

2013 DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT¹

SOUTHAMPTON – THE BEST DRINKING WATER IN THE USA

Southampton has two sources of drinking water. For the past 13 years all of our water has come from the rebuilt Town Well, located near the intersection of Glendale Road and the College Highway. We are now working on a plan to provide a backup well at the Glendale location so that we can shut down and maintain the new well without having to use the surface water taps which require a high level of chlorination of the water. We do not normally chlorinate the well water. A Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP) has been prepared for the well, and the SWAP Plan may be viewed at the Highway Garage on Fomer Rd.

The Town's Water is stored in a 700,000 gallon tank located on Little Mountain, near Wolcott Road.

During 2013 the Town purchased 1.17 million gallons of water from the Easthampton Water Department for use in the easterly section of the water distribution system. This occurred during the high summertime water demand period. The water customers who received the Easthampton water may also wish to view a copy of Easthampton's 2013 water quality report, provided on the Southampton web page. Hard copy of the Easthampton 2013 report can also be obtained at the Town Clerk's office and the Town Highway/Water office at 8 Fomer Road.



GENERAL INFORMATION - SUBSTANCES FOUND IN TAP WATER

Sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) generally 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 mineral, and in some cases, radioactive material. It can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contamination. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791.) Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

¹ Provided to all public water customers as required by Mass. DEP and Federal EPA

Microbial contaminants -such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants -such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater 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 agricultural, urban stormwater 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 stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

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

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health. 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 water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

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 some infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control and prevention (CDC) guidelines on lowering the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) – the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.

Parts Per Million (PPM) – concentration of a contaminant expressed in terms of one pound of contaminant found in a million pounds of water.

Parts Per Billion (PPB) – concentration of a contaminant expressed in terms of one pound of contaminant found in a billion pounds of water.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) – the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) -- The highest level of a disinfectant (chlorine, chloramines, chlorine dioxide) allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

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

Treatment Technique (TT) – A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Action Level (AL) – The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Variations and Exemptions – State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

WATER QUALITY TESTING RESULTS

NOTE: The test results given below are for the Glendale Well, which is the only water source operated directly by the Southampton Water Department. The Manhan Reservoir water is controlled and tested by the Holyoke Waterworks (HWW). No Holyoke Waterworks test results are provided because this water source is no longer in regular use.

CONTAMINANT (UNITS)	HIGHEST DETECT VALUE	RANGE DETECTED	AVERAGE DETECT	MCL	MCLG	VIOLATION (Y/N)	POSSIBLE SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Sodium (ppm)	5.8	0.8	5.3		20	N	N/A
Nitrate (ppm)	0.85	0	0.85	10.0	10.0	N	N/A
Manganese (ppm)	0.0044	N/A	N/A	0.05		N	N/A
VOC (ppm)	ND	N/A	N/A	VARIES		N	N/A
Perchlorate (ppm)	0.056	N/A	N/A	2.0		N	N/A
Asbestos (ppm)	ND	N/A	ND	7		N	N/A

Note: Volatile Organic, Perchlorate, and Synthetic Organic series of water contaminants were all tested in the source water (Glendale Wells) and no compounds in the entire test series were detected in the public water supply.

Our water system has a filtration waiver which allows the Town to utilize a surface water supply (Manhan Reservoir) without filtering the water as long as the water quality remains high and the Water Department satisfies stringent chlorine disinfection requirements under the Federal EPA Surface Water Treatment Rule. Surface water is a reserve water source for Southampton at this time.

Our groundwater is monitored periodically for synthetic organic contaminants (SOC), radionuclides, and volatile organic compounds (VOC). All of the test results to date have been in full compliance with the State DEP standards. There are no violations.

In September total coliform test results exceeded the MCL; causing the Water Dept. to fall into non-compliance. At no time was the drinking water a threat to public health and safety. Public notice of the incident was provided Sept. 16, 2013. The source of contamination was found and permanently eliminated. The Water Dept. and the Mass. DEP subsequently negotiated an Administrative Consent Order to permanently address the issue.

Lead and Copper sampling will be discontinued until 2014 because of excellent test results in the past years. Sampling undertaken in 2011 passed.

Lead: 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 components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Southampton 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 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>.

WHO ARE THE GUARDIANS OF THE SOUTHAMPTON WATER?

SOUTHAMPTON BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS:

Thomas E. Neill, Chairman

Matt Christy, Clerk

James Walunas, Member

Joseph F. Slattery, Water Department Superintendent 527-3666

[For after-hours emergencies, call Police Dispatcher @ 527-1124]

Your Water Department takes special care to ensure that your public water is as safe and wholesome as can be. We need your help, though, especially in the summer when many people water their lawns and fill their swimming pools. Many people now have automatic lawn sprinklers that even water their lawns when it is raining out. Now when water is wasted a higher water rate goes into effect and will be reflected in your water bills.

Please use some common sense and don't waste our water. When this happens, the water quality degrades and we reach our water supply limit and have to purchase water. Water conservation measures go a long way toward maintaining the quality water service that we all expect.

We are at our limit to supply water under these conditions. The Town has passed a bylaw with penalty provisions that can impose water use restrictions **THAT ALL WATER CUSTOMERS LIMIT THEIR LAWN WATERING DURING THE SUMMER TO EVERY OTHER DAY; WITH ODD HOUSE NUMBERS WATERING ONLY ON ODD NUMBERED DATES AND EVEN NUMBERS ON EVEN DAYS.**

RESIDENTIAL CROSS-CONNECTION COMPLIANCE – It must be clearly understood by all household users of the public water supply that they must exercise care and be good stewards of our shared drinking water. Water contamination occurs easily. Houses should be protected by anti-siphon devices on their outside faucets, and backflow preventers on automatic in-ground sprinkler systems, especially those with chemical herbicide, pesticide, and fertilizer feed systems. Because of the danger or potential of accidentally polluting the public water supply, the Water Department strongly recommends against the use of automatic lawn care chemical feed systems.

Call us @ 527-3666 if you have any questions about how you can do your part. Thank you.