



Swampscott Board of Public Works

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Public Water Supply
3291000

The Annual Water Quality Report to Consumers is a report on the quality of the drinking water supplied by the Town of Swampscott in partnership with the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA). We are pleased to be working with the MWRA on this joint communication on the quality of the drinking water arriving at your home or business. This annual report provides detailed information on the MWRA's reservoirs, which are the sole sources of water distributed to the Town of Swampscott, and the quality of water as determined through federal and state testing guidelines. Water quality test data, definitions of the terms used, and other important information are presented in clear and easy to read language.

In addition to steps taken by the MWRA to protect water quality, the Town of Swampscott has continued to make improvements to the water system. Improvements include a 2009 town wide leak detection survey, and a subsequent survey scheduled for the Spring of 2011. These bi-yearly surveys have continued to be a factor in the reduction of unaccounted water that the Town of Swampscott is purchasing from the MWRA. Corresponding with the subsequent repairs was the reduction of unaccounted water that the Town of Swampscott is purchasing from the MWRA. The Town of Swampscott's unaccounted for water for the 2010 calendar year dropped significantly, to just over five percent. This figure represents a slight decrease over prior calendar year, which played a key role in setting the water/sewer rates for FY'11. Unfortunately, due to the ever increasing costs associated with operating the Town's water system, water/sewer rates for FY'11 still increased by 5%.

One hundred percent of the Town of Swampscott's water is supplied by the MWRA through the sixteen-inch water main on New Ocean Street. The Town tests the quality of our water by gathering bi-weekly test samples at nine different locations throughout the town. During the 2010 calendar year, test results consistently showed no indications of any health hazards. The Town is also responsible for conducting lead and copper test samples on a semi-annual basis. It is important to note that the water supplied by the MWRA does not contain any lead. However, Swampscott remains concerned about lead in tap water. Therefore, we test fifteen homes twice a year. The 90th percentile level for Swampscott was 2.99 ppb, which is well below the Action Level of 15 ppb. Please see page 5 for more information on lead in tap water.

As part of the Town's continuing effort to upgrade its water distribution system, during the upcoming year, the Town will be re-lining the remainder of the 8-inch main on Humphrey Street, as well as the 12-inch main on Salem Street. This funding of this project was accomplished using MWRA zero interest loans, and was the tenth year in which the Town has taken advantage of the MWRA's financial assistance.

The Town of Swampscott is committed to providing its residents with the best water possible. As our customers, we hope that you will find this report informative and useful. If you would like to obtain additional information on particular subjects, including town meetings, or have specific questions, please feel free to contact the Department of Public Works, at 781.596.8860, or email the Director at gcresta@town.swampscott.ma.us. You may also contact the MWRA directly using the phone numbers listed in this report.

Sincerely,

Gino A. Cresta Jr.
Director of Public Works