



Town of Marblehead WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION

Public Water Supply
3168000

A PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT

From F. Carlton Siegel, P.E., Chairman of the Marblehead Water and Sewer Commission

Dear Marblehead Water Customer:

The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) and Marblehead Water and Sewer Commission have prepared this 2010 Drinking Water Report in compliance with federal drinking water regulations. This brochure contains information on MWRA's source water reservoirs, water system and treatment improvements as well as the results of water tests.

In Marblehead, an elected five-member board oversees all water, sewer and storm drain functions. Serving with me on the Commission are Bradford Freeman, Vice Chairman; Wilbur Bassett, P.E.; John Doane; and R. Thomas Hammond. Each commissioner is dedicated to assuring customer service and water quality. Along with Superintendent Charles R. McCollum, a skilled staff of 22 individuals handles the day-to-day operations of the water, sewer and drain systems as well as the permitting and billing processes.

The Town of Marblehead receives its drinking water from the MWRA and is responsible for delivery to our customers. The water travels through a series of trunk lines and smaller distribution pipelines to individual households and businesses. During periods of high use, adequate pressure is maintained by booster pumping stations located on Tedesco Street in Marblehead and Loring Avenue in neighboring Salem. Marblehead also operates the Village Street and Burke's Hill water storage tanks, ensuring sufficient water to meet fire flow and peak usage demand.

The Marblehead Water Department often receives questions about lead in tap water. There is no lead in the water supplied to your home. Marblehead has no known lead service lines. Sources of lead in drinking water include corrosion of household plumbing systems such as brass fixtures and piping (which contains lead in the alloy) and lead solder.

We are always concerned about lead in tap water. Therefore, we test fifteen homes twice a year. The Marblehead Water Department exceeded the lead action level for July to December 2010 sampling period. During the sampling period the 90th percentile lead level was 18.4ppb (parts per billion). Two of the fifteen sampling sites exceeded the lead action level. The lead action level is exceeded if the concentration of lead in more than 10% of tap water samples collected during any monitoring period is greater than 15ppb.

The Commission has taken the following steps to address this problem: A statement was added to each water bill to inform customers that the lead action level had been exceeded. An informational pamphlet provided by MWRA, titled "Important Information About Lead in Drinking Water," was mailed to residents, placed on our website and distributed to the Marblehead Public Health office, doctor offices, schools and daycare facilities. Please refer to page 5 for more information on lead in tap water or contact our office directly at 781-631-0102, by email at water@marblehead.org or visit our website at www.marblehead.org/water.

We are continually maintaining Marblehead's 100-plus miles of pipeline, the booster pumping stations and the water tanks to ensure the best water service possible. Under the Commission's leadership, a capital spending program is utilized to prioritize and pace water system upgrades and to build upon system improvements being made by MWRA. Improvements completed during 2010 include: the cleaning and lining of various pipelines on Marblehead Neck and on sections of West Shore Drive; the installation of new valves and water main connections on West Shore Drive to provide added distribution capabilities; the installation of a new 4" water main on Ruby Terrace; and the replacement of 16 fire hydrants throughout Town. Other programs instituted to maintain water service and quality include vulnerability assessments, annual pipeline flushing, routine leak detection inspections and regular testing for any signs of contamination.

The Commission and its staff aim to keep its customers informed of maintenance or construction projects whenever possible. Monthly Commission meetings, open to the public, are usually held on the first Tuesday of every month at the Water Commission office located at 100 Tower Way. The Marblehead Website (www.marblehead.org) contains postings of public meetings and meeting agendas. Contact information can be found directly at www.marblehead.org/water. The Commission also uses local media to notify residents of pipeline flushing and other activities. A CodeRED notification system has been installed to allow for the immediate telephone notification of residents in the event of an emergency.

It is the goal of the Marblehead Water and Sewer Commission to respond as quickly and completely as possible to any customer concerns, questions or complaints. We are committed to bringing our customers the best drinking water possible. We hope that you will find this Annual Water Quality Report to Consumers interesting and educational. Please feel free to contact Superintendent Charles R. McCollum at (781) 631-0102 with any questions, concerns or comments.

Sincerely,

F. Carlton Siegel, P. E.
Chairman