

**Press Release** 

August 14, 2024

## **Explore Our Resources: Understanding Manganese Levels**

We encourage all our customers to take advantage of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's (MassDEP) interactive map, which provides information on manganese levels across the Commonwealth. We are not alone in facing this seasonal issue. Climate change and environmental factors have impacted water quality across the region.

In Great Barrington, manganese has been detected not only at Long Pond but also at Beartown State Forest and the American Institute for Economic Research. This issue extends beyond our area, affecting other towns such as Savoy, Hinsdale, Pittsfield, Becket, Mount Washington, Chester, Otis, and Palmer, and central and eastern Massachusetts. We're all in this together.

To assist our customers in understanding and monitoring manganese levels, we are providing a valuable resource from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). The following link directs you to the map showing manganese level indicators throughout the state: <u>MassDEP Manganese Map</u>.

Additionally, we invite you to visit our <u>website</u>, where we have compiled helpful links and resources related to manganese. These resources are designed to keep you informed and assist you in understanding the current situation and any actions we take.

We understand our customers' concerns and are working diligently to address and mitigate the issue. Over the past several years, we have collected data, analyzed it, and conducted pilot studies to illustrate the efficacy of a planned green sand filtration system. We are currently in the design phase and plan to have the system operational by the spring of 2025.

Your awareness and engagement are important to us as we work together to ensure the highest quality of water. Feel free to explore these tools and reach out if you have any questions or need further assistance.