



AQUARION
Water Company

Stewards of the Environment™

— **2022** —
WATER
QUALITY
REPORT

Water: it's too precious to waste

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BIRCHES SYSTEM

PWS ID#: CT0911091

Este informe contiene información importante sobre su agua potable. Pida a alguien que lo traduzca para usted, o hable con alguien que lo entienda.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Donald J. Morrissey
Aquarion President

Dear Aquarion Customer:

I have the pleasure of reporting that Aquarion Water Company continued its delivery of high-quality water to our customers in 2022. We met or exceeded all state and federal water quality standards, as measured by the 170,663 tests we conducted throughout the year. This includes voluntary tests for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS), substances that, in high concentrations, can cause serious health effects.

While the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency intends to announce new maximum contaminant levels for PFAS this year, you can find our 2022 updates and test results at www.aquarionwater.com/pfas.

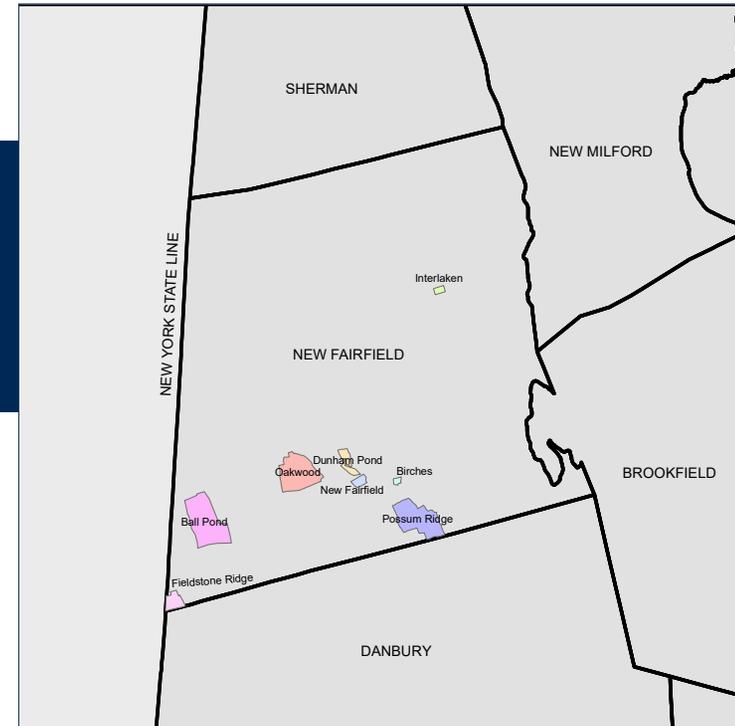
Last summer brought drought back to much of the state, but mandatory irrigation schedules in several cities we serve helped to maintain adequate water supplies, as did invaluable help from customers everywhere who not only reduced outdoor water use, but also fixed leaks and took other vital conservation measures.

Thank you for all you do to avoid wasting water — our most precious resource. For more ideas on what you can do to conserve water, please see page 8 in this report or visit www.aquarionwater.com/conserve.

With Appreciation,

Donald J. Morrissey

Areas Served by Birches System



Questions About Your Water Quality Report?

Customers who have questions about water quality should call us at **800-832-2373**.

For discolored water, service problems or after-hours emergencies, or to participate in a public meeting, call **800-732-9678**.

Customers may also email us at waterquality@aquarionwater.com, or visit www.aquarionwater.com.

Connecticut Department of Public Health Drinking Water Section:
860-509-7333 or www.ct.gov/dph.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline:
800-426-4791 or www.epa.gov/safewater.

WATER QUALITY TABLE

Your water has been tested for more than 100 compounds that are important to public health. In these five systems, the maximum number of compounds detected was 14, all of which were below the amounts allowed by state and federal law. Most of these compounds are naturally occurring. Monitoring frequency varies from daily to once every nine years per

EPA regulation, depending on the parameter. Our testing encompasses the full range of regulated inorganic, organic and radiological compounds and microbiological and physical parameters. Results shown here are for detected compounds only.

