



Town of Needham DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

The Town of Needham receives its water from two separate sources. The primary source is its own wells located on Charles River Street near Winding River Road. This wellfield has been the major source of water since the 1930's. The Town's secondary source is from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA). This supply enters through a 36" diameter pipe that runs from the MWRA's MetroWest Tunnel in Weston to a booster station on Central Avenue at St. Mary Street. This connection was made in the mid-1950's. The Drinking Water Report you are reading addresses the MWRA supply only. A separate report will be produced by the Department of Public Works (DPW) for calendar year 2009. Needham residents will receive this report on or before July 1, 2010. This will contain specific information on water from the Charles River Wellfield and the Town of Needham's water distribution system.

The MWRA has provided this opportunity for each community who is served by the MWRA to report on specific activities that are occurring within the community that ultimately have an impact on the consumer. The DPW continues to undertake construction and maintenance projects designed to provide consumers with the safest and most reliable supply of water it can. The most recent projects Needham has taken on are a water meter replacement program, hydrant replacement program and older water main replacements in the distribution system to improve water quality.

Charles River Water Treatment Facility

To maintain compliance with federal and state drinking water regulations, Needham well water must be treated before it reaches consumers' taps. This treatment process is provided by the Charles River Water Treatment Facility located at 914 Charles River Street. Treatment processes include oxidation and removal of manganese with potassium permanganate via filtration, pH adjustment to raise the natural pH and alkalinity of Needham's water, thereby reducing the water's corrosiveness to household plumbing, disinfection via the addition of chlorine, fluoridation which prevents tooth decay and cavities and finally injection of polyphosphate to minimize calcium from precipitating in homes. All components of the water treatment and distribution system are closely monitored by state certified operators through computerized Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition systems (SCADA).

Water Quality

Needham collected more than 500 water samples analyzing for over 100 potential contaminants in 2009. We are proud to report that our drinking water met or exceeded all state and federal water quality standards established by the EPA. The last round of lead and copper "at the tap" sampling was completed in August 2009. The 90th percentile for Needham was 2 ppb which is below the action level of 15 ppb. Needham's next round of sampling will not be until 2012 due to a waiver granted by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

DEP issued a Notice of Non Compliance (NON) in 2009 for failure to test the required number of reduced pressure backflow preventers. To date the town has tested the required number of reduced pressure backflow preventers.

If Needham residents have any questions about Needham's water quality, please contact Stephen Cusick, Water Treatment plant interim manager, at 781-416-4071.
