



City of Chelsea DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

June 2010

The Chelsea Department of Public Works is pleased to provide this annual newsletter to keep you informed about your water system. As in the past, this is a component of the MWRA Annual Water Quality Report to Consumers. We would like to provide a recap of the major points for any new customers or residents who may not have seen last year's newsletter.

Our Distribution System

The City of Chelsea purchases all of its water directly from the MWRA. The water is delivered through five MWRA master meters into the city's distribution system. The distribution system consists of the network of pipes, valves, hydrants and service lines. The system delivers water to homes, businesses and other facilities for drinking and other uses. The system is also used for fire protection.

Chelsea's distribution system is comprised of approximately sixty miles of water mains ranging from six-inch to twenty-inch diameter. There are five hundred and thirty-nine hydrants that are owned and maintained by the city. There are approximately one thousand gate valves that allow isolated portions of the system to be shut down for repairs and maintenance. Seventy percent of the pipes in the system all over fifty years old with approximately forty-seven percent unlined cast iron pipe. Unlined pipe allows tuberculation (rust) to grow on the inside surfaces of the pipe. While not a health problem, these tubercles can affect the ability of the pipe to carry flows for fire fighting purposes and can affect the appearance of the water, such as yellow and red water problems.

Capital Improvement Plan

Through the Capital Improvement Plan, the City of Chelsea is committed to making improvements to the distribution system. In 2009 old cast iron water mains were replaced with ductile iron on the following streets: Jefferson Avenue, County Road and Bassett Street. In 2010 the water main on Chester Avenue will be replaced. Also, on Reynolds Avenue, the city will abandon the cast iron main and connect home services to the existing ductile iron water main.

Our engineers have other areas under design that will be constructed in future years. This expenditure represents a substantial commitment from the City Council, the City Manager and the Department of Public Works to continue to improve the quality of your drinking water and to provide improved flows to aid the Fire Department in their mission.

The Chelsea DPW tests for lead in 15 homes twice a year. In September 2009, two of the 15 homes tested had elevated levels, resulting in a 90th percentile of 18.6 ppb which exceeds the Lead Action Level of 15 ppb. Chelsea has taken steps to address the problem with a lead service line replacement program and has identified all the remaining lead service lines. This year the city will replace 7% of the estimated 300 remaining lead service lines. To find out more about the program, please contact the phone number listed below. For more information about the potential presence of lead in tap water and steps that may be taken to reduce exposure, please see page 5.

If you have any questions or comments about your water, please call us at the following numbers:

Water Bills (617) 466-4240

Water Operations (617) 466-4310

Water Meters (617) 466-4302

MWRA (617) 242-5323

Joseph C. Foti, Director of Public Works
