



TOWN OF MARION ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you everyday. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Regulations require all community public water systems to provide an annual water quality report to their customers by July 1st each year. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the information contained in this report, please contact Robert Zora, DPW Superintendent, Gary Sherman, Water Division Foreman, or Rebecca Carvalho, Administrative Assistant, at (508) 748-3540 or via e-mail at rcarvalho@marionma.gov. Please visit the town's website located at www.marionma.gov.

WATER SUPPLY AND TREATMENT

Marion uses groundwater exclusively as a source of water. The majority of Marion's water supply is located in the Town of Rochester, Massachusetts (Perry Hill Station, East & West Wells, Mary's Pond Station and Wolf Island Station). Only Main Water Station, our oldest well field in operation, is located in Marion. The town's supply is composed of both gravel-packed wells and small-diameter tubular well fields.

Because Marion uses groundwater as its water supply source, minimal treatment or chemical addition is employed. In 1989, equipment was added to all water supply sources to add sodium silicate to sequester the high iron content from the Wolf Island well. Potassium hydroxide was also added to raise the pH of the water from acidic to alkaline. When the New Bedford Road wells were constructed, chemical addition capability was also added.

Marion is also capable of receiving water from the Mattapoissett River Valley Water District Public Water Supply, #417300. This is a 6-million gallon a day facility which receives water from the following eight groundwater wells in the Mattapoissett River Valley Aquifer: Mattapoissett's Stations #3, #4 and #5, Fairhaven's Tinkham Lane Well, Fairhaven's Wolf Island Wells #1, #2, and #3, and Marion's Wolf Island Well. This facility removes iron and manganese from the groundwater using ozonation followed by membrane ultrafiltration.

DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Construction of the water distribution system began in 1908 with the installation of water mains in the center of town. The original water system consisted of cast iron water mains, Main Water Station, and the Mill Street Standpipe. In 1939, the town stopped installing unlined cast iron and began using transite water pipe. Marion's water system consists of 5 wells and 2 well fields, 4 storage tanks, and approximately 75 miles of water main. The total storage volume available between the 4 storage tanks is approximately 3,775,000 gallons. Water main sizes in Marion range from 4" to 16" in diameter.

STORAGE FACILITIES

As mentioned above, four storage facilities are located in Marion with a total storage volume of approximately 3,775,000 gallons. Two of these facilities are steel standpipes, one is a prestressed concrete reservoir and the fourth is a composite elevated water storage tank. All of the storage facilities in Marion can produce a hydraulic grade line (HGL) of approximately 158 feet (United States Geological Survey - [USGs]). Current operation of the system indicates that the tanks are not filled past an elevation of 150 feet.

INTERCONNECTIONS AND BACK-UP SUPPLIES

The Town of Marion currently has two interconnections with the Town of Mattapoissett's water supply. These serve as emergency back-up supplies for both towns.

CUSTOMER VIEWS WELCOME

The purpose of this report is to provide you with useful information about your water. Your feedback is welcomed. Please contact us at 508-748-3540.

Share your views and opinions with the Board of Water Commissioners. They meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Marion Town Hall, 2 Spring Street, Marion, MA.

SUBSTANCES FOUND IN TAP WATER

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) 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 radioactive material, and can pick-up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Microbial contaminants such as viruses and bacteria which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

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

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

Organic chemical 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 storm water runoff, and septic systems.

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

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

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least a small amount of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/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 1-800-426-4791.

SWAP

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MA DEP) has completed a Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) Program Report for the Town of Marion's public water system. The SWAP Program, established under the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act, requires every state to (1) inventory land uses within the recharge areas of all public water supply sources; (2) assess the susceptibility of drinking water sources to contamination from these land uses; and (3) publicize the results to provide support for improved protection.

The Marion Water System was assigned a susceptibility ranking of high based on MA DEP's assessment of potential pollution sources in our watershed. These threats include a variety of land uses, such as septic systems, transportation corridors (local roads and highways), and stormwater.

This SWAP report is available at the Marion Water Division office located at 50 Benson Brook Road and online at www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/dws.

WHAT IS A CROSS CONNECTION AND WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT IT?

A cross connection is a connection between a drinking water pipe and a polluted source. The pollution can come from your own home. For example, you're going to spray fertilizer on your lawn. You hook up your hose to the sprayer that contains the fertilizer. If the water pressure drops at the same time you turn on the hose, the fertilizer may be back-siphoned into the drinking water pipes through the hose. This problem can be prevented by using an attachment on your hose called a backflow-prevention device.

The Marion Water Division recommends the installation of backflow prevention devices, such as low cost hose bib vacuum breakers, for all inside and outside hose connections. You can purchase these at a hardware store or plumbing supply store. This is a great way for you to help protect the water in your home as well as the Marion drinking water system. For additional information on cross connections and on the status of Marion's Cross Connection Program, please contact our office at (508) 748-3540.

