

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

#### **Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) MCL Violation at Slatersville Public Supply**

PWS# RI1615614

Our water system violated a drinking water standard over the past year. Although this was not an emergency, as our customers, you have the right to know what happened and what we did to correct the situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Testing results from 10/1/2025 to 12/31/2025 (Quarter 4 2025) show that our system exceeds the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for Total Trihalomethanes, also known as TTHM. The standard for TTHM is 80 ug/l (Parts Per Billion or PPB). It is determined by averaging all the samples collected at each sampling location for the past 12 months. The level of TTHM averaged at one of our system's locations for 10/1/2025 to 12/31/2025 (Quarter 4 2025) was 89.5 ug/l (PPB).

#### What should I do?

- THERE IS NOTHING YOU NEED TO DO. You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. If a situation arises where the water is no longer safe to drink, you will be notified within 24 hours.
- If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water.

#### What does this mean?

THIS IS NOT AN EMERGENCY. If it had been an emergency, you would have been notified within 24 hours. TTHM are a group of four volatile organic chemicals which form when disinfectants react with natural organic matter in the water.

#### Explanation:

Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) are byproducts that form when chlorine, used to disinfect drinking water, reacts with natural organic matter present in the source water. Several factors can contribute to increased TTHM levels, including:

- Higher water temperatures during the summer months, which accelerate chemical reactions.
- Increased levels of natural organic matter, which tend to rise with warmer temperatures.
- Water age, or the length of time water stays in the distribution system before reaching your tap.

Our water system is supplied by a surface water source, which naturally contains more organic material than groundwater sources. While effective treatment methods are used, it is not possible to remove all organic matter from the water. Additionally, North Smithfield receives water from the Woonsocket Water system at a connection point located near the end of their distribution system. This results in longer water travel times before it reaches some areas in our system, allowing more time for chlorine to react with organic matter and form TTHMs.

Reducing chlorine levels is not a viable option, as it would compromise disinfection and overall water safety. However, we are actively working on strategies to minimize TTHM formation, such as improving system flushing, evaluating treatment upgrades, and reducing water age in the distribution system where possible.

*People who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.*

#### What is being done?

The North Smithfield Water Department has collected water quality samples from strategic locations throughout the distribution system to better understand the source and extent of elevated Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs). We are actively working with the Rhode Island Department of Health and our engineering consultants to analyze this data and develop a targeted response.

#### What We Have Done:

- Collected water samples throughout the distribution system to identify areas with elevated TTHMs.
- Flushed system areas to reduce water age and improve water quality.
- Engaged engineering consultants to evaluate system improvements, including automatic flushing points and potential long-term treatment upgrades.

#### Current and Next Steps:

- Continue targeted flushing and monitoring of the water system to ensure corrective measures are effective.
- Implement additional strategies identified by engineers to reduce TTHMs.
- Ongoing follow-up sampling to track water quality and adjust strategies as needed.

We are committed to keeping the public informed throughout this process. Please be assured that the safety and quality of your drinking water remain our highest priority.

For more information, please contact William Descoteaux at 401- 767-2200 EXT 320.

*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 or distributing copies by hand or mail.*

DATED: 12/03/2025

## Slatersville Public Supply

83 Greene Street  
North Smithfield, RI 02896  
401-767-2200

---

Date: 12/3/2025

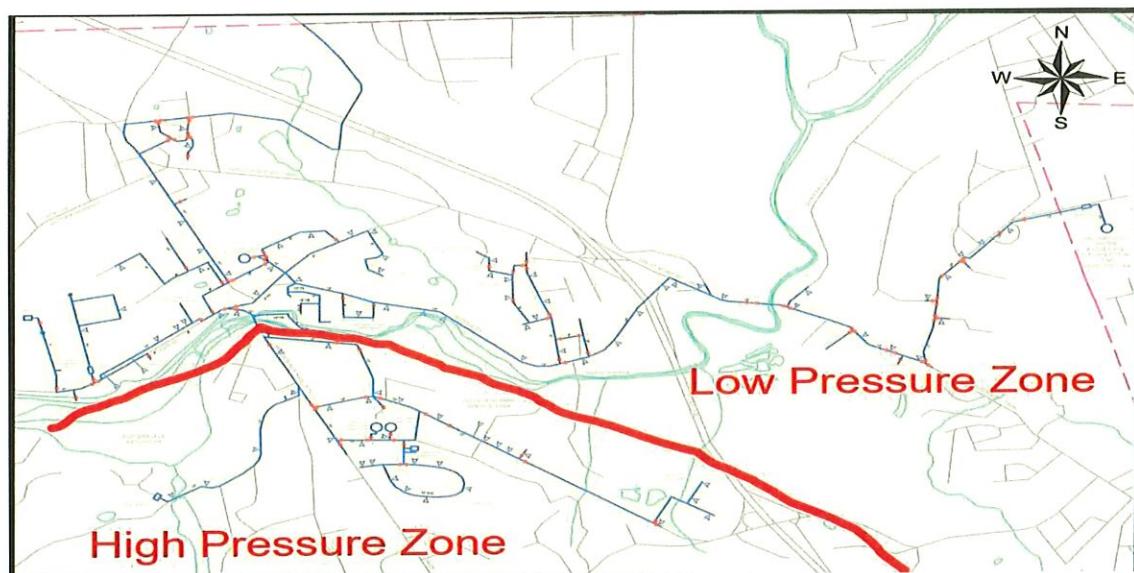
**Subject: Clarification Regarding Public Notice for Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) Exceedance**

Dear Valued Customer,

You recently received a public notice regarding a violation of the drinking water standard for Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) in the Slatersville Public Water System (PWS# RI1615614) for the period of 10/1/2025 to 12/31/2025. We are writing to offer additional context and clarification regarding where and why this exceedance occurred, while reaffirming the information already provided in the official notice.

**Clarification:** The exceedance reported in the public notice was specific to a single location within our distribution system, located in the High-Pressure Zone (which extends south from the Branch River at Providence Pike).

This High-Pressure Zone is hydraulically separated from the Low-Pressure Zone, (which serves areas north and northeast from the Branch River at Main Street). Please refer to the map below for a visual representation of these zones.



## **Important Context:**

- **High Pressure Zone Result:** 89.5 ppb (this result contributed to the MCL violation)
- **Low Pressure Zone Result:** 59.5 ppb (below the 80 ppb standard)

Please note that federal and state regulations require system-wide notification when an MCL exceedance occurs, even if it is isolated to a single monitoring location. This ensures all customers are informed.

## **Why Did This Occur?**

The elevated TTHM level in the High Pressure Zone is primarily due to routine seasonal practices. During warmer months, chlorine (sodium hypochlorite) is added at the Graham Booster Pump Station, which serves the 1,000,000-gallon storage tank on Comstock Road. This practice is necessary to maintain a minimum 0.20 mg/L chlorine residual throughout the distribution system and ensure continued protection against microbial contaminants.

The combination of higher water temperatures, natural organic matter, and increased water age can lead to increased TTHM formation, a known and regulated byproduct of chlorination.

## **What You Should Know:**

- The public notice remains accurate and valid, and our system is taking active steps to address the issue.
- This letter is not intended to minimize the violation, but simply to clarify the specific location and operational context behind the elevated result.
- We are continuing to work with the Rhode Island Department of Health and our engineering consultants on strategies to reduce TTHM formation across the entire system.

We remain fully committed to delivering safe, high-quality drinking water and to keeping the public informed as we implement corrective actions outlined in the official notice.

If you have questions or need further clarification, please contact:

William Descoteaux  
North Smithfield Water Department  
Phone: (401) 767-2200 EXT 320