



**AQUARION**  
Water Company



## **Frequently Asked Questions Concerning the Cohasset/Aquarion Interconnection**

### **1. Why do we need the Cohasset Interconnection?**

*The Massachusetts DEP regulates water withdrawals based on pumping averages from 1980-1985. Using DEP criteria, Aquarion has reached the limit of its regulatory capacity to withdraw water from resources under the current Water Management Registrations.*

*Therefore, the development of Linden Ponds by Erickson would not have occurred but for a creative agreement between Erickson, Cohasset and Aquarion to provide the additional quantity of water needed for the development. Erickson will purchase needed water, Cohasset will pump water into the Aquarion system and Aquarion will convey a like amount of water through it's the existing distribution system to Linden Ponds.*

*The Cohasset Water Department has a 20-year agreement with Erickson to sell up to 300,000 gallons a day for that project. Erickson will initially purchase 15,000 gallons per day reaching the 300,000 gallons in May 2013 when Linden Ponds is expected to be fully built.*

### **2. Does Cohasset Water profit from the sale of water to Linden Ponds?**

*Yes. Cohasset has established rates consistent with and typical of area water use, which cover the cost of treating and distributing the water .*

### **3. Why are there two agreements?**

*There are two agreements, one between Erickson, the Cohasset Water Commission and Aquarion and one between the Cohasset Water Commission and Erickson. The main 2-party agreement is between Linden Ponds and the Cohasset Water Commission for the sale of the water. The other agreement is a 3-party agreement that also includes Aquarion because the water is being "wheeled" through Aquarion, who gets the water from Cohasset based on usage at Linden Ponds.*

**4. Where will the water be mixed?**

*Cohasset water will be mixed with Aquarion water at the Turkey Hill Tank located in Hingham.*

**5. What happens after the water is mixed?**

*Once mixed, the water is distributed through the existing pipes in the streets to the consumers in northern portion of Hingham, north Cohasset and Hull.*

**6. How much water will get mixed?**

*All of the water will get mixed. The daily intake will fluctuate based on the water usage at the Linden Ponds Development. At build-out of the project projected in 2013 it will be approximately 200,000 to 300,000 gallons per day.*

**7. Who is going to be getting this mixed water?**

*The majority of the mixed water based on the system hydraulics will be distributed to the customers in the northern portion of Hingham, the North Cohasset customers and Hull customers.*

**8. When the water is mixed, what is the ratio of Cohasset water to Aquarion water?**

*Cohasset water will be phased into the system as Linden Ponds develops as planned. Initially the percentage of Cohasset will be approximately one-half of one-percent. By the year 2013, the ratio will be 90 percent Aquarion water to 10 percent Cohasset water at the current projected level based on MA DEP Title V projections.*

**9. Does the Aquarion water have different standards than Cohasset water?**

*No. Like all public water systems in Massachusetts, Aquarion Water Company and the Cohasset Water Department are required to comply with the Massachusetts Drinking Water Standard (310CMR22) regulated by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.*

**10. What does the actual connection involve?**

*Water must be pumped from the Cohasset system to a slightly higher elevation in Hingham. Therefore, the interconnection pipeline requires a pumping station to “boost” the water into the Aquarion system.*

**11. How many feet of water pipe did it take to connect the Cohasset system to the Aquarion system?**

*The new pipeline was installed on Route 3A across from the Hingham Lumber Company down to the Hingham Line, which is approximately 1 mile of new 12-inch pipe.*

**12. Was the pipe installed on both sides of the Route 3A?**

*The new pipe is located on the right side of Route 3A heading into Hingham to the booster station, where it crosses 3A in Hingham to the left side of Route 3A and connects to the Aquarion pipe..*

**13. What is the purpose of the brick structure? Is that a pumphouse? What will that do?**

*The brick structure is a booster station that will pump the Cohasset water into Hingham to meet the higher pressure of the Aquarion system. The station will also be continuously monitoring the water quality, volume of water pumped and pressure in the pipes and report to Cohasset Water and Aquarion constantly.*

**14. Who is paying for that the infrastructure?**

*Erickson Properties is paying for the pipeline and pumphouse*

**15. Are there side benefits for Cohasset? Will other homes and/or businesses along the new pipeline be allowed to connect for water service? Or are they already connected in some way?**

*Yes, Cohasset Water owns the new water pipes that will allow Cohasset to provide better water service and fire protection to Route 3A customers located in Cohasset. Also, Erickson is providing other necessary new facilities and upgrades of older facilities in order to provide an up-to-date, reliable system.*

**16. What are TTHMs and why do we keep hearing about this?**

*TTHMs are a by-product of the process of treating water with chlorine. They are present in most treated drinking water. If their presence exceeds 80 parts per billion then a notice must be issued and corrective action must be taken.*

**17. Have all of Cohasset's water quality problems been resolved?**

*Cohasset is in compliance with all water quality regulations and expects to remain in compliance going forward.*

**18. What happens if there is a failure in the Cohasset water system? In the Aquarion water system?**

*If there is a failure in the Cohasset system Cohasset will immediately shut down the interconnection and follow the communication procedures for notifying Aquarion, and others as needed. Depending on the magnitude and nature of the failure, Aquarion is capable of providing the needed water to all of its customers as well as Linden Ponds, until*

*Cohasset addresses the issue. If there is a failure in the Aquarion system, Aquarion will follow its Emergency Operating Procedures which includes a notification protocol and operate and/or establish interconnections with neighboring towns as necessary.*

**19. Who is paying for the pipelines and pumping station?**

The costs of the pipelines and pumping station are paid for exclusively by Erickson. No costs are paid for by the residents of Hull, Hingham or Cohasset, nor Aquarion or the Cohasset Water Department.

**20. How does this affect for the schedule of improvements to the Cohasset system?**

*In addition to revenues from the sale of water that are being used to further improve the Cohasset system, Erickson has committed to making additional investments.*