2002 Water Quality Report

Working for You!

We are excited to present our 2002 Water Quality Report. Along with the report we have included a newsletter which will inform you of the many exciting changes and upgrades to your system. We are pleased to report that your Water Department has emerged from the past difficulties and is well on the way to being a solid operation both financially and technically.

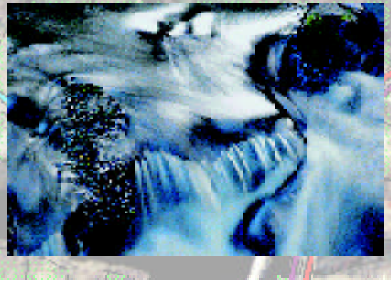
This report presents information about our operations, the quality of the water we deliver, and some useful information on water use. Each year, we will publish a new report highlighting any changes in our system and updating you with the most recent water quality information. We are pleased to provide this report which provides information on year 2002.

I wish to offer a special thanks to my staff for all their hard work. Also to each of you, our customers, who have helped us turn the District around.

The Dracut Water Department

The Dracut Water Department provides water to most of the residents and businesses in western Dracut and eastern Tyngsboro. Our water is supplied by two main sources: the Tyngsboro Well Field and the New Boston Well Field. The Source ID#s are given in the table below. In addition, we maintain a connection with the City of Lowell, which distributes water from the Merrimack River, to supplement our supply. To deliver the water we have three water storage tanks, multiple pump stations, and over 100 miles of water mains.

Well Name	*Source ID #*
Lowell Regional Water Utility	3079000 01P
New Boston Well Field #1	3079000 03G
New Boston Well Field #2	3079000 02G
Tyngsboro Well Field #1	3079000 04G
Tyngsboro Well Field #2	3079000 05G
Tyngsboro Well Field #3	3079000 06G
Tyngsboro Well Field #4	3079000 07G
Tyngsboro Well Field #5	3079000 08G



Improvements and Changes

In 2002 we continued to make improvements to the Water Department. Our in-house lab is up and running with daily water quality monitoring being done by our staff, which improves safety and saves money. Crews are actively working on the new line repair program, a project which aims to replace all undersized and outdated supply lines within the system. When this is complete, we will be better able to ensure the quantity and quality of water you expect. In response to the many customers that requested it, we are happy to have established our quarterly billing program, providing customers with a more manageable bill. You can now pay your quarterly bill by mail, phone or e-mail with Visa or Mastercard. Finally, we have upgraded our pumping capacity and in-house controls which improves service and reduces downtime. Please look for more information on our proposed Home Maintenance Agreement. For a small annual fee, District crews would be able to repair any problem in your water line for no additional charge. With the average cost of repair in the thousands of dollars, a District offered plan to take care of home outside line leaks could be a wise investment. We will be sending out more information soon.

Le rapport contient des informations concernant la qualité de l'eau de votre communauté. Faites-le traduire, ou parlez-en à un ami qui le comprend bien.

Water Quality Testing Results

Several times each year, your water is collected and tested for over 120 possible impurities. The following table provides information about substances that have been detected in the most recent water quality testing. Some of the test were completed in years other than 2002. Because the water delivered to you could have come from either Lowell or Dracut or be a mix of the two, the data presented in the table represents the results of testing done by the Lowell Regional Water Utility and the Dracut Water Supply District. If you are interested in a more information about the source of your water, contact the Dracut Water Supply District at 978-957-0441.

Water Quality Information

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the DEP and EPA prescribe 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 (DPH) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water 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, in some cases, 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 stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, and farming.

Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater 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 stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

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

Contaminant	Meets MCL	Range Detected	Date	MCLG
[illegible] (ppm)	Yes	0.0 - 0.029	2003	[illegible]
[illegible] (ppb)	Yes	0.0 - 0.9	2003	[illegible]
Disinfectant residual (ppm)	Yes	0.0 - 1.05	2003	[illegible]
[illegible] Acetic Acid	Yes	[illegible]	2003	[illegible]
[illegible] (ppm)	Yes	[illegible] - 0.25	2003	[illegible]
[illegible] (ppb)	Yes	[illegible]	2003	[illegible]
[illegible] (ppm)	Yes	[illegible]	2003	[illegible]
[illegible]	Yes	[illegible]	2003	[illegible]
[illegible]	Yes	0.05 - 0.25	2003	[illegible]

Contaminant	Meets Standard	90th Percentile	Date	Audi... Lev...
Lead (ppb)	Yes	12	2003	[illegible]
Copper (ppm)	Yes	0.174	2003	[illegible]

Contaminant	Meets MCL	Range Detected	Year	SMC
Sodium (ppm)	NA	[illegible]	2003	NA
Methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) (ppb)	NA	[illegible]	2003	20
Sulfate (ppm)	NA	[illegible]	2003	250
Calcium (ppm)	NA	[illegible]	2003	NA

Terms and Abbreviations used in tables:

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drink... there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety; **M...nant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking wat... close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology; **Maxi... Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking w... convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbi... **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of a drinking wa... disinfectant below which there is no known expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not ... the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants; **Action Level (AL):** The c... contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a w... follow; **ppm:** part per million by volume; **ppb:** parts per billion; **NA:** not applicable; **S... Contaminant Level (SMCL):** These standards are developed to protect the aesthet... water and are not health based; **Massachusetts Office of Research and Standa... (ORSG):** This is the concentration of a chemical in drinking water, at or below which, ... effects are unlikely to occur after chronic (lifetime) exposure. If exceeded, it serves ... potential need for further action; **Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)** - measures t... characteristic or propety of water that causes it to scatter or absorb light. This is us... small particulate matter suspended in the water; **Treatment Technique (TT)** - A re... intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water. The City is required u... Water Treatment Rule to filter the source of the City's drinking water, the Merrimack R... contaminant levels such as turbidity.

