



# ANNUAL CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

## Monitoring period Jan-Dec 2006

**Block Island Water Company**  
**www.blockislandwater.org**  
New Shoreham, RI  
PWS ID#1858430



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 that we delivered to you in 2006. 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. If after reviewing this report you have any questions, or would like to know more about the Block Island Water Company water system, please contact the Superintendent of the Water Company at (401) 466-3232 or visit our website [www.blockislandwater.org](http://www.blockislandwater.org). You are also invited to attend our regularly scheduled meetings that are held on the first and second Tuesday of every month at the New Shoreham Water Pollution Control Facility located across from the Manisees Hotel. The schedules, agendas, and minutes of all of our meetings are also available online.

### **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**

The Block Island Water Company continues to utilize state-of-the-art Reverse Osmosis (RO) technology to treat all of the water that ends up at your tap. RO technology is a proven leader in the manufacturing and distribution of safe water. The RO system has allowed the Block Island Water Company to implement a level of quality assurance and quality control that exceeds both State and Federal drinking water standards.

Our sources of water are as follows:

- **Wells 5 & 6:** These wells are our primary sources of water. Each well is located within an aquifer 200 feet below the surface.
- **Wells 1, 2 & 3:** These wells are RI Department of Health (RI DOH) approved wells, which can be used in the ROs if they are needed if they are needed. Those wells are located within a shallower aquifer and are capable of producing approximately 70-80 GPM, respectively.
- **Sands Pond:** Sands Pond is currently on stand-by as a back-up supply of water. Due to the high levels of organics within that source we are unable to treat that water within the ROs. If needed, we can treat the water within the old water production system on site.
- **Fresh Pond:** Fresh Pond is a RI DOH approved alternative source of water. The Block Island Water Company (BIWC) does not utilize this source unless all others fail in the event of an emergency. As with Sands Pond, the high levels of organics within Fresh Pond do not allow its treatment within RO technology. However, we can treat the water within the old water production system on site if needed.

The RI Department of Health, in cooperation with other state and federal agencies, has assessed the threats to Block Island Water Company 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. For a copy of the SWPA for Block Island Water Company visit [www.blockislandwater.org](http://www.blockislandwater.org).

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 Block Island Water Company or the Department of Health at (401) 222-6867.

### **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 below 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. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from the January – December 2006 monitoring period. For those contaminants that are monitored less frequently the most recent test results are listed.

Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL's) 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.

2006 TEST RESULTS										
Radioactive Contaminants	Violation Y/N	Level Detected			Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination		
		Well #1, 2, 3	Well #5	Well #6						
Alpha Emitters	N	1.54 (2002)	** (2002)	4.16 (2003)	pCi/L	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits		
Beta/Photon Emitters*	N	** (2002)	4.60 (2002)	7.61 (2003)	pCi/L	0	50*	Decay of natural and man-made deposits		
Combined Radium	N	** (2002)	0.53 (2002)	2.81 (2003)	pCi/L	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits		
Inorganic Contaminants	Violation Y/N	Level Detected					Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
		Well #1, 2, 3	Well #5	Well #6	Fresh Pond	Sand Pond				
Barium	N	0.06	0.11	0.11	**	**	ppm	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	N	0.26	**	**	0.10	**	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

\*The EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for Beta/Photon Emitters

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

DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM TEST RESULTS						
Inorganic Contaminants	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (2005)	N	0.16	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead* (2005)	N	10	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
Chlorine	N	Average: 0.20 Range: 0.16 - 0.24	ppm	MRDLG 4	MRDL 4	Water additive used to control microbes.

\*There were two sites that exceeded the Lead AL. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at 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). **Lead:** Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

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

**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.

**Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)** - Picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

**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.

The State of Rhode Island requires testing for other contaminants not regulated by the US EPA. The following contaminant was detected in Block Island Water Company's water:

- **Sodium:** Sodium was detected at a level of 34.2 mg/L in Well #1,2,3, 37.3 mg/L in Well #5, 23.6 mg/L in Well #6, 11.8 mg/L in Fresh Pond and 14.8 mg/L in Sand Pond.

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).

We at the Block Island Water Company 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.

## Unrepaired Leaks Can Be Costly

Water Loss in Gallons		
Leak this Size	Loss per Day	Loss per Month
•	120	3,600
•	360	10,800
•	693	20,790
•	1,200	36,000
•	1,920	57,600
•	3,096	92,880
•	4,296	128,880
•	6,640	199,200
•	6,984	209,520
•	8,424	252,720
•	9,888	296,640
•	11,324	339,720
•	12,720	381,600
•	14,952	448,560

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[www.blockislandwater.org](http://www.blockislandwater.org)

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