



HOUSATONIC WATER WORKS COMPANY
SINCE 1897

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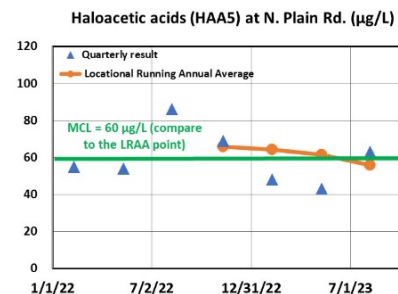
September 18, 2023

Disinfection Byproduct Levels Continue to Decrease, and Are Now in Compliance

Housatonic Water Works Company, Inc. (HWWC) announces today the 3rd quarter 2023 monitoring results for disinfection byproducts (DBPs) in the treated drinking water supply.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) has established a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 60 µg/L (or parts per billion, ppb) for the DBP class of haloacetic acids (HAA5). Haloacetic acids are chemical compounds that form when the chlorine disinfectant reacts with natural organic matter in the water. Compliance with the MCL is based on the calculated Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA) of monitoring results from four consecutive quarters.

- The August 2023 (3rd quarter) result for HAA5 for the North Plain Road monitoring location was 63 ppb, compared to the 86 ppb observed at this time in 2022. Monitoring at the N. Plain Road location was started during February 2022 at MassDEP’s request, and LRAA compliance calculations began with the November 2022 sample.



- The August 2023 North Plain Road result brings HWWC into compliance with MassDEP’s regulatory limit for HAA5. The LRAA at that site is now 56 ppb (down from last quarter’s 62 ppb), below the MCL of 60 ppb. (Figure 1)

Figure 1

- The other quarterly DBP monitoring location at Depot Street has been in compliance with the HAA5 MCL for the past five quarters (3rd quarter 2022 through 3rd quarter 2023). The current LRAA is 50 ppb.

- HWWC’s water has always met the MCL for total trihalomethanes (TTHM), the other class of chlorinated disinfection byproducts for the Depot Street location.

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More DBP reductions coming

HWWC is currently in the process of installing a new two-stage chlorination system approved by MassDEP that will further reduce the amount of chlorinated disinfection byproducts that are formed. The current single chlorine dose fed at the entrance to the chlorine contact basin will be reduced, and a second chlorine feed will be established to boost the chlorine residual just before entry to the distribution system. “This plan takes advantage of the system’s operational flexibility and will allow HWWC to still provide ample disinfection, while reducing the amount of chlorine present in the contact basin and subsequent 1.1-MG storage tank which has a particularly long contact time for reaction of chlorine with the natural organic matter that is present in the source water,” James Mercer, the company’s treasurer, says.

HWWC’s current slow sand filtration system is already highly efficient at removing the natural organic matter (NOM) that serves as a precursor for the formation of chlorinated DBPs. HWWC believes this success is largely due to the well-established age of the microbial population on the sand filters and our custom hydraulic rake filter cleaning system. Periodically cleaning the sand surface with water instead of physically removing the top layer of sand has allowed the sand to not be replaced in many years, providing better, cost-effective treatment.

With the new two-stage chlorination process, HWWC will be able to decrease the amount of chlorine used for disinfection.

Low manganese in summer 2023

The naturally occurring manganese that has caused periodic problems with water color during recent summers did not rise to problematic levels in 2023. This is shown in Figure 1, which includes manganese data over the past five years for the Long Pond source water, the treated water, and water in the distribution system.

HWWC is conducting the fourth and final pilot study required by MassDEP for the proposed greensand filtration system that will remove the manganese and prevent the periodic color episodes. Seasonal flushing of the distribution system may still result in discolored water as the pipes are cleaned, and the extent of that discoloration should decrease over time as the new treatment process removes manganese from our Long Pond source water.

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