WATER QUALITY REPORT - Detected Regulated Contaminants

Inorganic Compounds							
Contaminant	Violation	Date Collected	Highest Detected	Range Detected	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Nitrate	NO	04/17/13	2.2	0.33 – 2.2	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion from natural deposits

Lead and Copper							
Contaminant	Violation	Date Collected	90th Percentile	Action Level	# of Sites Sampled	# of Sites above AL	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (ppm)	NO	09/14/11	0.365	1.3	20	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits, leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	NO	09/14/11	0.002	15	20	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits

Microbiological							
Contaminant	Violation	Date Collected	Highest # Positive in a month	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination	
Total Coliform Bacteria*	Y	09/10/13	3	0	1	Naturally present in the environment	

*During routine water quality sampling on 09/10/13, the MCL (maximum contaminant level) for total coliform bacteria was exceeded at three locations. Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems. On 09/12/13 follow-up samples were taken, including up and down streams and the Water Division checked all sites, including stations, tanks and sample faucets and no issues were found. All follow-up samples were clean. Due to this violation, we were mandated by MA DEP to run a public notice which was placed in the Standard Times, The Wanderer and on the Town's website on 09/26/13.

Important Information on Lead & Copper

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Marion Water Division is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting 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>.

In the above table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

Maximum Contaminant 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 a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years, or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (ug/l) - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Action Level (al) - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers a treatment or other requirement which a water system must follow.

Perchlorate Update: The Combined Station located in Rochester, MA has remained offline since a perchlorate MCL violation during September 2010. We are continuing work with the Town's engineering firm, Tata & Howard, as well as MA DEP to closely monitor and evaluate the situation to see whether further treatment is necessary to place this well back online.

LEAKS

The first step to creating a water-efficient home is to check for leaks. Leaks are wasteful and expensive. Every unused drop that trickles down the drain will show up on your water and sewer bill. If the wasted water is heated, your gas or electric bill will be higher also.

The biggest source of leaks around the house is the toilet. In fact, some studies indicate that as many as 20 percent of all household toilets leak. The easiest way to test for a leaking toilet is by lifting the lid off the toilet tank and putting a few drops of food coloring into the tank. Wait a few minutes and then look in the bowl. If any of the food coloring has made its way there, you have a leak.

WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

1. Fix those faucet, toilet, and showerhead leaks.
2. Use the dishwasher and washing machine only with full loads.
3. Don't run water continuously for vegetable and dish washing. Speed cleaning of vegetables by using a vegetable brush. Spray water in short bursts. Faucet aerators cut consumption.
4. Plan ahead to defrost foods overnight in the refrigerator. Don't use running water. Use the microwave or put wrapped food in a bowl of cold water.
4. Don't let the water run while brushing your teeth or shaving.
5. Take showers rather than baths, keep them short. Filling the bathtub uses about 50 gallons of water.
6. Don't use the toilet as a trash can. Every flush you eliminate can save between 2 and 7 gallons of water.
7. Don't run the tap to get cold water. Instead keep a bottle in the refrigerator.
8. Install aerators on bathroom and kitchen faucets.
9. Install low-flow toilets (1.6 gallons per flush).
10. Install low-flow showerheads.
11. Insulate your water heater and pipes.

OUTDOOR WATERING TIPS

1. Use a broom to clean driveways, walks, and patios.
2. Use a sponge and a bucket of water to wash the car.
3. Water the lawn in early morning or evening to avoid evaporation.
4. Aerate regularly, and use mulch to reduce evaporation.
5. Plant native or drought-resistant grass and plants.
6. Water trees slowly, deeply and infrequently to encourage deep rooting.
7. Water only when it's needed. The easiest way to tell if grass needs water is to walk on it. If you leave a trail of footprints in the lawn, it's time to irrigate.
8. Capture and reuse rainwater. Use rain barrels to capture rainwater from downspouts for use in your yard. A lid, mesh fabric, or several drops of baby oil on the surface will prevent mosquitoes from breeding.
9. Keep your mower blades sharp to prevent tearing of grass and raise your lawn mower's blades to 2.5". Longer grass provides shade for the roots and helps reduce water loss.
10. Be aware of the various shade and moisture zones in your yard and plan your gardens and plantings accordingly.

Excerpts from:

A Consumer's Guide to Water Conservation by Mark Obmascik

Massachusetts Drought Management Task Force - *Tips for Saving Water* - Commonwealth of MA

Water Restrictions will be in place from June 15 through September 15 each year until further notice. Phase 1 watering hours are from 6:00 AM to 8:00 AM and 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for even-numbered addresses and on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays for odd-numbered addresses. Residents may wash vehicles and water plants on Sundays by means of a hand-held hose between the hours of 6:00 AM and 12:00 noon. Any person violating this restriction shall be liable to the Town in the amount of \$50.00 for the first violation and \$100.00 for each subsequent violation. If you have any questions, please contact the Marion Water Division at 508-748-3540. We appreciate your anticipated cooperation.

****TOWN OF MARION WATER DIVISION****

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