

## Harrisville Fire District Pollution Risk Assessment Results

The **Harrisville Fire District** (PWSID 1858411) is a community water system in Burrillville that serves approximately 2,592 residents through 1,037 service connections. Harrisville also sells water to the Pascoag Fire District. The water system consists of two gravel packed wells near Batty Brook and three wells at Eccelston Field. Water is treated for corrosion control and then discharged from two storage tanks to the distribution network. The last sanitary survey was June 8, 2000. For further information contact James McCormick at 115 Central Street, Harrisville, RI 02830.

### Treatment:

The water is treated with potassium hydroxide for corrosion control and sodium hypochlorite for disinfection.

The **Source Protection Area** was drawn based on RI DEM's estimation of where the water pumped from the well originates. For more information, contact RI DEM's Office of Water Resources. The protection area near Batty Brook is about 1¼ mile North to South and 1/3 mile East to West. It is mostly wooded with low to moderate density residential development. The Eccelston Field protection area is about 1 mile Northeast to Southwest and 1/3 mile Northwest to Southeast. It is wooded with moderate to high density residential development and a recreational area close to the well. Cropland, commercial and transportation land uses are also located within the area.

### Sample Summary (for the previous 5 years)

- ▲ Fecal coliform bacteria were detected once. Corrective action was taken and re-sampling revealed that the problem had been corrected.
- ▲ Nitrate levels in groundwater are somewhat higher than background levels, which may indicate contribution from human activity.
- ▲ No violations of the standards for regulated contaminants (excluding bacteria and nitrates) have been identified. However, there have been detections below levels considered acceptable by US EPA. This indicates the need for continued monitoring.

**This report** summarizes assessment results for this water system. The assessment identifies both known and potential sources of pollution occurring in the source protection area,



Susceptibility To Contamination		
Low	√ Moderate	High

**Note:** A ranking of **MODERATE** means that the water could become contaminated one day. Protection efforts are important to assure continued water quality.

and ranks the water source based on the likelihood of future contamination. The goal of this study is to help water suppliers, local officials, residents and consumers to learn more about source water protection. Because water quality is directly related to land use activities, everyone living or working in the source protection area has a role to play in keeping local water supplies safe.

### POLLUTION RISKS:

- ▲ High-intensity land uses, including residential development, a gravel pit, and an athletic field, are densely clustered near the wells.
- ▲ Several roads are located near the wells, increasing the risk of hazardous material spills and road salt contamination.
- ▲ Sampling indicates that the source is vulnerable to contamination.
- ▲ Underground storage tanks and leaking underground storage tanks are located inside the Source Protection Area.

### PROTECTION OPPORTUNITIES:

- ▲ The wellhead protection areas consist of some undeveloped forestland, which protects water quality.
- ▲ The town can implement land use controls and programs to protect these areas from high-intensity development.
- ▲ The town and supplier can encourage farmers and businesses to use best management practices in handling potential contaminants.
- ▲ Residents can follow the guidelines on the back to reduce the impact of common household

### Source Water

The focus of these assessments is on public drinking water supply "source" areas—the *wellhead protection area* that recharges a well or the *watershed* that drains to a surface water reservoir. Source water is untreated water from streams, lakes, reservoirs, or underground aquifers that is used to supply drinking water.

Source Water Assessments were conducted by the R.I. Department of Health in collaboration with the University of Rhode Island Cooperative Extension (URI CE) under the Rhode Island Source Water Assessment Program. This is part of a national initiative, established under the 1996 Amendments to the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), to foster more comprehensive protection of drinking water supplies at the local, state, and national levels.

**Table 1.** High-intensity land uses identified within the source water protection area that have the potential to contaminate drinking water.

Land Use Category	Associated Contaminants <sup>1</sup>	% of Protection Area
% Residential	Nutrients, Pathogens, VOCs, SOCs	24.9%
% Commercial, Industrial, Institutional	VOCs, SOCs, Solvents, Inorganics	9.1%
% Intensive Agriculture	Nutrients, Pathogens, VOCs, SOCs	1.1%

<sup>1</sup>Potential contaminants include nutrients (nitrates and phosphorus from fertilizers and human and animal waste), pathogens (bacteria, viruses, and other microorganisms that can cause disease); volatile organic compounds (VOCs) found in fuels and solvents; synthetic organic compounds (SOCs), such as pesticides and plastics; and inorganics, including metals and other substances that can harm human health in high concentrations.



Figure 2. Areas of high-intensity land use are shown in dark gray.

## What You Can Do To Protect Water Quality

### Public Water Suppliers:

- ▲ Implement all recommendations in the latest Sanitary Survey.
- ▲ Protect undeveloped land within the wellhead or watershed protection area. Work with municipal boards and government as needed to implement land use protection measures and education programs.
- ▲ Post signs alerting public to Wellhead or Watershed Protection Area.
- ▲ Inspect water supply and protection area regularly for potential pollution sources.

### Municipal Boards and Government:

- ▲ Develop a groundwater protection plan and ordinance and supporting protective zoning regulations, such as limits of paved surface areas within new developments
- ▲ Incorporate groundwater and source water protection goals into the Comprehensive Plan.
- ▲ Implement on-site wastewater management or sewer maintenance plans and ordinances.
- ▲ Develop programs for land acquisition, conservation easements, or other critical lands protection.
- ▲ Adopt a stormwater management plan and ordinance.
- ▲ Establish a community education and outreach program that promotes residential pollution prevention and best management practices for the Public Works Department.

### Residents:

- ▲ Inspect septic systems annually and pump as needed.
- ▲ Replace/repair cesspools and failing septic systems.
- ▲ Reduce fertilizer and pesticide use.
- ▲ Reduce stormwater runoff by limiting paved surface areas and maintaining good vegetative cover.
- ▲ Pick up after your pets.
- ▲ Properly use, store, and dispose of hazardous products.
- ▲ Properly maintain motor vehicles and fuel storage tanks. Consider replacing underground storage tanks with properly contained above-ground tanks.
- ▲ Check all municipal laws that may apply.

### Farmers and Landowners: *Develop conservation plans on agricultural and forest lands that:*

- ▲ Reduce soil erosion, sediment, and stormwater runoff.
- ▲ Address proper nutrient, manure, pest, and irrigation water management.
- ▲ Address proper fuel storage and equipment maintenance.
- ▲ Conserve water, improve soil health, and protect surrounding natural resources.
- ▲ Check all federal and state laws that apply.

### Commercial and Industrial Businesses:

*Adhere to all laws, regulations, and recommended practices for:*

- ▲ Hazardous waste management
- ▲ Above- and underground storage tanks
- ▲ Wastewater discharge
- ▲ Floor drains
- ▲ Proper training for all employees

## For More Information

R.I. Department of Health, Office of Drinking Water Quality,  
 (401) 222-6867, [www.healthri.org/environment/dwq/Home.htm](http://www.healthri.org/environment/dwq/Home.htm)  
 URI CE Home\*A\*Syst Program (401) 874-5398, [www.uri.edu/ce/wq](http://www.uri.edu/ce/wq)  
 URI CE Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials (401) 874-2138, [www.uri.edu/ce/wq](http://www.uri.edu/ce/wq)  
 Local Municipal Boards and Government, contact town/city hall  
 R.I. DEM Office of Water Resources (401) 222-4700, [www.state.ri.us/DEM/programs/benviiron/water/index.htm](http://www.state.ri.us/DEM/programs/benviiron/water/index.htm)  
 USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Conservation District Offices,  
 (401) 828-1300, [www.ri.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ri.nrcs.usda.gov)

