

2009 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

The Mass. Dept. of Environmental Protection (MADEP) and the US EPA require Water Departments to provide an *Annual Consumer Confidence Report*. The report communicates relevant information to customers about the quality of their drinking water, and provides an update on water-related activities. The Watuppa Water Board and the Department of Community Utilities, under which the Water Division operates, present our Report for 2009.

During 2009, infrastructure replacement and water quality improvements continued. In 2010, more water mains will be replaced, and the water tank at Haskell Hill will be rehabilitated.

Report on Water Quality

The following summary for 2009 includes information about the source of your drinking water, what it contains, what other sources of water may contain, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) standards. We invite customer questions or comments. Contact Mr. Ted Kaegael, at 508-324-2725. Public input is welcome by the Watuppa Water Board. Please contact Mr. John Friar, at (508) 324-2330, for meeting times and locations, if you wish to provide input.

Last year we did thousands of water quality tests, with samples taken from the City's source water (North Watuppa Pond), water produced in the treatment plant, and as taken from consumer taps. These tests detected no unacceptable levels of contaminants in the water supplied to you. In 2009 we received one Notice of Non-Compliance from the MA-DEP for incorrect/missing paperwork submissions. This was corrected 09/08/2009. The non-compliance was a paper process violation and did not pose any threat to the public health.

SOURCES: Drinking water for the City of Fall River is obtained from the North Watuppa Pond. When needed, water is pumped from Copicut Reservoir to the watershed of the North Watuppa, from which it flows into the North Watuppa Pond via brooks. The City has other water resources including the South Watuppa Pond, Terry Brook Reservoir, Sawdy, Stafford, and Devol Ponds, and Lake Noquochoke. In summary, Fall River has an abundant water supply.

These water resources are a valuable investment in our future. The State Office of Dam Safety require that work be performed on the dams and control structures associated with these ponds.

There are no known significant sources of contamination to either the North Watuppa Pond or Copicut Reservoir. Both supplies are protected by watershed lands and are patrolled by an Environmental Police Unit of the Fall River Police.

An interceptor drain runs the length of the Rt. 24 roadway/North Watuppa pond boundary to reduce potential sources of contamination from highway runoff. The Fall River Water Department has a Surface Water Assessment Program (SWAP) report available. The SWAP can be accessed on the MA-DEP website, or a copy can be requested from Ted Kaegael Jr. using the contact information presented earlier in this CCR.

QUANTITY: We deliver about 10,000,000 gallons of water per day to residential, commercial, municipal, industrial customers, and for fire protection. About 600,000 gallons per day are sold to Tiverton, Westport and Freetown.

The maximum capacity of the North Watuppa Pond water treatment facility is 24,000,000 gallons per day of finished water. Processes carried out there include disinfection by chlorination, removal of solids by flocculation/ sedimentation, and filtration through sand and carbon for "polishing". Additionally, we add carbon dioxide gas to reduce pipe corrosion, and Fluoride has been added since 1972 to prevent tooth decay/cavities. The water distribution system contains 7 storage tanks, over 250 miles of distribution pipeline, and more than 2,500 hydrants.

Important Definitions

Maximum Contamination Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Residual Disinfection Level (MRDL): The highest level of disinfectant (Chlorine, Chloramines and Chlorine Dioxide) allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Goal (MRDG): The level of a drinking water disinfectant (Chlorine, Chloramines, Chlorine Dioxide) below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of contamination in drinking water.

Action level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Substances Found in Tap Water

Sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals, and in some cases radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activities.

In order to insure that tap water is safe to drink, Mass DEP and the US EPA enforce regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

Contaminants that MAY be present in source water include:

Microbial Contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from wastewater treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock activities, wildlife, or even unsanitary or improper procedures by the user.

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, that can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.

Organic contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.

Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agricultural, urban storm water runoff and residential uses.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production or mining activities.

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. Call EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at **800-426-4791** for more information about contaminants and potential health effects.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons, such as persons undergoing chemotherapy, or who have undergone organ transplants, or have HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and some infants, can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at **800-426-4791**.

Now that you have the above information, please go to the Table to see results for our water.

