper <sup>2</sup>	2004	ppm	AL=1.3	1.3	0.101	< 0.002-0.136	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.	NO
Lead <sup>3</sup>	2004	ppb	AL=15	0	5.5	< 1-0.118	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.	NO

<b>Microbiological Contaminant</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>MCL</b>	<b>MCLG</b>	<b>Highest Detected Level</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Major Source</b>	<b>SDWA Violation</b>
Total Organic Carbon (TOC)	2005	ppm	TT	n/a	4.1	1.5 - 4.1	Naturally Present in the Environment	NO
Total Coliform Bacteria	2005	Presence of Coliform bacteria in <5% of monthly Samples	n/a	0	0.60%	0.0 % - 0.60%	Naturally Present in the Environment	NO
Turbidity <sup>4</sup>	2005	NTU	TT	0	2.82	99.2%	Soil run off	Yes

<b>Volatile Organic Contaminant</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>MCL</b>	<b>MCLG</b>	<b>Highest Detected Level</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Major Source</b>	<b>SDWA Violation</b>
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2005	ppb	80	n/a	48.96 <sup>6</sup>	26.14-73.23	By-product of drinking water chlorination	NO
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) <sup>5</sup>	2005	ppb	60	n/a	26.84 <sup>6</sup>	23.10 - 31.11	By-product of drinking water chlorination	NO

<b>Unregulated Contaminant</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>MCL</b>	<b>MCLG</b>	<b>Highest Detected Level</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Major Source</b>	<b>SDWA Violation</b>
Sodium	2005	ppm	100		53.6	34.0 - 53.6	Erosion of natural deposits; addition of chemical for pH adjustment coagulation	NO

**Pawtucket Water Quality Table Footnotes:**

- <sup>1</sup> Pawtucket Water adds fluoride to its treated water as an aid in dental cavity prevention in young children.
- <sup>2</sup> @90th percentile no sites exceeding Action Level.
- <sup>3</sup> @90th percentile two sites exceeding Action Level.
- <sup>4</sup> The PWSB failed to meet the treatment technique requirement for Turbidity removal during October 2005. This failure resulted in violations of the Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Drinking Water. Due to heavy rains in October 2005, the treatment process at the PWSB was overburdened causing the treated water to exceed the Federal Standards for Turbidity. Because of the high levels of Turbidity, there was an increased chance that the water may have contained disease-causing organisms. A Boil Water Advisory was issued on October 17, 2005. To correct the problem, the PWSB flushed and tested the entire distribution system. The system returned to compliance and the Boil Water Advisory was lifted on October 24, 2005.
- Turbidity Health Affects** - Turbidity has no health affects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbacterial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches.
- <sup>5</sup> These results represent the sum of 5 Haloacetic Acid compounds. HAA5s are required monitoring under the recently passed Disinfection By-Products regulation.
- <sup>6</sup> Running Annual Average

**Definitions:**

Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL: 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 Contaminant Level Goal or 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 requirement that a water system must follow. Treatment Technique (TT): a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water. Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions. The data presented in this report is from the most recent testing done in accordance with regulations.

**Key To Table**

- AL = Action Level
- MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level
- MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal
- NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units
- ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)
- ppb = parts per billion or micrograms per liter (ug/l)
- TT = Treatment Technique
- n/a = not applicable

**How Can You Be Involved?**

Meetings of the Pawtucket Water Supply Board begin at 5 P.M. on the second Tuesday of every month and are open to the public. Meetings are held in the Board's conference room on the second floor at the Board's 85 Branch Street headquarters in Pawtucket.

**El informe contiene informacion importante sobre la calidad del agua en su comunidad. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.**

**Additional Health Information**

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes limits on the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled 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 risk and effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791.

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 mineral and radioactive material and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- (A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- (B) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally- occurring or results from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic waste- water discharges, oil and gas production, mining and farming.
- (C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, storm water runoff and residential uses
- (D) Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organics, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems
- (E) Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure the tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than is the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, persons with HIV/AIDS and/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, Environmental Protection Agency, and/or Center for Disease Control. Guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline: **(800) 426-4791**.

**Source Water Assessment**

The RI Department of Health and the University of Rhode Island, in cooperation with other state and federal agencies, have assessed the threats to PWSB'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 and wholesome. However, the assessment found that the water source is at "MEDIUM" risk of contamination. Protection efforts are necessary to assure continued water quality. The complete source Water Assessment Report is now available.

**Facts and Figures**

- Total water pumped in 2005.....4,503,945,000 Gallons
- Average daily demand.....12,331,887 Gallons
- Maximum day demand August 11, 2005.....19,086,698 Gallons
- Minimum day demand November 25, 2005.....8,669,861 Gallons

**Financing of the PWSB**

The PWSB operates as an enterprise fund. As such its costs and expenses including debt service are recovered from user charges. The PWSB is required to maintain its books and records in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles as applied to government agencies.

The PWSB utilizes the National Association of Regulated Utility Commissioners system of accounts. This system is audited annually. The PWSB is required to file quarterly and annual reports with the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission.

The Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission regulates the rates the PWSB charges. Rate increases are granted in the form of gross revenues required to operate the water supply system. The Public Utilities Commission is a three person quasi-judicial body that rules on proposed rate increases after considering relevant positions and testimony relative to the proposed rate increase. The Division of the Public Utilities Commission is represented by the State Attorney General's office as the advocate of the rate payer. From the date the request to increase rates is filed to the granting of an increase takes up to seven months.

The PWSB uses a quarterly billing cycle, so with bills payable in thirty days the PWSB does not receive the full effect of the revenue increase for seven months. If you add in the time from the filing date for the PWSB to realize the full effect of the revenue increase it takes thirteen months.

Those of you who have questions may email through [www.pwsb.org](http://www.pwsb.org) and/or contact the Chief Engineer at: **401-729-5001**