

Your Community



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 2012 town wide leak detection survey. During the survey a total of six leaks were located which contributed to an estimated leakage of approximately 73,000 gallons per day. The subsequent repairs led to the reduction of water that the Town of Swampscott is purchasing from the MWRA. However despite the repairs, Swampscott's unaccounted for water remained at approximately eight percent. On the plus side, due to the water enterprise fund operating with a positive cash flow, the Town's water rate remained static for the third consecutive year.

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 2012 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 newly regulated 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 yearly. The 90th percentile level for Swampscott was 2.17 ppb, which is 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, this past year, the Town replaced the 6-inch water mains on Roy Street and Melvin Ave. Both water mains were upgraded from their existing 6-inch mains to new 8-inch mains, not only improving the water quality but also increasing the volume of water passing through the system. This project was accomplished using MWRA zero interest loans, and was the thirteenth year in which the Town has taken advantage of the MWRA's financial assistance. Tentative plans for 2013 call for replacing the 12-inch water main in Paradise Road (from Walker Road to Vinnin Street).

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 on meetings, or have specific questions, please feel free to contact the Department of Public Works, at (781) 596-8860, or e-mail 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