Educational statement on lead:

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially in pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Fall River Water Division, Department of Community Utilities, is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has not been run for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking.

If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Francaise: Ce rapport des informations concernant la qualite de l'eau de votre communaute. Faites-le traduire, ou parlez-en avec un ami qui le comprend bien.

IMPORTANT STATEMENT ON THE AVAILABILITY OF THE 2009 CCR

This report contains important information about your drinking water. Please translate it or speak with someone who can, if needed. Copies of this report in Portuguese or French may be obtained at the Water Department's Offices on the 3rd floor at One Government Center or by calling 508-324-2330.

INDICAÇÃO IMPORTANTE NA DISPONIBILIDADE DO CCR DE 2009

Este relatório contém informação muito importante sobre sua água potável. Por favor traduza-o ou fale com alguém que-lhe compreende. As cópias deste relatório em Português ou em Francês podem ser obtidas no escritório do Departamento de Água no terceiro andar em One Government Center ou chamando 508-324-2330.

WATER QUALITY DATA TABLE - Calendar Year 2009

<u>Contaminant Names</u>	<u>MCL</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>Detec- tion Limit</u>	<u>Fall River Water</u>	<u>Sample Date</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Major Sources in Drinking Water</u>
Inorganic Contaminants							
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4		0.9 - 1.1	daily	none	Water additive, promote healthy teeth
Sodium (ppm)	n/a				no test, '09	none	Water treatment chemicals
Free Chlorine (ppm)	4.0 MRDL	4		1.75	daily	none	Disinfectant, kills bacteria
Barium	2.0	2	0.0002	0.011	1-Sept.	none	Naturally occurring in Fall River water
Nitrate Contaminants							
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	0.03	not detected	14-Jan	none	Fertilizer use, septic tanks, and erosion from natural deposits
Organic Chemical Contaminants							
Total Trihalomethanes (THMs) (ppb)	80	n/a	0.5	2.9 - 48.7	4-Mar	none	Reaction by-product of chlorine with residual organic materials.
Haloacetic acid (ppb)	60	n/a		18.6 - 30.3	4-Mar	none	
Lead							
Lead (ppm)	AL not MCL 0.015	0	0.002	ND-0.036, 3 sites detected above AL	19-Jul	No violation @ 90th percentile (0.007 ppm)	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Copper (ppm)	1.3	0	0.02	ND - 0.09	19-Jul	none	Corrosion of household plumbing.
(9) Turbidity, NTU							
	5 (TT, not MCL)	n/a		0.07	15-Apr	none	Soil, clays, treatment chemicals giving cloudiness to water.
Microbial Contaminants							
Total Coliform Bacteria	<5% of monthly samples	0		Compliant 14 Sept: 3 detections (tot 2009 = 11)	>90/week	none	Naturally present in the environment
Radioactive Contaminants							
Beta/photon emitters (mrem/yr)	4 mrem/yr	0		0.2 (+2.3)	12/17/2003	none	Natural or man made deposits
Gross alpha activity (pCi/l)	15pCi/l	0		0.3 (+1.2)	12/17/2003	none	Erosion of natural deposits.
Radium 226	15pCi/l	0		0.3 (+0.2)	12/17/2003	none	Common trace element in ground
Radium 228	15pCi/l	0		0.0 (+0.5)	1/6/2004	none	
Volatile Organic Compounds							
	Various limits			Non-detect	30-Jan	none	Man-made Chemicals
Perchlorate (ppb)							
	1.0 ppb		0.20	Non-detect	23-Jul	none	Man-made Chemical
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)							
	TT, not MCL		0.50	1.3	6-Jul	none	Naturally occurs in surface waters. (35% min removal req'd)

Required Definitions

AL: Action Level: See "Important Definitions", above.

MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: See above.

MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: See above.

MRDL: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level: See above.

MRDG: Maximum Residual Disinfectant goal: See above.

NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units: a measure of solid material suspended in water

mrem/year: millirems per year: a measure of the amount of radiation

TT: treatment technique: a step in water purification process.

pCi/l: picocuries per liter: a measure of radiation.

Ppm: parts per million: a lb. of something in a million lb. of water

Ppb: parts per billion: equals ppm multiplied by 1,000