There is sufficient evidence that addition of contaminants (chloramines, chlorine dioxide) allowed in drinking water is necessary to control microbial contaminants. MRDL = enforceable public health goals. MCLG = Maximum Contaminant level goal. The maximum level of a contaminant at which no known or expected health risk. MCL = Maximum permissible level of a contaminant in water. MGLG, s are non-enforceable public health goals. MRDL = The highest level of disinfectant (chlorine, chloramines, chlorine dioxide) below which there is no known or expected health risk. MDRDL = The level of drinking water disinfectant (chlorine, chloramines, chlorine dioxide) below which there is no known or expected health risk. MDRDL 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 ug/l = Micrograms per liter

QUESTION 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 disinfection an organic phosphate is added to control manganese.

How is it delivered?
The system contains about 21 miles of plastic and ductile iron pipe serving 382 connections.

What is affordable?
At a cost of $4.65 per thousand gallons, that's 2 gallons for 1 cent.

We provide the following definitions for terms you may be unfamiliar with:
AL = Action Level or 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.
MCLG = Are enforceable standards. The margins of safety that exceeding 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 health of persons would occur, and which allows for an adequate margin of safety. MGLG, s are non-enforceable public health goals.
MRLD = 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.
MRLD = The level of drinking water disinfectant (chlorine, chloramines, chlorine dioxide) below which there is no known or expected health risk. MRLD do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

What are possible contaminants?
Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, livestock operations or wildlife. Pesticides and Herbicides from agriculture, storm water runoff or residential runoff.
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 compounds which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can come from 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 a vacuum breaker 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 questions.

You can reach the Water Department at any time by calling (413) 665-3080
Or email Water@whately.org

For more information, or if you have any questions please contact Superintendent Wayne Hutkoski at 665-3080 or email at water@whately.org.
Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who might 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.
Manganese is a naturally occurring mineral found in rock, soil, groundwater, and surface water. Manganese is necessary for proper nutrition and is part of a healthy diet, but can have undesirable effects on certain sensitive populations at elevated concentrations. The EPA and Mass DEP have set an estimation-based Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SML) of 50 ug/l 50 parts per billion. In addition, MassDEP’s Office of Research and Standards (ORSG) has set a drinking water guideline for manganese which closely follows the EPA’s public health advisory for manganese. 

Drinking Water May naturally have manganese and when in concentration of greater than 50 ug/l, the water may be discolored and have a bad taste. Over a lifetime, the EPA recommends that people drink water with levels 300 ug/l and over the short-term EPA recommends people limit their consumption of water with levels over 1000 ug/l, primarily due to concerns about possible neurological effects. Children up to 1 year of age should not be given water with a concentration over 300 ug/l, nor should formulas for infants be made with that water for more than ten days. 

The ORSG differs from the EPA’s health advisory because it expands the age group to which a lower manganese concentration applies from children less than 6 months to children up to age 1 to address concerns about children’s susceptibility to manganese toxicity. See EPA Drinking Water Health Advisory for Manganese  

While your drinking water meets the EPA standards for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA’s standard balances the current understanding of arsenic’s possible health effects against the task 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 in high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contaminant</th>
<th>Level Detected</th>
<th>Range Detected</th>
<th>MRDL</th>
<th>MRLDG</th>
<th>Violation Y/N</th>
<th>Likely Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chlorine</td>
<td>.98 ppm</td>
<td>0.00 ppm-0.05 ppm</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>water additive to control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copper</td>
<td>1.1 ppm</td>
<td>50-510 ppm</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>y</td>
<td>Corrosion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 compounds associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Whately Water Department 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.