

2015 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

For

Blandford Water Department

Blandford, Massachusetts

DEP PWSID # 1033000

I. PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM INFORMATION

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This report is a snapshot of drinking water quality that we provided last year. 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 allies.

How are these sources protected?

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report for the water supply source(s) serving this water system.

The SWAP Report notes the key in the water supply protection area and commends the water system on existing source protection measures.

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 days,*
- *contacting the water department or Board of Health to volunteer for monitoring or education outreach to schools,*
- *Limiting pesticide and fertilizer use, etc.*

Where can I see the SWAP Report?

The complete SWAP report is available at the Water Department, Board of Health, or other locations and online at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/water/drinking/swap/wero/1033000.pdf>

For more information, call William Levakis at (413) 848-4279 x 304.

II. Your Drinking Water Source

The Town of Blandford relies on one source of supply, the Long Pond Reservoir which is located at the western part of Blandford. The reservoir is approximately 1 mile long by 0.25 miles at its widest point with a surface area of 81 acres and a hydraulic grade elevation of 1,544 feet.

The water from the Long Pond Reservoir flows directly to the Long Pond Water Treatment Facility. The WTF treats up to a maximum flow rate of 250,000 gpd and utilizes the proprietary MS Filter packed slow sand filtration system, combined with the addition of treatment chemicals. The plant was designed for turbidity reduction, removal of organic and inorganic particles, and waterborne microorganisms in order to comply with the SDWA and MADEP regulations.

In accordance with MADEP guidelines, the required 250,000 gpd capacity will be provided in all cases with one process train out of service. To meet the requirements, four filtration units were provided, each capable of treating up to 84,000 gpd.

Water flows directly to the WTF from Long Pond. After entering the building in the Pump Pit, raw water is pumped to the slow sand filters. Prior to entering the filters, gaseous ozone is injected to the oxidize organics and increase total organic carbon (TOC) removal efficiency. Water then flows to the splitter box which directs water to each of the four slow sand filters. Each filter tank, measuring 11.8 ft by 50.9 ft consists of three stages:

- The first stage is the roughing filter which consists of 6 inches of coarse gravel base progressing upwards to 6 inches of fine gravel, topped with 16 inches of granular activated carbon (GAC). This stage of filtering process protects the slow sand filter from excessive solids loading. The GAC media removes residual ozone to protect the *schmutzdecke* layer on the slow sand filter.
- The second stage is the slow sand filter, consisting of a large bed of fine sand supported by layers of progressively coarser sand and gravel. The filter serves as an effective means of filtering water and controlling microbiological contaminants.
- The final stage of the process is the GAC contactor. This stage consists of layering of materials similar to the roughing filter and provides final polishing for organics removal.

Water leaving the filters may be treated with sodium carbonate (soda ash) for PH adjustment and sodium hypochlorite for disinfection. Filtered water then enters the contact basin/two chamber concrete clear well with a combined capacity of 176,000 gallons. (The chlorine contact basin has a capacity of 26,000 gallons and the concrete clear wells have a total capacity of 150,000 gallons.) A baffle wall in the basin ensures the necessary contact time for disinfection.

Before entering the clear well, post-CT basin water samples are continuously analyzed to determine the need for a second dosing of soda ash and sodium hypochlorite. At this time, aqueous ammonia may be injected to form chloramines for secondary disinfection within the distribution system. Water from the clear well is piped back in to the treatment facility for final adjustment of soda ash, sodium hypochlorite, and aqueous ammonia as needed before being delivered to the distribution system.

A 500-gpm backwash pump is provided to deliver raw water to flush the sand media in the filters during a filter cleaning. Spent backwash water is transferred to an onsite lined backwash water lagoon. The lagoon allows solids to settle prior to being decanted to Wheeler Brook.

This year we did complete some repair work on the line. We re-insulated the water main running under the North Street Bridge.

III. Substances Found In Tap Water

The 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 the 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 storm water runoff, industrial or domestic water discharges, oil and gas production, mining and farming.

Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and may come from gas stations spills, urban storm water runoff, or septic systems.

In order to ensure that the tap water is safe to drink, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and EPA prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in the water provided by the public water systems, The US Food and Drug Administration and the MA Department of Public Health regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

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 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 infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

IV. Important Definitions

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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) -- The highest level of a disinfectant (chlorine, chloramines, chlorine dioxide) allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) -- The level of a drinking water disinfectant (chlorine, chloramines, chlorine dioxide) below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Treatment Technique (TT) – A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

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.

Variances and Exemptions – State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)

ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l)

ppt = parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter

pCi/l = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units

ND = Not Detected

N/A = Not Applicable

mrem/year = millirem per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)

Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL) – These standards are developed to protect the aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.

