



## 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

June, 2014

Dear Marblehead Water Customer:

The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) and Marblehead Water and Sewer Commission have prepared this 2013 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 John Doane, Vice Chairman; Wilbur Bassett, P.E.; Bradford Freeman; and R. Thomas Hammond. Each commissioner is dedicated to assuring customer service and water quality. Along with Superintendent Amy McHugh, 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 maintains two water storage tanks, one off Village Street and one at Burke's Hill, to ensure sufficient water to meet fire flow and peak usage demand. Total capacity of both tanks is two and one half million gallons.

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. Possible sources of lead in drinking water include corrosion of household plumbing systems such as brass fixtures and piping (which contain lead in the alloy) and lead solder.

We are always concerned about lead in tap water. Therefore, we test fifteen homes once a year. The 90th percentile lead level for Marblehead was 1.79 ppb; this does not exceed the Action Level of 15 ppb. Please see page 5 for more information on lead in tap water or call our department at (781) 631-0102.

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. In 2013, the Department completed a water upgrade project on Jersey Street, replacing over 2,000 feet of water main and 500 additional feet was cleaned and lined. The annual flushing took place in the spring and the department continued with its on-going projects, painting 188 hydrants, installing remote meter readers and completing general maintenance of the whole system.

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. Marblehead's website [www.marblehead.org](http://www.marblehead.org) posts public meetings and agendas. Contact information can be found at [www.marblehead.org/water](http://www.marblehead.org/water).

The website and local media are used to notify residents of pipeline flushing and other activities. Residents can also register to receive email messages by clicking on the "Notify Me" icon on the Marblehead website's home page. A quarterly newsletter, The Flow N' Go, was instituted in 2013 to provide customers with information about the water department and water conservation tips. In case of an emergency, residents will be kept informed via Code Red, a reverse 911 calling system.

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 Amy McHugh at (781) 631-0102 with any questions, concerns or comments.

Sincerely,

F. Carlton Siegel, P. E.  
Chairman