

A WATER QUALITY REPORT – 2026

Issued By: Bennington College
One College Drive
Bennington, VT 05201
802-442-5401

For Calendar Year 2025

WSID: 20184

Owner/Official:

Associate Vice President of Facilities:

Water System Operator:

Nicholas Stephens

Angel Kwasniak

Burr B. Snow

802-442-5401

802-440-4586

802-375-3622 (cell)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has directed that beginning in October 1999, every public water system in the nation must present to each of its water customers a report on water quality. This report includes some mandated language and information as dictated by EPA, which may not be totally applicable to our system. Included, however, are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Federal and State standards.

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).

All 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.

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 materials, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animal or human activity. Some contaminants can be harmful, like bacteria. Other contaminants are not, for example, calcium and iron.

Water Source Information:

Vermont Source Type:	Purchased
EPA Source Type:	Surface, purchased
Source Name:	North Bennington Water Department
Location:	Basin Brook, Our Water Source, is a 1.2 Square Mile Watershed

There are five gravel screen wells. Basin Brook is a surface stream. The five wells are under the influence of surface water from Basin Brook water shed. All source water is stored in two reservoirs (6.5 million gallon capacity). All water is filtered by the North Bennington filtration plant prior to distribution. All necessary treatment is provided after filtration. Treatment includes chlorination, PH adjustment and corrosion control. **NO** fluoride is added to the water. The water is then fed by pressure to a storage tank/pump station, providing the Bennington College community with safe drinking water and adequate fire protection.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA and the State of Vermont prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems.

Contaminants that may be present in source water before it's treated:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock, 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, which may come from a variety of sources, such as agriculture, urban storm-water 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 storm-water runoff, septic systems, and careless disposal of household chemicals.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

The North Bennington Water Department has had a source protection plan in place since April 12, 1995, which better describes potential sources of contamination, and measures taken to avoid contaminations.

Water Quality Data Terms and abbreviations: The definitions below are provided to help you better understand the tables that follow.

- o **Level 1 Assessment:** A level 1 Assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.
- o **Level 2 Assessment:** A level 2 Assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. Coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.
- o **Maximum Contamination Level Goal (MCLG):** This 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.
- o **Maximum Contamination Level (MCL):** 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.
- o **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.
- o **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. Additionally, a disinfectant may help control microbial contaminants.
- o **Action Level:** The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment, or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- o **Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- o **90th Percentile:** When all test results are listed numerically from high to low, the top 9% are discounted. The next number (90th percentile) is used as the triggering number to determine if an MCL has been exceeded.
- o **Picocuries per liter (Pci/L):** a measure of radioactivity in water
- o **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.

- o **Locational Running Annual Average: (LRAA):** The average of sample analytical results for samples Taken at a particular monitoring location during four consecutive calendar quarters.
- o **Running Annual Average (RAA):** The average of 4 consecutive quarters (when on quarterly monitoring); values in the table represent the highest RAA for the year.
- o **N/A:** Not Applicable
- o **Parts per million (ppm) or milligrams per liter (mg/L):** (one penny in ten thousand dollars).
- o **Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (ug/L):** (one penny in ten million dollars).
- o **Total Coliform:** Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present.

Per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS): a group of over 4,000 human-made chemicals(they do not occur naturally) that have been used in industry and consumer products worldwide and includes:

(PFNA):	Perfluorononanoic Acid
(PFOA):	Perfluorooctanoic Acid
(PFOS):	Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid
(PFHpA):	Perfluoroheptanoic Acid
(PFHxS):	Perfluorohexane Sulfonic Acid
(11Cl-PF3OOuS):	11-Chloroeicosafluoro-3-oxaundecane-1-sulfonic Acid
(9Cl-PF3OONS):	9-Chlorohexadecafluoro-3-oxanonane-1-sulfonic Acid
(DONA):	4,8 - Dioxo-3H-perfluorononanoic Acid
(HFPO-DA):	Hexafluoropropylene Oxide Dimer Acid
(NEtFOSAA):	N-ethyl perfluorooctanesulfonamidoacetic Acid
(NMeFOSAA):	N-methyl perfluorooctanesulfonamidoacetic Acid
(PFBS):	Perfluorobutane Sulfonic Acid
(PFDA):	Perfluorodecanoic Acid
(PFDaA):	Perfluorododecanoic Acid
(PFHxA):	Perfluorohexanoic Acid
(PFTA):	Perfluorotetradecanoic Acid
(PFTrDA):	Perfluorotridecanoic Acid
(PFUnA):	Perfluoroundecanoic Acid

LEVEL OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS

The following tables list all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2025 calendar year or before. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

Detected Contaminants: BENNINGTON COLLEGE

Microbiological	Result	MCL*	MCLG	Typical Source
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No detected Results were found in the Calendar Year of 2025. *As of April 1, 2016, there is no MCL for total coliform. Instead more than 1 positive monthly sample requires a treatment technique.

Disinfection Residual	RRA	Range	Unit	MRDL	MRDLG	Typical Source
Chlorine	0.342	0.100-0.600	mg/l	4.0	4.0	Water additive to control microbes

Disinfecti on By Products	Monitori ng Period	Sample Location	Highest LRAA	Range	Unit	MC L	MCL G	Typical Source
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2025	Pump Station (B4 Storage tank)	36	14-67	ppb	60	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomet -hanes (TTHM)	2025	Faculty Row F3	41	27-59	ppb	80	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection

LEAD & COPPER ACTION LEVELS

Lead & Copper	Date	90 th Percentile	Range	Unit	AL*	Sites Over AL	Typical Source
Copper,	9/11/2025-9/15/2025	0.13	0.027-0.17	ppm	1.3	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Lead	9/11/2025-9/25/2025	2.6	0 - 5.5	ppb	15.0	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

* The lead and copper AL (Action Level) exceedance is based on the 90th percentile concentration, not the highest detected result. Individual sample results are available.

Complete lead tap sampling data (i.e. each individual sample result) are available for review. Please contact us if you would like to receive this data.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least a small amount 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 or visiting the website at <https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

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. BENNINGTON COLLEGE is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and you wish to have your water tested, contact BENNINGTON COLLEGE. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

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.

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 table below lists any drinking water violations we incurred during 2025. 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
CCR Report	Failure to Report	Consumer Confidence Rule	7/1/2025-11/12/2025

Explanation: Last year's report had to be re-issued due to information error, therefore, considered late according to the rule.

Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR) TT Violation(s)

No RTCR TT Violations

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
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No Significant Deficiencies

Additional Information:

These reports, now a national requirement, will come to you annually. We hope you find them informative. If you wish to learn more about your drinking water or review a source protection plan, regular meetings are held monthly on the second Tuesday after the first Wednesday at 7:00pm. Meetings are at the Railroad Station in North Bennington, VT.

