



## Town of Bedford DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Dear Bedford Resident,

The Department of Public Works thanks you for taking the time to review the annual drinking water quality report provided in partnership with the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA). Our Town supplies water to 13,315 residents. The water is supplied from groundwater originating at the Shawsheen well field (14% of the total) and the remaining volume (86%) is a surface water source from MWRA. The water quality from the Shawsheen well field is summarized as follows:

**HALOACETIC ACIDS:** (Taken quarterly.) The annual average was 2.43 parts per billion. The state maximum is 60 parts per billion.

**INORGANICS:** (Taken in the 3rd quarter only.) A value of 0.019 milligrams/liter was found for Barium and the state limit is 2.0 milligrams per liter. Since we also fluoridate for dental hygiene, the fluoride level was 1.2 milligrams/liter and the maximum allowed is 4.0 milligrams/liter. The sodium level was 38.9 milligrams/liter. Currently there is no Maximum Contaminant Level set by the State of Massachusetts for this constituent.

**NITRATE:** (Taken in the 3rd quarter only.) A value of 0.02 milligrams/liter was found and the State maximum level is 10.0 milligrams/liter.

**PERCHLORATE:** (Taken in the 3rd quarter only.) No perchlorate was found (<0.2 parts per billion) and the State limit is 2.0 parts per billion.

**SYNTHETIC ORGANIC COMPOUNDS:** 45 parameters are monitored in this test and the test was conducted in the 1st and 3rd quarters. All 90 tests came well under any level set by DEP or EPA.

**TRIHALOMETHANES:** (Taken quarterly.) The annual average was 6.23 parts per billion. The state maximum is 80 parts per billion.

**VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS:** This test is required every quarter. In one year, there were 84 tests done on regulated compounds, meaning there were numerical limits placed on the compounds. In 2009, all tests came back "ND", none detected. We also tested for volatile organic compounds that were unregulated compounds, meaning no limits had been assigned by EPA or the State. Of 156 tests of such unregulated compounds conducted in 2009, 155 came back "ND", none detected, while one compound (Bromoform) was detected at 0.86 parts per billion in the 3rd quarter exclusively and then was never detected again.

In summary, all the testing conducted in 2009 at the Shawsheen well field showed that the water quality was exceptionally good, meeting all State and Federal quality control guidelines. Should you have any questions concerning water quality in the Town of Bedford, please feel free to contact me at 1-781-275-7605, x105. We welcome your questions and comments.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peter W. Churchill".

Peter W. Churchill  
Operations Manager  
Bedford Water & Sewer Division