



## East Montpelier Fire District No. 1

PO Box 84 • East Montpelier, VT 05651 • 802-223-0803

July 13, 2016

Dear Crystal Springs Customer:

You received a hand written note on the bottom of your last Consumer Confidence Report (which was included in your July water bill) that effectively blamed the Fire District and the community of refusing to negotiate with the water company's owner to purchase the water system.

As your Fire District Prudential Committee, we were very surprised at the content and tone of the note, and feel that we are compelled to respond to the community. We are deeply frustrated at the water company's refusal to negotiate in good faith, and the baseless accusation that the community has not done our part to purchase the system.

The Fire District was formed (with volunteers) as a direct result of Crystal Springs Water Company coming to the state and town to request a committee be formed to explore the purchase and operation of the water supply for the public good. We had community meetings and then formed a committee to begin research.

The volunteer members of the committee worked with the East Montpelier Select Board and ultimately formed a Fire District. We carefully explored the process around the potential of purchasing and operating the water supply, including commissioning a engineering feasibility study that showed in very clear terms how much the members of the Fire District could afford to pay for the water system.

Ultimately we invited Crystal Springs to a meeting at which the engineers presented the study findings, and began negotiations. After 5 years of work and many hours of meetings, the water company's owner came to a meeting and announced that the price for the Crystal Springs Water Company was \$550,000, and that was the firm price.

The Feasibility study showed the maximum that the Fire District could possibly pay for the water system was around \$200,000 and even at that figure, it would have resulted in a small rate increase once necessary capital improvements to the system were made to bring the system into compliance with Vermont water supply regulations. Any purchase price more than that figure would result directly in significantly higher rates to Crystal Springs customers, who already pay more than any other state in the nation for public drinking water (source: *AARP Bulletin*, June 2016).

As representatives of the ratepayers in the Fire District, we were floored by this figure and deeply dismayed at the subsequent refusal to even discuss a lower price. At that point negotiations broke down and no further action has been taken. Most recently, the Fire District Prudential Committee has signaled to the Town that we are considering the dissolution of the Fire District as it appears that no purchase is likely to occur.



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We regret that this appears to be the final outcome of nearly 7 years of volunteer work on the part of the members of the Prudential Committee, but ultimately it's not up to us. Please feel free to contact any member of the Prudential Committee members for further information.

Respectfully,

Steve Gilman 272-5343 [steve@rbtechvt.com](mailto:steve@rbtechvt.com)  
Bob Morey 229-0092 [bobmoreyvt@gmail.com](mailto:bobmoreyvt@gmail.com)  
Rubin Bennett 249-1101 [rubin@rbtechvt.com](mailto:rubin@rbtechvt.com)

Prudential Committee Members  
East Montpelier Fire District No. 1

JUL 5 2016

# CRYSTAL SPRINGS WATER SYSTEM – VT0005264

## Consumer Confidence Report – 2015

This report is a snapshot of the quality of the water that we provided in 2015. Included are the details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. To learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings which are held:

April 5 - 10:00 AM (date/time) at 111 Freedom Dr. Montpelier, VT (location).

The person who can answer questions about this report is: (print) DEANE F. HEDGES

Telephone: 802-223-5060 and/ or Email RAYLENE.HEDGES@gmail.com

### Water Source Information

Your water comes from

Source Name	Source Water Type
SPRING #1	Groundwater
SPRING #2	Groundwater
SPRING #4	Groundwater

The State of Vermont Water Supply Rule requires Public Community Water Systems to develop a Source Protection Plan. This plan delineates a source protection area for our system and identifies potential and actual sources of contamination. Please contact us if you are interested in reviewing the plan.

### Drinking Water Contaminants

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include surface water (streams, lakes) and ground water (wells, springs). As water travels over the land's surface or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals. It also picks up substances resulting from the presence of animals and human activity. Some "contaminants" may be harmful. Others, such as iron and sulfur, are not harmful. Public water systems treat water to remove contaminants, if any 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 the State of Vermont. These regulations limit the amount of various contaminants:

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 storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.

Pesticides and herbicides, may come from a variety of sources such as storm water run-off, agriculture, and residential users.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or the result of mining activity

Organic contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also come from gas stations, urban storm water run-off, and septic systems.

### Water Quality Data

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the past year. It also includes the date and results of any contaminants that we detected within the past five years if tested less than once a year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily show that the water poses a health risk.

Terms and abbreviations - In this table you may find terms you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we have provided the following definitions:

Maximum Contamination Level Goal (MCLG): The "Goal" is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to human health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Contamination Level (MCL): The "Maximum Allowed" MCL is 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 Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): 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 disinfectants in controlling microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. Addition a disinfectant may help control microbial contaminants.

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which 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).

Treatment Technique (TT): A process aimed to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l): (one penny in ten thousand dollars)

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (µg/l): (one penny in ten million dollars)

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L): a measure of radioactivity in water

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU): NTU is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA): The average of sample analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during four consecutive calendar quarters.

Running Annual Average (RAA): The average of 4 consecutive quarters (when on quarterly monitoring); values in table represent the highest RAA for the year.

