

Housatonic Water Works

80 Maple Avenue, Suite 1 | Great Barrington, MA 01230
MA DEP Public Water Supply ID# 1113003



2014 Consumer Confidence Report Your Annual Drinking Water Quality Information

This report provides a snapshot of the drinking water quality that was achieved last year. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how its quality 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

Our water system is routinely inspected by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MA DEP). MA 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. A treatment process includes filtration and disinfection is also provided. Reservoir water is directed through slow sand filters and then a controlled amount of sodium hypochlorite is added and mixed in a contact time basin. This maze like structure mixes the chlorinated water and provides treatment over time that helps ensure complete disinfection of the drinking water. The water is monitored by us and MassDEP to determine the effectiveness of existing water treatment and to determine if any additional treatment is required. As part of our ongoing commitment to you we make regular repairs to the system, a system wide leak detection was performed and upgrades on Grove Street.

YOUR DRINKING WATER SOURCE

Where Does My Drinking Water Come From?

Housatonic Water Works water comes from surface water Long Pond Reservoir located southwest of the village of Housatonic. Long Pond has a surface area of 115 acres and storage capacity of 263 million gallons. The source is designated by MA DEP Source Name and ID Source Number as: Long Pond [1113003-01S]. The water system supplies approximately 821 service connections and serves a population of approximately 1300 people. Great Barrington Fire District's Water system can be used in emergencies.

How are These Sources Protected?

MA DEP prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report dated January 2009 to assist in the identification of potential sources of contamination. A susceptibility ranking of "moderate" was assigned to this system. Typical agricultural, commercial and residential land use around surface water sources can contribute to contamination. The SWAP report outlines land activity concerns and commends our water system on the vigilant inspection and monitoring of activities in the watershed along with regular communication with abutting property owners. The complete SWAP report is available at the Housatonic Water Works Office, or by contacting the Western Regional Office of MA DEP at (413)755-2215. You may also view this report online at: <http://www.mass.gov/cca/docs/dep/water/drinking/swap/wero/1113000.pdf>.

Prepared by Housatonic Basin Sampling and Testing on behalf of your water supplier. This report is a compilation of best available data sources including: licensed operators' reports; water supply owner's coordination; MA DEP public records; and EPA online records. The report represents an accurate account of your water quality to the best of our knowledge.

HEALTH NOTES

In order to ensure that **tap water is safe to drink**, the Department of Environmental Protection (MA 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).

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. Housatonic Water Works 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>.

Cross connections are potentially hazardous situations for public or private potable water supply and a source of potable water contamination. A cross connection is any potential or actual physical connection between a potable water supply and any source through which it is possible to introduce any substance other than potable water into the water supply. Common Cross connection scenarios are a garden hose whose spout is submerged in a bucket of soapy water or connected to a spray bottle of weed killer.

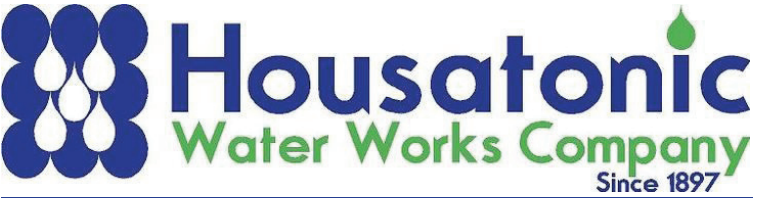
Cross Connections between a potable water line and a non-potable water system or equipment have long been a concern of the Department of Environmental Protection (MA DEP). MA DEP established regulations to protect the public health of water consumers from contaminants due to back-flow events. The installation of back-flow prevention devices, such as a low cost hose bib vacuum breaker, for all inside and outside hose connections is recommended. You can purchase this 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 drinking water system in your community. For additional information on cross connections and on the status of your water system's cross connection program, please contact us.

Residents can help protect our water resources by:

- Practicing good septic system maintenance
- Supporting water supply protection initiatives and conservation measures
- Taking hazardous household chemicals to hazardous materials collection days
- Limiting pesticide and fertilizer use, etc.

Water is essential for all dimensions of life.

World Bank Institute
WATER POLICY REFORM PROGRAM - Nov. 1999



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