Substance (Units of Measure)	Likely Source	MCLG	MCL	Compliance	Test Date	Average	Range
INORGANIC COMPOUNDS							
Barium (ppm)	Erosion of natural deposits	2	2	YES	2022	0.076	0.076
Copper (ppm)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems	1.3	AL = 1.3	YES	2022	0.17*	
Fluoride (ppm)	Water additive that promotes strong teeth; erosion of natural deposits	4.0	4.0	YES	2022	0.5	0.5
Lead (ppb)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems	0	AL = 15	YES	2022	1**	
Nitrate (ppm)	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits	10	10	YES	2022	1.231	1.231

DISINFECTANT							
Chlorine (ppm)	Water additive used to control microbes	MRDLG 4	MRDL 4	YES	2022	0.59	0.37 - 0.83

ORGANIC COMPOUNDS							
Haloacetic Acids 5 (ppb)	By-product of drinking water chlorination	NA	60	YES	2022	2	2
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	By-product of drinking water chlorination	NA	80	YES	2022	7	7

Continued on page 4

WATER QUALITY TABLE Continued from page 3

Substance (Units of Measure)	Likely Source	MCLG	MCL	Compliance	Test Date	Average	Range
STATE-REQUIRED TESTING — PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS[^]							
Color (CU)	Natural organic matter such as decaying leaves; naturally occurring iron and manganese	NA	15	YES	2022	3	2 - 5
pH	Naturally occurring; water treatment processes	NA	6.4 - 10.0	YES	2022	7.2	7.1 - 7.4
Turbidity (NTU)	Sediment particles; naturally occurring iron and manganese; soil runoff	NA	5	YES	2022	0.42	0.25 - 1.20

STATE-REQUIRED TESTING — INORGANIC COMPOUNDS							
Chloride (ppm)	Naturally present in the environment	NA	250	YES	2022	121	121
Sodium (ppm)	Water treatment processes; use of road salt; naturally present in the environment	NA	NL = 28	NA	2022	55	55
Sulfate (ppm)	Naturally present in the environment	NA	SMCL = 250	NA	2022	37	37

Footnotes and Definitions

AL Action Level:

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

CU Color Units

MCL Maximum Contaminant Level:

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.

MCLG Maximum Contaminant Level Goal:

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.

NA Not Applicable

NL State of Connecticut customer notification level

NTU Nephelometric Turbidity Units, a measure of the presence of particles. Low turbidity is an indicator of high-quality water.

ppb parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/L)

ppm parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

SMCL Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level

* 90th percentile value in copper monitoring. Result is representative of customer sampling stagnant water. No locations exceeded the action level for copper.

** 90th percentile value in lead monitoring. Result is representative of customer sampling stagnant water. No locations exceeded the action level for lead.

[^] Measured at representative locations within the distribution system.

HEALTH EFFECTS:

Sodium: If you have been placed on a sodium-restricted diet, please inform your physician that our water may contain as much as 55 ppm of sodium.

OTHER MONITORED SUBSTANCES

Hardness in Your System

Hardness is a measure of naturally-occurring minerals, like calcium and magnesium, dissolved in the water. Hardness does not have any negative health effects, so it is not regulated by the federal Environmental Protection Agency or the state Department of Public Health. These minerals can create a buildup on fixtures and appliances. Please refer to fixture and appliance manufacturer recommendations on addressing buildup.

Hardness (gpg)	
Test Date	2022
Average	10
Range	10
Source	Erosion of natural deposits

gpg grains per gallon



Monitoring Unregulated Contaminants

Unregulated contaminants are elements that currently have no health standards assigned for drinking water. This table shows only the compounds detected in your system. To learn about the full list of unregulated contaminants included in the monitoring program, please call our Water Quality Department at [800-832-2373](tel:800-832-2373).

