

NORTH HERO WATER SYSTEM WATER QUALITY REPORT



North Hero Water System
P.O. Box 38
North Hero, VT 05474
802-372-6926

Water Board Commissioners

Rob Cunningham
Frank Dattilio
Larry Dupont, Co-Chair
Jay O'Boyle
Robert Rousseau, Co-Chair

Meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month at the North Hero Town meeting room.

North Hero Water System is classified and permitted as a surface, non-purchased water system, operating under water system identification #20562. *Water is supplied for North Hero Water System by an approved surface water source, Lake Champlain, and consists of one lake intake.*

January – December 2010

The purpose of this report is to satisfy the EPA and DEC requirements for Consumer Confidence Reporting. Although some of the items may not be of interest to you personally, we feel that this is an important aspect of our overall commitment to supply you with the safest quality drinking water possible.

Terms to Become Familiar With:

Maximum Contaminate Level (MCL): This is the highest allowable level of contaminant in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to MCLGs as feasible using the best available technology.

Maximum Contaminate Level Goals (MCLGs): These goals are set at levels that are below where there is no known health risk. MCLGs are considered a margin of safety.

PPM: Parts per million or mg/L. **PPB:** Parts per billion or ug/L. **NTU:** Nephelometric Turbidity Unit.

Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment, or other requirements that a water system must follow.

90th Percentile: Ninety percent of the samples are below the action level. (Nine of ten sites' sampled were at or below this level.)

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.

Simon Operation Services, Inc. Your Water Professionals

Simon Operation Services, Inc. (SOS) assumed responsibility for the operation of this system in March 2011. SOS's staff includes the following certified operators: Kevin Knapp, Mark Simon.

A Source Protection Plan (SPP) for the North Hero water supply system was approved on September 30, 2008. A copy of the SPP is on file with the North Hero town office. The system's susceptibility to Potential Sources of Contamination (PSOC) is confined to a 3,000 foot radius of our lake intake. The majority of property along the shoreline is zoned residential and agricultural. The approved SPP identifies all of the risks in this area to be low to moderate in nature. Informational letters were sent to all landowners.

SOS prepared this report. If you have any questions about North Hero Water System's water quality, call 1-888-767-1885 or email us at SimonOp@aol.com.

COMPLIANCE: This report is a snapshot of the quality of water that we provided for the year 2010. It also includes the date and results of any contaminants that were 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. **There were no violations in 2010.**

<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>Level Detected</u>	<u>MCL</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>Sample Date</u>
Carbon, Total	2.000 ppm	1000.00	0.000	10/13/09
Haloacetic Acids, Total	63 ppb	60.000	0.000	10/20/10
Manganese	0.010 mg/L	0.500	0.000	1/19/10
Nitrate	0.120 ppm	10.000	10.000	1/14/09
Trihalomethanes, Total	78 ppb	80.000	0.000	10/20/10

Possible Sources of Contamination

Carbon – naturally present in the environment.
Copper – corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate – runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Total Haloacetic Acids and Total Trihalomethanes – by-product of drinking water disinfection.
Turbidity – soil run off.

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. North Hero 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 (1-802-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Public Notice – Uncorrected Significant Deficiencies:

Date Identified: 12/12/07
 Inadequate Water Quality – Level Exceedance

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 (wells, springs). 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 they 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 by the State of Vermont. These regulations limit the amount of various contaminants:

- *Microbial organisms* (viruses and bacteria) may come from sewage treatment facilities, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- *Inorganic chemicals* (salts and metals) can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, or farming.
- *Synthetic Organic chemicals* (pesticides and herbicides) may come from agriculture, urban storm water runoff, residential uses, and careless disposal of household chemicals.
- *Volatile Organic chemicals* (gasoline and solvents) may come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, septic systems, industrial processes, and careless disposal of household chemicals.
- *Naturally occurring radioactivity*

<u>Contaminant Detected</u>	<u>Action Level</u>	<u>90th Percentile</u>	<u>Sampling Date</u>	<u># of Sites that Exceeded the Action Level</u>	<u>Total # of Sites Sampled</u>
Copper	1.3 ppm	0.140	2009	0	10
Lead	15 ppb	3.000	2009	0	10

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.

<u>Contaminant Detected</u>	<u>MCL</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>Lowest monthly % of samples meeting MCL</u>	<u>Highest measurement/Date</u>	<u>Violation: Yes or No</u>
Turbidity	TT=% of samples<0.1NTU	N/A	0.050	6/21/06	No

Temporary Operating Permit Public Notice

The North Hero Water System (the Water System), a public water system under the laws of the State of Vermont, was reissued a Temporary Operating Permit on November 3, 2010. The Secretary of the Agency of Natural Resources found that such issuance will not unreasonably contribute to a public health risk, although the North Hero Water System does not presently comply with certain requirements of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act and applicable state statutes and rules. The nature and extent of the noncompliance are as follows:

The Water System currently exceeds the established maximum contaminant levels for disinfection by products in the drinking water. Chlorine disinfection by-product sample results collected at Stage 1 Disinfection By-Product Rule locations for total haloacetic acids (HAA5) and total trihalomethanes (TTHM) currently exceed the established federal maximum contaminant levels of 0.060 mg/L and 0.080 mg/L respectively. *Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Additionally, some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes 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.* Users may choose to utilize carbon filtration (pitcher style or faucet mounted) which is known to reduce disinfection by products, and are encouraged to consult their doctor with specific health concerns. The Water System is required under a schedule for compliance within a temporary permit to operate as issued by the Department of Environmental Conservation to achieve compliance with the MCLs for disinfection by product concentrations by October 1, 2013, if not before.

The Water System is following through on specific requirements of the Water Supply Division to eliminate all potential sanitary hazards and provide for future system durability and reliability. In accordance with the Vermont Water Supply Rule, the Division has requested the timely resolution of all water system deficiencies. To obtain more specific information regarding these necessary public drinking water improvements, please call Larry Dupont of North Hero Water System at (802) 372-6926.

NORTH HERO WATER COMMISSION

SUMMER WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM

A **voluntary** Summer Conservation program begins July 1st through September 6th. During the timeframe, **Friday at 1:00 PM through Monday at 8:00 AM and holidays**, we ask that you reduce the following use of water:

- **LAWN OR GARDEN WATERING**
- **CAR OR BOAT WASHING**
- **OTHER OUTSIDE WATERING**

During all other times, we ask that you consider doing outside watering between 8:00 PM and 8:00 AM.

If we experience extended hot, dry periods with poor lake water quality or a large leak, we will post the following: **“WATER EMERGENCY”**. These signs will be displayed at prominent places in the community. This will indicate that all non-essential use of water should stop until the signs are removed.