### Detected Contaminants CRYSTAL SPRINGS WATER SYSTEM

Disinfection Residual	RAA	Range	Unit	MRDL	MRDLG	Typical Source
Chlorine	0.354	0.200 - 0.800	mg/l	4.0	4.0	Water additive to control microbes

Microbiological	Result	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
	No Detected Results were Found in the Calendar Year of 2015			

Chemical Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
Nitrate	07/01/2015	1.6	1.6 - 1.6	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate-Nitrite	08/16/2012	1.9	1.9 - 1.9	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

Radionuclides	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
Combined Radium	05/30/2012	0.366	0.366 - 0.366	pCi/L	5	0	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium-228	05/30/2012	0.366	0.366 - 0.366	pCi/L	5	0	Erosion of natural deposits

Disinfection ByProducts	Monitoring Period	LRAA	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
No Detected Results were Found							

Lead and Copper	Date	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	95 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	Range	Unit	AL	Sites Over AL	Typical Source
Lead	2015	0	0	0 - 0	ppb	15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper	2015	0.049	0.07	0 - 0.091	ppm	1.3	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives

**Violation(s) that occurred during the year**

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. The below table lists any drinking water violations we incurred during 2015. A failure to perform required monitoring means we cannot be sure of the quality of our water during that time.

Type	Category	Analyte	Compliance Period
FAILURE ADDRESS DEFICIENCY (GWR)	Treatment Technique Violation	GROUNDWATER RULE	12/18/2015 -
WATER SUPPLY RULE VIOLATIONS	Water Supply Rule Violation		12/18/2015 -

**Additional information (including steps taken to correct any violations listed above)**

*All deficiency on page 4 were corrected except number 1. The Home inspection of the booster pump was not possible until owner returned from Florida*

**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.

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. CRYSTAL SPRINGS 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

**Public Notice - Permit to Operate Issued December 18, 2015:** The Water System is required to notify all users of the following compliance schedule contained in the Permit to Operate issued by the State of Vermont Agency of Natural Resources:

1. On or before July 30, 2015 the Permittee shall provide detailed sketches or documentation identifying the construction of each in-home booster pump setup, establish and submit a protocol and procedure for annual inspecting and maintaining the air gaps provided at each unit, and seek the approval of the Secretary for the in-home booster pumps serving the water system.
2. On or before July 30, 2015, the Permittee shall install a new spring box cover on Spring 2 to be made from materials approved for drinking water construction and meeting the requirements of the Rule.
3. On or before July 30, 2015, the Permittee shall install a new spring box cover on Spring 4 to be made from materials approved for drinking water construction and meeting the requirements of the Rule.
4. On or before July 30, 2015, the Permittee shall install a new storage tank access cover to be made from materials approved for drinking water construction and meeting the requirements of the Rule.
5. On or before July 30, 2015, the Permittee shall submit an improvement plan and schedule for how it intends to provide adequate disinfection application and disinfection contact time for water produced by all sources.

**Public Notice - Uncorrected Significant Deficiencies:** The system is required to inform the public of any significant deficiencies identified during a sanitary survey conducted by the Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division that have not yet been corrected. For more information please refer to the schedule for compliance in the system's Operating Permit.

Date Identified	Deficiency	Facility
05/31/2013	Inadequate Cross-Connection Controls (inline booster pump(s))	DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

To be completed by the Water System: *by July 30, 2016*

List interim measures, progress to date and any interim measures completed for deficiencies listed above.

*inspection of the booster pumps completed, secretary approval pending*

**Distribution information**

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place and distributing copies by hand or mail.

*We have financed the rebuilt with our own money at very low interest rates and run the company with volunteer help to keep the rates low. It's time for the community to step up and run their own water system like other towns have done.*

*There hasn't been any rate increase for over 20 yrs. Due to the town increasing our property taxes 600%, we don't have any choice but to increase the rates \$50. per customer to cover the additional taxes.*

*If the fire district would buy the water company, they could eliminate the property tax and possibly eliminate a need for a rate increase.*

## ■ Rhode Island

**Stay healthy** AARP Rhode Island encourages residents living with a chronic disease to take control of their health with help from a popular self-management program. ■ Sponsored by AARP and the state Department of Health, Living Well Rhode Island offers free six-week workshops for people with chronic conditions such as asthma, arthritis, cancer, COPD, chronic pain, diabetes and heart disease. Participants learn how to manage their symptoms, work with a health care team, eat well, exercise and set goals to achieve better health. Classes are offered in both English and Spanish. ■ “This empowering program is especially valued in the state’s growing Hispanic community, where diabetes is a common concern among many adults,” said Kathleen Connell, AARP state director. ■ To learn more, go to [health.ri.gov](http://health.ri.gov) and enter “chronic disease” in the search box, or call the state Department of Health at 401-222-5960.

