



Town of Milton DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Public Water Supply
3189000

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Our Partnership:

The Milton Public Works Department is pleased to provide this annual water quality report to our customers in accordance with state and federal regulations. This report is intended to provide information to Milton residents about their water supply. Our town works in partnership with the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) to deliver quality drinking water for consumption, fire protection and other uses. Helping residents learn more about water quality and the effort that goes into maintaining the water system is part of this partnership. By providing this information, we also hope to encourage conservation and protection of this most precious resource.

Our Distribution System:

Our water comes from the Quabbin Reservoir in Central Massachusetts, through the Wachusett Reservoir and is transported in tunnels and pipes to three metered locations that supply the Town. There are 130 miles of water distribution pipes in Milton that on average deliver 2.5 million gallons per day to our customers. Demand for water fluctuates with higher volumes of water being used during summer months. During 2013, the Town of Milton consumed just over 880 million gallons of water. The greatest amount consumed in one day during the year was 3,837,000 occurring on July 19, 2013. Seventy percent of the pipes in the system are over fifty years old with approximately fifty percent unlined cast iron pipe. Unlined pipe allows tuberculation (rust) to grow on the inside surfaces of the pipe. While not a health problem, tuberculation can affect the ability of the pipe to carry flows for firefighting purposes and can affect the appearance of the water, such as yellow and brown water problems.

Flushing Program:

The Town completed the annual comprehensive flushing program expending over 3 million gallons of water in order to remove naturally occurring sediments, which if left in the water mains over time could cause taste, odor and turbidity problems to consumers.

Leak Detection:

In an effort to control our unaccounted water, the Town performs an annual water leak detection survey where correlation technology is used to find leaks in the water distribution system. This year's survey found many leaks which were promptly repaired by public works personnel.

Backflow Prevention:

The Town continues to enforce the DEP mandated cross connection control and prevention program to prevent contamination of the public water supply. The Certified Backflow Testers/Surveyors review and approve new devices prior to installation, inspect sites and test all devices. For more information please contact our personnel at 617-898-4871 or visit our website at www.townofmilton.org.

System Maintenance and Improvements:

The Town is constantly improving the system, replacing water mains when necessary. During 2013, the Town replaced unlined mains on Hoy Terrace, Murray Ave and Spafford Rd. In addition to these water main replacements, the Town made improvements on Central Ave., Antwerp St., Cedar Terrace, and Berlin Ave. Our department also repaired 21 water main breaks, 28 service line breaks and 17 leaking hydrants.

Miscellaneous Upgrades:

During 2013, the Department embarked on a capital improvement program. The program will focus on all major components of the water system. This will enable the department to prioritize future needs (meter replacement, pipe relining, and water tank replacement or rehabilitation). Milton needs to integrate their existing tools for infrastructure management (GIS, hydraulic Modeling, etc.) with long-term, risk-based distribution planning. This will provide better and more defensible answers to quantity and which type (material, age, etc.) of pipe should be replaced or rehabilitated now and in the future and the impact that different renewal scenarios will have on budgets and rates.

Lead and Copper:

The Town of Milton receives many questions about lead in tap water. The simplest answer is there is no lead in the water supplied to your home. 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 the remote possibility of lead in tap water. The Town tests fifteen homes and two schools for evidence of lead once per year. The lead 90th percentile for Milton was 12.8 ppb (parts per billion), which is below the Action Level of 15 ppb. Please see page 5 of this report for more information.

The Town of Milton Public Works Department continues its commitment to providing the safest and highest water quality possible to our customers. For more information including meetings, contact the Public Works at 617-898-4900 or visit our website at www.townofmilton.org or like us on Facebook.