

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
For
Mountain Water Systems, Inc.
2020
Sheffield, Massachusetts
MASSDEP PWSID # 1267000

This Consumer Confidence Report is a snapshot of the quality of drinking water we provided to you in 2020. 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 customers.

1. PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM INFORMATION

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Mountain Water Systems (MWS) is proud to provide you with our water quality report for 2020. The Company is committed to delivering our customers high quality drinking water that meets or surpasses State and Federal standards for quality and safety. This report includes the State and Federally mandated format for language and information.

Our water system is continuously reviewed by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). MassDEP also evaluates 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.

Water System Improvements

Close attention is continually given to sources of supply with respect to quality and quantity. Accordingly, The Company redeveloped the Pike Rd. Well to ensure a plentiful and safe water source for the coming years. Additionally, a substantial investment was made to install a 12" water main through the new Berkshire School Bridge in a forward look to accommodate future water needs west of the school. The Company also installed new hydrants to continue the long road ahead in improving public fire protection.

2. YOUR DRINKING WATER SOURCE

Where Does My Water Come From?

Your water is provided by the following sources listed below:

Source Name	MassDEP Source ID#	Source Type	Location of Source
Pike Rd Well	1267000-04G	Groundwater	Pike Rd
Maple Ave Well	1267000-05G	Groundwater	Maple Ave. 3000' East of Main St

Your water comes to you untreated from two wells; a 300' deep gravel packed well off Maple Avenue and a 280' deep well-off Pike Road. They feed into the distribution system and maintain the storage tank level on Water Farm Road. 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. Each year MWS conducts water quality testing according to requirements set by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In order to ensure that tap water is

safe to drink; the EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems.

Is My Water Treated?

Our water system makes every effort to provide you with safe and pure drinking water. We are pleased to report that your water does not need to be treated at this time to meet these goals. The water quality of our system is constantly monitored by us and MassDEP to determine if any future treatment may be required.

*****Mountain Water Systems does not add fluoride to the water supply.*****

How Are These Sources Protected?

MassDEP has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report for the water supply source(s) serving this water system. The SWAP Report assesses the susceptibility of public water supplies.

Where Can I See The SWAP Report?

The MassDEP has prepared an assessment for the Mountain Water Systems water sources as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act. This is a measure of a water supply's potential to become contaminated based on local hazards. The program was initialized in 1999 and completed in 2003. Now, that information is available to the public at the Mass DEP website: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/the-source-water-assessment-protection-swap-program> .

Residents can help protect sources by:

- Practicing good septic system maintenance
- Supporting water supply protection initiatives at the next town meeting
- Taking hazardous household chemicals to hazardous materials collection sites.
- Limiting pesticide and fertilizer use, etc.

Cross-Connection Control and Backflow Prevention

Protect your drinking water from Cross Connections:

A cross connection occurs whenever a potable drinking water line is connected to a piece of equipment or piping containing non-potable water. An unprotected cross connection could contaminate the water in your home and also affect the water at the street in the event of backpressure or back-siphonage. An outside water tap or garden hose tends to be the most common type of cross connection in the home. The garden hose becomes a hazard when connected to a chemical sprayer used for weed control and fertilizer applications. You can protect against this by installing vacuum breakers on all your outside faucets. Vacuum breakers can be purchased at your local hardware store and are inexpensive and easy to install. Other potential cross connections can occur on lawn irrigation systems, irrigation wells and fire protection systems. **Irrigation wells should never be connected to the household plumbing, as that is a direct cross connection in violation of the plumbing code and drinking water regulations!** For more information on cross connections, please contact Mountain Water Systems at 888-230-4251, or go to www.mountainwatersystemsinc.com.

3. SUBSTANCES FOUND IN TAP 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 septic systems.

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 (MassDEP) 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. Mountain Water System 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>.

4. IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

The following table lists drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2020 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The data presented in this table is from testing done between January 1st and December 31, 2020. The state requires us to monitor certain contaminants less than once a year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) – The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) –The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Action Level (AL) – The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

90th Percentile – Out of every 10 homes sampled, 9 were at or below this level.