Substance (Units of Measure)	Detected Level			Source of Contaminant
	Test Date	Average	Range	
Unregulated Contaminants				
PFOS (ppt)	2022	3	3	Discharges and emissions from industrial sources; manufacturing and use of consumer products.

ppt parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter (ng/L)

PFAS results shown here are for detected compounds with action levels in Connecticut.

YOUR HEALTH IS OUR PRIORITY

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

Here is some additional information of interest about Aquarion's drinking water.

Where Does Your Water Come From?

Your water is collected in wells and delivered to you through an underground piping system. The supply source is ground water drawn from wells in New Fairfield. The Birches System, serving about 40 people, had an average customer demand of 2,700 gallons of water per day (GPD). Company-wide, an average of 17% of the demand is water drawn for firefighting, water main cleaning, water main breaks and leaks, and unauthorized use.

How Is Your Water Treated?

Water from the wells is filtered naturally underground, then disinfected before it is delivered to the distribution system.



Cryptosporidium

The EPA requires public water systems that use surface water sources to monitor for Cryptosporidium. This is a microbial pathogen found in lakes and rivers throughout the U.S. that can cause gastrointestinal illness if consumed. Aquarion continues to meet or exceed state and federal health and treatment standards. In addition, there are no reported cases of waterborne disease due to Cryptosporidium in Aquarion Water Company's drinking water.

Source Water Assessment Report

Connecticut's Department of Public Health (DPH) states in its Source Water Assessment Report that the public drinking water sources in the Birches System have a high susceptibility to potential contamination. To read the DPH reports, visit www.ct.gov/dph.

Copper

Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level* over a relatively short period 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 doctor.

Major sources of copper in drinking water include corrosion of household plumbing systems and erosion of natural deposits.

* The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Immuno-Compromised People

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised people such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people 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 microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 800-426-4791.

LEAD IN DRINKING WATER: THE FACTS

The federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Connecticut's Department of Public Health have established extensive regulations for water utilities to follow regarding lead. If lead is present in drinking water, it can cause numerous harmful effects on a person's health. The EPA has determined there is no safe level of lead.

Aquarion maintains a regular schedule for lead monitoring.

Health Effects

Lead is especially harmful for infants and young children, causing developmental delays, learning difficulties, irritability, loss of appetite, weight loss, sluggishness, fatigue, abdominal pain, vomiting, constipation and hearing loss.

Effects on adults may include high blood pressure, abdominal pain, constipation, joint pains, muscle pain, decline in mental functions such as abstract thinking and focus, numb or painful extremities, headache, memory loss, mood disorders, fertility issues in men, and miscarriage or premature birth in pregnant women.

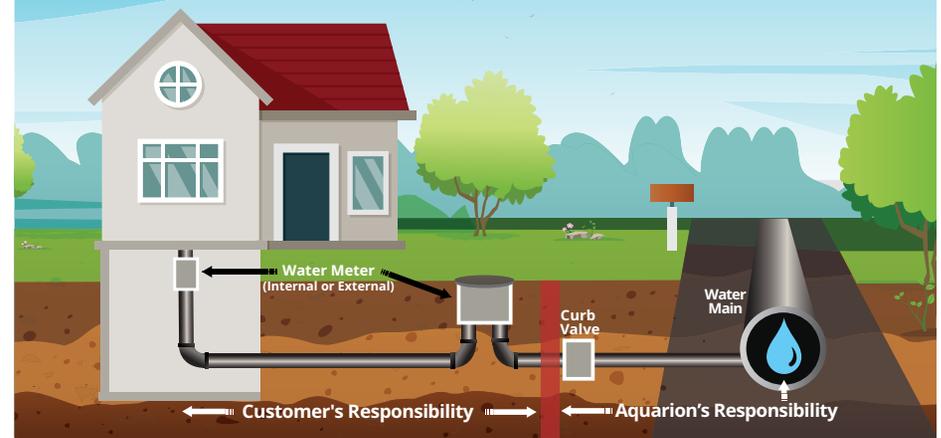
The EPA's Advice

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water comes primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Aquarion Water Company is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components.

