



Public Water Supply
3178000

City of Melrose PUBLIC WORKS

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Dear Consumer:

This annual report provides detailed information on the MWRA's source water reservoirs and the quality of our water as determined through Federal and State criteria. Water quality test data, as well as definitions of the terms used in the drinking water industry are presented in clear and readily understandable language. We hope that this report provides you with a better understanding regarding your water supply. If you require more information on particular topics, please call the City of Melrose Water Department staff at 781-979-4175. Other informational contacts and phone numbers are provided in the report for the MWRA and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Locally, the City of Melrose is continuing an intensive city wide water construction program aimed at upgrading its water infrastructure. The City has completed the construction of two new water pump stations and installed approximately 26,637 linear feet or five (5) miles of new 8" and 12" water mains to increase the ISO insurance fire flow ratings and local area fire flow improvements, and to improve water pressure and water quality of the domestic water system since the current program began in 2003. During 2010 the City will continue to replace old cast iron mains with new 8", 12" and 16" ductile iron mains, install new copper water services and install new hydrants and gate valves to replace the aging and inoperable hydrants and gate valves.

In addition to these major water programs, the City is continuing its uni-directional hydrant flushing program, hydrant testing and leak detection programs. These preventive maintenance programs will decrease the build up of iron and mineral deposits in our piping; reduce discoloration of water; reduce the likelihood of water main breaks; improve water accountability, quality and pressure; and identify areas of leakage and areas in need of repair within our system of approximately 90 road miles of water mains. In addition, in 2004 the City instituted an in-house meter reading program for our 8,500 water customers which allows better accountability for water usage and less lost or unaccounted for water use. In 2009, our overall water consumption was 751,200,200 gallons. Our success in these endeavors amounts to a 91,368,000 gallon reduction from 2007.

We receive many inquiries about lead in the drinking water. The simple answer is there is no lead in the water supply; however, lead can enter your tap water through contact with brass fixtures (which contain lead in the alloy), lead solder (which is now outlawed), old lead plumbing in the house or in the service line from the main to your house. Melrose takes samples twice yearly from 15 homes with lead, lead/tin solder and verified lead solder services. In the spring 2009, two of these water service samples tested above the action level of 15 ppb resulting in a community 90th percentile level of 14.8 ppb. In the fall 2009 testing, six of Melrose's samples tested above the 15 ppb Action Level with a 90th percentile level of 30.5 ppb. Consequently, Melrose maintains an aggressive lead service testing program to insure the water being provided to the residents and through the schools is safe. In addition, Melrose administers a lead service replacement program of at least 7% of our known lead service locations each year. To find out if you might have a lead service line and how it can be replaced, please contact the Melrose Water Department at 781-979-4170 and ask to speak to an engineer. For more information about the potential for lead in the tap water and steps you can take to reduce exposure, please see page 5 or contact the Melrose Water Department.

Also, tap water samples are tested weekly for coliform, an indicator bacteria, which may signal the presence of more serious bacteria. Should background coliform be noted in any sample, further testing is done to determine the presence of more hazardous organisms. No background coliform was found in any sample during 2009.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Beshara, P.E.
City Engineer and Superintendent of Public Works