



Swampscott Board of Public Works

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Public Water Supply
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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 (PWS ID #329100) has continued to make improvements to the water system. Improvements include a 2014 town wide leak detection survey. This survey was performed on 53 miles of water distribution system to reduce unaccounted for water by identifying hidden and surfaced leaks. During the survey a total of five leaks were located which contributed to an estimated leakage of approximately 123,600 gallons per day, or approximately 45 million gallons per year. The subsequent repairs led to the reduction of water that the Town of Swampscott is purchasing from the MWRA. Accordingly, the water enterprise fund continues to operate with a positive cash flow resulting in the Town's water rate remaining static for the second 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 2014 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 2.46 ppb, which is below the Action Level of 15 ppb. Please see page 5 for more information on lead in tap water. Additionally, the 90th percentile value for copper was 90.8 ppb, which was well below the copper action level of 1300 ppb.

The Department of Public Works analyzes 21 bacteriological samples each month to ensure the quality and protection of your drinking water. The EPA requires that no more than 5% of Total Coliform samples in a month test positive. In 2014 Swampscott's result for May was 4.8%. The results for all other months were zero.

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 Lodge Road, Muriel Road and Bates Road (from Humphrey Street to Muriel Road). All of the aforementioned 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. Also, included in this \$1.3 million project was the re-lining of 1600 feet of the 12-inch water main on Paradise Road. This project was accomplished using MWRA zero interest loans, and was the fourteenth year in which the Town has taken advantage of the MWRA's financial assistance. Plans for 2015 call for replacing the remainder of the 12-inch water main on Paradise Road (from #330 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 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