Unregulated Contaminants

Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated monitoring is to assist EPA in determining their occurrence in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

Level 1 Assessment - A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)
 ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l)
 ND = Not Detected
 N/A = Not Applicable

Lead and Copper: the last round of samplings was done in 2018. State regulations require us to test for Lead and Copper every three years and will be done again in 2021. *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. Mountain Water Systems 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>.*

5. WATER QUALITY TESTING RESULTS

What Does This Data Represent?

The water quality information presented in the table(s) is from the most recent round of testing done in accordance with the regulations. All data shown was collected during the last calendar year unless otherwise noted in the table(s).

	Date(s) Collected	90 TH percentile	Action Level	MCLG	# of sites sampled	# of sites above Action Level	Possible Source of Contamination
Lead (ppb)	2018	.0042	15	0	10	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	2018	.0867	1.3	1.3	10	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessments to identify any problems that were found during these assessments.

During the past year, we were required to conduct one Level 1 Assessments. One Level 1 Assessments was completed. In addition, we were required to take no corrective actions.

Bacteria	MCL / TT	MCLG	Value	Date	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Sources
Total Coliform Bacteria	0	0	1	11/19/2020	N	Human and animal fecal waste

Regulated Contaminant	Date(s) Collected	Highest Result or Highest Running Average Detected	Range Detected	MCL or MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Source(s) of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants							

Regulated Contaminant	Date(s) Collected	Highest Result or Highest Running Average Detected	Range Detected	MCL or MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Source(s) of Contamination
Antimony (ppb)	11/18/2020	<1		6	6	N	Discharge from fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder
Arsenic (ppb)	11/18/2020	<4		10	N/A	N	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	11/18/2020	0.0391		2	2	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Beryllium (ppb)	11/18/2020	<1		4	4	N	Discharge from electrical, aerospace, and defense industries; erosion of natural deposits
Cadmium (ppb)	11/18/2020	<1		5	5	N	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from metal refineries; runoff from waste batteries and paints
Chromium (ppb)	11/18/2020	<1		100	100	N	Discharge from pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Cyanide (ppb)	11/18/2020	<1		200	200	N	Discharge from metal factories; discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories
Fluoride (ppm) ■	11/18/2020	<0.2		4	4	N	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
■ Fluoride also has a secondary contaminant level (SMCL) of 2 ppm.							
Mercury (ppb)	11/18/2020	<0.2		2	2	N	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from refineries and factories; runoff from landfills; runoff from cropland
Nitrate (ppm)	10/22/2020	<.05		10	10	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite (ppm)	11/18/2020	.0684		1	1	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppb)	11/18/2020	<5		50	50	N	Discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines
Thallium (ppb)	11/18/2020	<1		2	0.5	N	Leaching from ore-processing sites; discharge from electronics, glass, and drug factories

Unregulated and Secondary Contaminants

Unregulated contaminants are those for which there are no established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist regulatory agencies in determining their occurrence in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

Unregulated Contaminants	Date(s) Collected	Result or Range Detected	Average Detected	SMCL	ORSG	Possible Source
Manganese* (ppb)	10/21/2020	190	190	300	300	Erosion of natural deposits

Unregulated Contaminants	Date(s) Collected	Result or Range Detected	Average Detected	SMCL	ORSG	Possible Source
* US EPA has established a lifetime health advisory (HA) value of 300 ppb for manganese to protect against concerns of potential neurological effects, and a one-day and 10-day HA of 1000 ppb for acute exposure.						
Sodium (ppm)	11/18/2020	2.81		N/A	20	Discharge from the use and improper storage of sodium-containing de-icing compounds or in water-softening agents

Secondary Contaminants	Date(s) Collected	Result or Range Detected	Average Detected	SMCL	ORSG	Possible Source
Iron (ppb)	10/21/2020	50	50	300	N/A	Naturally occurring, corrosion of cast iron pipes
Manganese* (ppb)	10/21/2020	190	190	50	Health Advisory of 300	Natural sources as well as discharges from industrial uses
* EPA has established a lifetime Health Advisory (HA) for manganese of 0.3 mg/L and an acute HA at 1.0 mg/L (Add health language listed below if detect is over 300 ppb)						

6. COMPLIANCE WITH DRINKING WATER REGS

Does My Drinking Water Meet Current Health Standards?

We are committed to providing you with the best water quality available. We are proud to report that last year your drinking water met all applicable health standards regulated by the state and federal government.