

# 2004 Consumer Confidence Report

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## **Is my water safe?**

Last year, as in years past, your tap water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards. The Candlewood Knolls Water Authority vigilantly safeguards its water supplies and once again we are proud to report that our system has not violated a maximum contaminant level. We did have 2 months in which our distribution pH was slightly under the State guideline and 1 month in which our distribution turbidity and color exceeded State guidelines, but these occurrences, by themselves are not unsafe conditions but are indicators of potential problems under certain circumstances. In each of these cases, subsequent testing indicated that our water was back in accordance with State guidelines.

## **Do I need to take special precautions?**

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).

## **Where does my water come from?**

Our water system is 22 years old. We provide both seasonal and year round water to subscribers in accordance with their needs. All of our mains are laid below the frost line and capable of year round water service. Our wells are deep artesian wells which predate the existing system. Our water source is basically ground water and comes from the water shed west of Candlewood Lake in the Town of New Fairfield and extends to the New York State Line

## **Source water assessment and its availability**

The State of Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) in cooperation with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) recently completed an assessment of sources of public drinking water maintained and operated by Candlewood Knolls Water Authority. This one-time assessment is part of a nationwide effort mandated by Congress under the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996 to evaluate the susceptibility of all public drinking water sources in Connecticut to potential sources of contamination. DPH began working in partnership with the DEP in 1997 to develop Connecticut's Source Water Assessment Program, which was approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 1999. Sources of potential contamination that are of concern to public drinking water supplies here in Connecticut are generally associated with historic waste disposal or commercial, industrial, agricultural and residential properties that store or use hazardous materials like petroleum products, solvents or agricultural chemicals.

The assessment is intended to provide Candlewood Knolls Water Authority consumers with information about where their public drinking water comes from, sources of potential contamination that could impact it, and what can be done to help protect it. This assessment will also assist the public water supply system, regional planners, local government, public health officials and state agencies in evaluating the degree to which the three wells may be at risk from potential sources of contamination.

The assessment can be used to target and implement enhanced source water protection measures such as routine inspections, protective land use regulations, acquisition of critical land, proper septic system maintenance, and public education. General sources of contamination with the potential to impact these wells include properties with underground fuel storage tanks, improperly maintained on-site septic systems, improper waste disposal, or commercial/industrial sites that store or use chemicals or generate hazardous wastes.

The State assessment for the Candlewood Knolls Water system was completed in April of 2003. Copies of the report are available at the Candlewood Knolls Office or can be found on the Connecticut Department of Health, Drinking Water Division's web site at:

<http://www.dph.state.ct.us/BRS/Water/DWD.htm>

The results of the assessment indicate a high quality water source and no additional requirements were imposed on us as a result of this assessment.

## **Why 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). 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, that 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 be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. 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.

### **How can I get involved?**

The Candlewood Knolls Water Authority (CKWA) is a committee of Candlewood Knolls residents who volunteer to monitor and oversee the operation of the Candlewood Knolls water system for the good of the community. Twice each year, during annual meetings of the Candlewood Knolls Community, Inc. (which owns the water system), the CKWA reports to the community. During this time any questions or concerns from community members can be raised in person. At any other time water system users can contact the CKWA through the Candlewood Knolls office.

Consumers can take an active roll in maintaining the quality of water and overall operation of our water system by complying with the rules and regulations for water system users.

### **Other Information**

Please visit the Candlewood Knolls website at:

<http://www.candlewoodknolls.com>

and Click on the Water Authority link for more useful information

### **Monitoring and reporting of compliance data violations**

During calendar year 2004 we experienced 3 water quality violations, 1 each for distribution ph, distribution color and distribution turbidity. None of these violations is in itself a health issue, but rather an indicator of potential future problems. In the case of the distribution ph violation, this is actually a quite typical value, but the state changed its rules in 2004 defining this as a violation.

The color and turbidity violations were directly attributable to a low water condition encountered in July of 2004. This was quickly addressed by replacing a malfunctioning pump. There have been no repeat violations of these physical parameters since.

### **Record keeping violations**

During calendar year 2004, the Candlewood Knolls water authority was cited for 1 violation of monitoring and reporting regulations of the CT statutory regulations. This consisted of a failure to monitor and report for the period 9/1/2004 to 9/30/2004. This violation was a result of our testing contractor to perform the required tests. Tests prior to and subsequent to this period were well within State limits for all tests. We paid a fine (which was reimbursed by our testing contractor), and we have been in full compliance since. This violation was reported via mailing to all subscribers in January of 2005. (Note: the January 2005 report was for failure to report monitoring of coliform. The monthly tests of physical parameters utilizes the same water sample and was therefore also missed. This resulted in a separate fine and subscriber notification in 2005 in spite of the fact that the 2 violations were in fact only one violation.)

## Unit Descriptions

<u>Term</u>	<u>Definition</u>
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

## Important Drinking Water Definitions

<u>Term</u>	<u>Definition</u>
MCLG	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.
MCL	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.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection level goal. The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
MRDL	MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level. The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

### For more information please contact:

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CANDLEWOOD KNOLLS WATER AUTHORITY

TEST DATA

DEFINITIONS:

MCL - Maximum Contaminant Level - The highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.

MCLG - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - The level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

TT - Treatment Technique - A required process intended to reduce the level of contaminant in drinking water.

ND - None Detected

**Tests Required Monthly**  
**Coliform and Physicals**

	<b>Coliform</b>	<b>PH</b>	<b>Color</b>	<b>Turbidity</b>	<b>Odor</b>
<b>MCL/MGCL</b>	0	6.4-10*	15	5	2
<b>Avg. of 11 monthly tests for 2004 (no 9/04 test)</b>	0	6.34	6.82	0.95	0.10
<b>Latest results (12/04)</b> (* Suggested range US Public Health Service, No state MCL defined)	0	6.10	5	.30	0

**Tests Required Annually**  
**Nitrite and Nitrate**

	<b>Nitrite</b>	<b>Nitrate</b>
<b>MCL</b>	1	10
1/7/04	<.005	1.65

**Tests Required Every 3 Years:**

**Inorganic Chemicals**

8/6/2002      21 chemicals      All tests under the MCL

**Organic Chemicals (VOC's)**

8/6/2002      66 compounds      All tests under the MCL

**Pesticides and Herbicides (SOC's)**

6/7/2004      94 compounds      All tests under the MCL

**Lead and Copper**

9/23/2004      5 locations tested      All tests well below the action level

**Tests Required every 4 years**  
**Radiochemicals**

8/06/02      Gross Alpha-0.16      MCL - 15

**Tests Required every 9 years**

**Asbestos**

5/15/03      ND      MCL - 7

*All test results are on file in the Office. We will be happy to provide a copy upon request.  
Donald R. Lynch, PE (NY), PhD  
Chairman, Candlewood Knolls Water Authority*