

WHATELY WATER DEPARTMENT

2008 CONSUMER AWARENESS REPORT

The Whately Water Department is pleased to present their Consumer Awareness Report for 2008 in this report you will find the basic facts and information regarding your public water supplier. Please read this information at your leisure and feel free to contact the department with any questions.

FACT #1 ***Your public water supply is safe and clean.*** Our department
Consistently meets or exceeds all water quality standards
Set forth by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the MA. Department of Environmental Protection.

FACT #2 Drinking water may reasonably be expected to contain some small
Amounts of contamination. The presence of contaminants does
Not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.
Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking
Water than the general population. Immune-compromised persons
Such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, those who
Have undergone transplants, those with HIV/AIDS or other immune
Systems disorders, some elderly and infants can be at risk for
Infection. These persons should seek advice from their medical
Provider.

FACT #3 you can contact EPA at 800-426-4791 for more information on
Contaminants and their health effects. EPA/Centers for disease
Control and prevention guidelines on appropriate means to
Lessen the risk of infection from Cryptosporidium and other
Microbial contaminants are available at this number.

FACT #4 YOU CAN REACH THE WATER DEPARTMENT AT ANY TIME
BY CALLING 665-3080.
William Smith Superintendent
George Bucala, Chairman Water Commissioners
GeorgeAnne Dufault Commissioner
Paul Fleuriel Commissioner
The Commissioners meet on the first Tuesday of the month
In the basement of the Center School at 7:00 P.M.

FACT #5 Iron and manganese are naturally present in our water supply.
Water is often discolored during peak demand and flow.
Although discolored and unattractive, the water is still safe to
Drink.

FACT #6 Sources of drinking water include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds
Reservoirs springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of
Land or through the ground it dissolves naturally occurring minerals.
In some cases radioactive materials and substances resulting
From the presence of animals or human activity can be picked up.

WATER ANALYSIS REPORT

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY # 1337010

Below you will find a table showing the results of any tests, which we performed, which detected a contaminant. **There were no violations of standards**. Any detected contaminants are reported.

Contaminant	Level Detected	MCL	MCLG	Sample date	Violation Y/N	Likely Source
Arsenic	6.8 ppb	10		12/08	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium	.20 ppm	2	2	12/08	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	.26ppm	4	4	12/08	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	20ppm	none	none	12/08	N	Road salt
Sulfate	27ppm	none	none	12/05	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 + 228 Combined	.3 pCi/L	5 pCi/L	0 pCi/L	2/04	N	Erosion of natural deposits

While your drinking water meets the EPA standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the vast of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effect such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

Contaminant	Level Detected	Range detected	MRDL	MRDLG	Violation Y/N	Likely source
Chlorine	0.4 ppm	0.00 ppm- 0.00 ppm	4	4	N	Water additive to control microbes

Contaminant	Action Level (AL)	90 th percentile	# sites sampled	# sites exceeding AL	Sample date	Likely source
Lead	15 ppb	2.4 ppb	10	0	7/19/06	Plumbing Corrosion
Copper	1.3 ppm	.083 ppm	10	0	7/19/06	Plumbing corrosion

The Department has a waiver for testing of Synthetic organic compounds.

TABLE DEFINITIONS In this table you will find terms you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we provide the following definitions:

AL= the concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which system must follow
MCL= Maximum Contaminant Level, or the maximum permissible level of a contaminant in water which is delivered to any user Of a public water system.

MCL are enforceable standards. The margins of safety ensure that exceeding the MCL slightly does not pose significant risk to Public health.

MCLG= maximum contaminant level goal. The maximum level of a contaminant at which no known or anticipated adverse effect on the health of persons would occur, and which allows for an adequate margin of safety. MCLG's are non-enforceable public health goals.

MRDL=the highest level of disinfectant (chlorine, chloramines, chlorine dioxide) allowed in drinking water. There is sufficient evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary to control microbial contaminants.

MRDLG=the level of drinking water disinfectant (chlorine, chloramines, chlorine dioxide) below which there is no known or expected health risk. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

pCi/l= picocuries per liter

ppm= one part per million (one penny in ten thousand dollars)

ppb= one part per billion

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Where does our water come from?	From two deep gravel wells on Chestnut Plain Road.
Is it treated?	The water is treated with a small dose of chlorine for disinfect ion. An organic phosphate is added to control manganese.
How is it delivered?	The system contains about 14 miles of plastic and ductile iron pipe serving 265 s service connections.
Is it affordable?	At a cost of \$3.50 per thousand gallons, that's 3gallons for 1 cent.
What are some possible contaminants?	Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from Sewage treatments plants, septic systems, livestock operations or wildlife. Pesticides and Herbicides from agriculture, storm water runoff or residential uses. Inorganic contaminants such as salts and metals which can be naturally occurring or result from runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater, oil and gas production, mining or farming. Organic chemical contaminants including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can come form gas stations, runoff or septic systems. Radioactive contaminants, which can occur naturally or result from oil and gas production or mining.
What about cross connections?	A cross connection is a connection between a drinking water pipe and a polluted source. The pollution can come from your home. For instance, you are going to spray fertilizer in your lawn. You hook up your hose to the fertilizer sprayer. If the water pressure drops (say because of a fire hydrant use in town) the fertilizer may be sucked back into the water pipes through the hose. Using a backflow device on the hose can prevent this. The department recommends using a device such as vacuum beaker for all inside and outside hose connections. This low cost device is available at hardware or plumbing stores. This will help protect our water system. Contact your water department for information.

CONCLUSIONS:

***YOUR PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY IS A SAFE, AFFORDABLE AND ABUNDANT
RESOURCE. MAKE AN EFFORT EVERY DAY TO PROTECT IT!***