

2013 WATER QUALITY REPORT

DOUGLAS WATER DEPARTMENT



This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer



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SUBSTANCES FOUND IN SOURCE WATER

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 residential uses.

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, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) 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 small amounts 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 (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 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 lowering the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

**Douglas Water Department
Douglas, Massachusetts
DEP PWSID #2077000**

This report is a snapshot of drinking water quality that we provided last year. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to state and federal standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

Public Water System Information

Address: 29 Charles Street
Contact Person: Robert Sullivan
Telephone: (508) 476-2400
Fax: (508) 476-4012
Email: rsullivan@douglasma.org
Website: www.douglasma.org

Robert Josey, Keith Bloniasz, Colin Haire, Robert Sullivan



Glen Street Pump Station

Water System Improvements

Our water system is routinely inspected by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The DEP inspects our system for its technical, financial, and managerial capacity to provide safe drinking water to you. To ensure that we provide the highest quality of water available, your water system is operated by a Massachusetts certified operator who oversees the routine operations of our system. In 2013 telemetry equipment was upgraded to improve operation control.

Opportunities for Public Participation

If you would like to participate in discussions regarding your water quality, you may attend the following meetings or educational events. The Water/Sewer Commission meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 P.M., in the office of the WWTF, 29 Charles Street. Please feel free to participate in these meetings, or call Robert Sullivan if you have any questions about your water at (508) 476-2400, or call the EPA/CDC Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791, or on the web at www.madwep.org.

A MANDATORY WATER BAN IN EFFECT

A mandatory water ban is in affect From May 1st Through September 30

No nonessential outdoor water use is allowed between the hours of 9:00 am –5:00 pm

For more information please visit our website:
www.douglasma.org/index.php/pages/committees/water_sewer_department