Notes

[1] Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many year... problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increase...

[2] This is the average of samples taken during the year.

[3] Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water. It is monitored because it is a good indicato... the filtration system.

G/MR LG	MCL/ MRDL	Typical Source
2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
5	5	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines and refineries; runoff from waste batteries and paints
4	4	By-product of drinking water chlorination
0	60	By-products of drinking water chlorination
ne		By-product of drinking water chlorination
4	4	Discharge from metal refineries; Water additive used to control microbes
17	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
0	100	By-product of drinking water chlorination
NA	0	Soil runoff

...tion Level	# sites above AL	Typical Source
1.3	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
1.3	0	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

MCL	CRSG	Typical Source
NA	NA	Discharge from metal refineries
0.15	20	Gasoline additive; Leaching from underground storage tanks; Discharge from petroleum refineries
250	NA	Erosion of natural deposits
NA	20	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from use of road salt during winter

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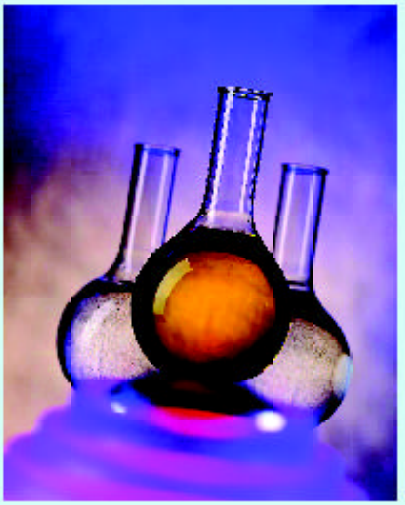


Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants 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 (1-800-426-4791).

How do we treat your water?

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink and in compliance with federal and state regulations, your water receives a variety of treatments including potassium hydroxide and phosphate for corrosion control and fluoride for oral health. Lowell water is filtered and treated by the City of Lowell.

Sewer Program

Some of you have experienced temporary shutdowns due to the sewer project. This program continued through 2002 and into 2003. Both the Water Department and the Town try very hard to minimize any shutdowns and give notification whenever possible at least 2 days in advance. Sometimes emergencies happen and service is restored as soon as possible. During this time we wish to apologize for any inconvenience and thank you for your patience. The sewer program is a vital one to the health and welfare of thousands of residents.

Want More Information?

Do you want to learn more about your drinking water? Do you have questions regarding this report? The Dracut Water Supply District responds to all concerns, questions and comments. Please contact Mr. Gary W. McCarthy, Executive Director-Superintendent of the Dracut Water Supply District at 978-957-0441. Internet access to information about your District will soon be available at **www.DracutWater.com**. Our main office is located at 59 Hopkins Street in Dracut. Our meetings are at the Dracut High School Library, and are usually held the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. Our meetings are broadcast on cable too. Our office receives calls 24 hours a day with after business "Emergency Call Service."

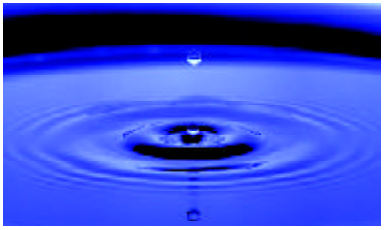
The Dracut Water Annual Water Report and Newsletter
Gary McCarthy
Executive Director-Superintendent of Kenwood and Dracut Water Supply Districts

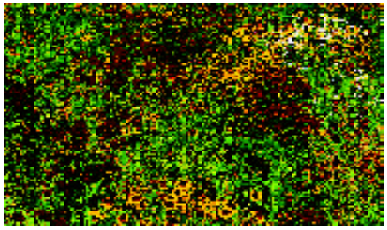
Mark Riopelle
Assistant Superintendent

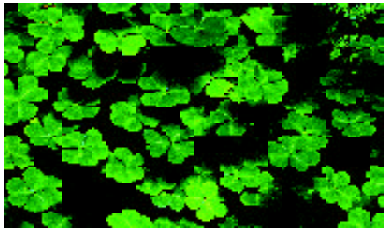
Design & Production
Paragon Consulting
Stephen.Lowe@paragon-c.com

Water Conservation Tips

Weather continues to be a factor all over the nation. Water once thought of as an unlimited resource now proves itself to be more precious and vital than ever. Given that it is upon all of us to use it wisely. To that end both the Town of Dracut and the Dracut Water Supply District encourage all its consumers to use water conservation measures, some are listed below.

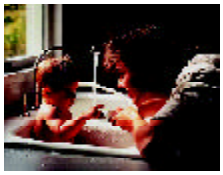






Water conservation in your home

- Fixing leaking faucets, pipes, toilets, etc.
- Install water-saving devices in faucets, toilets and appliances.
- Wash only full loads of laundry.
- Don't use the toilet for trash disposal.
- Take shorter showers.
- When washing hands, brushing teeth or shaving, use only as much water as you need.



Water conservation outside

- Minimize the size of your lawn as lawn watering may consume more than 30% of summer residential water use
- Use mulch around plants and shrubs and choose plants that don't need much water.
- Use water from a bucket to wash your car, and save the hose for rinsing.
- Sweep clippings and leaves from walks and driveways rather than using the hose.
- Dracut's Outside Watering Guidlines allow odd numbered houses on Wed, Fri, and Sat and even numbered houses on Tue, Thu, and Sun. No watering on Mondays. In the event time restrictions are required customers will be notified in the local news media along with community signs

DRACUT

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Water Quality Information Enclosed!