Customers can minimize the potential for lead exposure when water has been sitting for several hours by running the tap for 3 to 5 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.

What to do About Lead in a Service Line

A service line is the pipe that connects a customer's premises to Aquarion's water main in the street (see illustration above). Homes built before 1986 may have lead service lines (with a few exceptions, most were installed in



Customer and Aquarion responsibilities shown are representative for most customers.

homes built before 1930), and those built before 1986 may have lead solder and brass fittings (which may have a lead content).

A lead service line can be the primary source of lead in your drinking water, because there is a much greater surface area where lead contacts the water, compared to lead-soldered pipe joints and leaded brass fixtures.

If your house or other structure was built prior to 1988, you should check the service line where it enters the wall of your basement to see if it is made of lead. If it is a lead line, contact Aquarion at [800-732-9678](tel:800-732-9678) for advice on replacing it.

This will help reduce your potential exposure to lead in drinking water.

Other Precautions You Can Take

There are other ways to reduce the risk of lead exposure from your water pipes:

- ✓ If you have not used any of your faucets for a number of hours (for example, overnight or while you are at work), run the water for 3 to 5 minutes. This will bring in fresh water from our water main, which contains no lead.
- ✓ Always use cold water for drinking, cooking and preparing baby formula.
- ✓ Periodically remove and clean the faucet screens/aerators. While doing so, run the tap to eliminate debris.

Aquarion offers more detailed information on lead in drinking water and how to minimize exposure on our website at www.aquarionwater.com/learnaboutlead. You also can call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at [800-426-4791](tel:800-426-4791) or go to www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

WATER PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION

How Aquarion Protects Your Drinking Water

Aquarion Water Company is committed to providing the highest quality water to our customers. Toward that end, we conducted 170,663 water quality tests in 2022 across all our Connecticut systems, and we regularly inspect businesses, farms, homes and other sites that could affect our water supply.

Here are some examples of pollutants that may wash into surface water or seep into groundwater:

- Microbial contaminants from septic systems
- Inorganic contaminants such as road salt or metals
- Pesticides and herbicides from residential uses
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals



You Can Protect Water Too:

- Ensure that your septic system works correctly
- Use chemicals and pesticides sparingly
- Dispose of waste chemicals and used motor oil properly
- Report illegal dumping, chemical spills or other polluting activities to the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's 24-hour hotline at 860-424-3338, call Aquarion at 800-732-9678, or call your local police

Conservation

By reducing water consumption, Aquarion customers have made outstanding progress in ensuring that our area has enough water, no matter what the skies deliver. Many thanks to all the customers who cut back on outdoor sprinkler irrigation and other uses, helping to save more than 2 billion gallons of water across our systems over the last five years. There's still more to do, though. Here are some easy tips on what everyone can do to conserve the supply of this irreplaceable resource:

Reduce excessive irrigation

Get rid of wasteful, "set 'em and forget 'em" timers. Water only when the ground feels dry. Use WaterSense labeled spray sprinkler bodies.

Rely more on the sky

Put a rain barrel under a down-spout to capture rainwater for your garden.

Forget fertilizing

Many use salts that make your lawn less drought-resistant.



Jilt the jiggling

Fix leaky toilets. Watch our step-by-step video at www.aquarionwater.com about finding and fixing leaks. Better yet, upgrade to a new, WaterSense-labeled model to save three or more gallons with every flush.

Put scraps to work

Compost vegetable scraps to nourish your garden, instead of using water to grind them up in your garbage disposal.

For more tips, visit www.aquarionwater.com/conserve.



MYSTIC
AQUARIUM



Stamford Museum
& Nature Center



THE RIDGEFIELD
PLAYHOUSE
Non-profit 501 (c)(3)
Diversity Film Series

FREE Admission Tickets

Be sure to take advantage of the special 2-for-1 ticket deals and other offers that Aquarion has arranged for its customers at great Connecticut attractions. Learn more at www.aquarionwater.com/freetickets.