## ■ Vermont

**Focus on issues** As the state gears up to elect its next governor, AARP is offering members a chance to meet the candidates and learn their positions on issues important to Vermonters age 50-plus. AARP will host an information and training session for those interested in talking with candidates about their plans to improve transportation infrastructure, for example, or to keep utilities affordable. Volunteers will facilitate discussions of key issues at town hall meetings and other events, or through social media. ■ “This is a great chance to get involved in the race for governor without getting tangled in partisan politics,” said Greg Marchildon, AARP state director. ■ The session will be held at the AARP state office, 199 Main St., Suite 225, in Burlington, on Friday, July 1, from 10 a.m. to noon. Snacks will be provided.

## ■ New Hampshire

**Next steps** Many boomers are facing life transitions and trying to answer the question “What’s next?” The AARP Life Reimagined program helps people make such decisions and take first steps along their chosen path. ■ AARP New Hampshire is offering a 90-minute Life Reimagined Checkup on Saturday, June 25, at 10:30 a.m. at the Millyard Museum in downtown Manchester. Through a series of easy exercises, the Checkup provides tools and advice to help users make progress on major transitions in areas such as work, relationships and well-being. ■ “The Checkup is a fun, contemplative way to begin the process of discovering your own personal pathway,” said Sarah Kelsea, AARP associate state director for community outreach. ■ The program is free, but registration is required. Free admission to the museum is included. For more information or to sign up, go to [aarp.cvent.com/LRMillyard](http://aarp.cvent.com/LRMillyard).

## ■ Maine

**Financial security** AARP is reaching out to small-business owners in Maine to find out what challenges they face in offering retirement savings plans to their employees. ■ Among workers who don’t have access to a 401(k) or similar plan, only about 10 percent save for retirement. By contrast, among those whose employer sponsors a plan, more than 70 percent of workers save. And if the employer’s plan is set up for automatic enrollment, more than 90 percent of workers participate, even if they could opt out. ■ In 2014, the typical working household has saved only about \$3,000 for retirement. About 235,000 households do not have access to an employer-sponsored plan. ■ The state office wants to hear from members about their experiences with saving for retirement. To share your story, email [maine@aarpp.org](mailto:maine@aarpp.org) or call 866-554-5380.

## ■ New York

**Dollars and sense** AARP is presenting workshops statewide to give New Yorkers the information and tools they need to create a comfortable retirement. The workshops cover topics such as entrepreneurship, saving and financial planning. ■ “In times of economic uncertainty, all use a little help sharpening their financial skills,” said Regina AARP associate state director for multicultural outreach. ■ 10 percent of Gen Xers and 20 percent of boomers lack any retirement savings plan, whether work-sponsored or personal. ■ Find a workshop in your community—or for videos, tips and other helpful resources—on [aarp.org/ny](http://aarp.org/ny). —Will Yandik

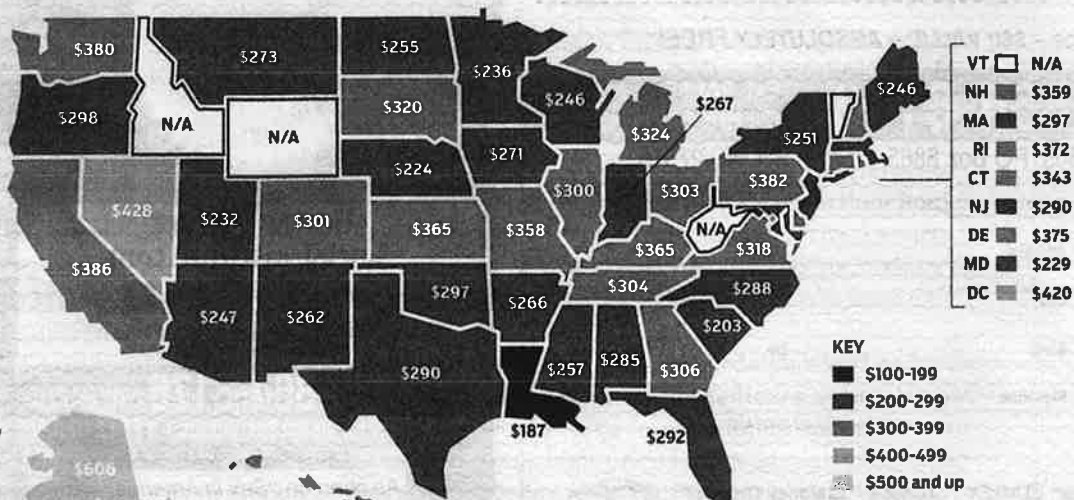
## Databank USA

### Public Water Costs

Average annual household bills

CRYSTAL SPRINGS

\$42 x 12 = \$504/yr



SOURCE: FOOD & WATER WATCH

KEY  
 ■ \$100-199  
 ■ \$200-299  
 ■ \$300-399  
 ■ \$400-499  
 ■ \$500 and up  
 COSTS AS OF JANUARY 2015, ROUNDED TO THE NEAREST DOLLAR, ASSUMING 60,000 GALLONS A YEAR PER HOUSEHOLD  
 N/A — NONE OF THE 500 LARGEST COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEMS ARE LOCATED HERE (VT, WV), OR THE SYSTEM IS PRIVATELY OWNED (ID, WY).

For other state news, go to [aarp.org/states](http://aarp.org/states)