Massachusetts Office of Research and Standards Guideline (ORSG) – This is the concentration of a chemical in drinking water, at or below which, adverse health effects are unlikely to occur after chronic (lifetime) exposure. If exceeded, it serves as an indicator of the potential need for further action.

V. Water Quality Testing Results

Blandford Water Department 2015

Blandford Water Department 2015 Water Quality Report

Contaminant (Units)	Max Level or Range Detected	MCL	MCLG	Violation (Yes/No)	Possible Source of Contamination
Turbidity* - 2015 Results					
Turbidity (NTU)	0.16	5	n/a	No	Soil runoff
Inorganic Contaminants – 2015 Results					
Nitrate (ppm)	2.3	10	10	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage;
Disinfection Byproducts – 2015 Results					
RANGE					

Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) (ppb)	55.88 ppb Highest Running Annual Average Highest reading: 67.4 ppb on 5/19	80	24.4-91.5 Dates collected: 2/17, 5/19, 8/18, 11/16	No	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	52.33 ppb Highest Running Annual Average Highest reading: 49 ppb on 5/19	60	10.1-69.9 Dates collected: 2/17, 5/19, 8/18, 11/16	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection

Secondary Contaminants

Unregulated and Secondary Contaminants	Date(s) Collected	Result	SMCL	ORSG	Possible Source
Sodium (ppm)	June 16	1.7	N/A	20	Natural Sources; runoff from use as salt on roadways; by-product of treatment process
Manganese* (ppb)	June 19	14	50	300 ppb	Erosion of natural deposits

*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.

	Date	Highest result	range	MCL	MCLG	Violation	Possible source
Radioactive Contaminants							
Gross Alpha (pCi/l) (minus uranium)	8/7	0.951	na	15	0	no	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 & 228 (pCi/L) (combined values)	8/14	0.245	na	5	0	no	Erosion of natural deposits

Lead and Copper – scheduled to be tested in 2016

Contaminant (Units)	Action Level	90 th Percentile #s	Number of Sites	Number of sites found above	Possible Source of Contamination	Violation (Yes/No)
Lead (ppb)	15	4.2	0	0	Corrosion of household	No
Copper (ppm)	1.3	0.12	0	0	Corrosion of household	No

90th Percentile – Out of every 10 homes sampled, 9 were at or below this level. Although lead is not present in any significant quantity in the water supplied to our customers, plumbing within the home may add lead to the water. Therefore, the following informative statement is included in this report for your information.

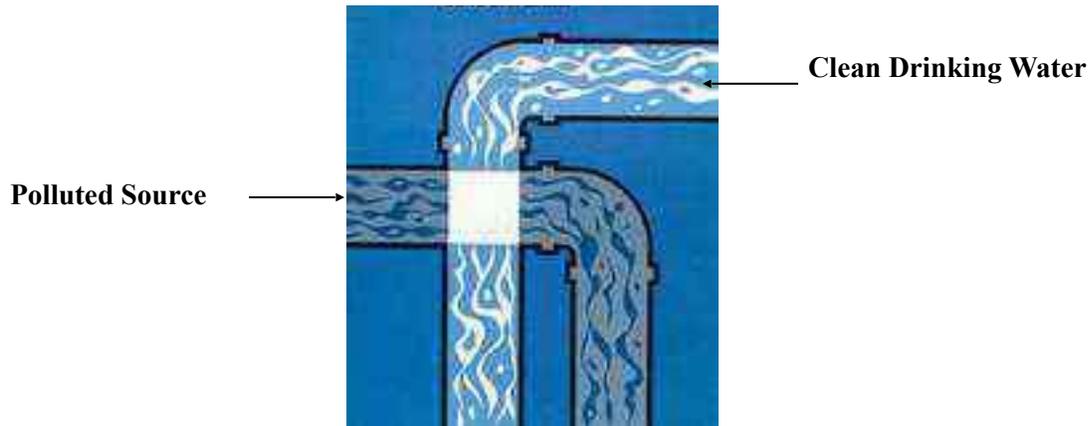
IMPORTANT HEALTH INFORMATION

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. The Blandford Water Department 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>.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has reduced the monitoring requirements for SOC, IOC & Perchlorate because the source is not at risk of contamination. The last sample collected for these contaminants was taken on 9/2/2011 and was found to meet all applicable EPA and MassDEP standards.

VII. EDUCATIONAL INFORMATON

Cross Connections are Hazardous to our Drinking Water
Please help us protect our Drinking Water by eliminating Cross Connections



What is a Cross Connection and What Can I do About it?

A cross connection is a connection between a drinking water pipe and a polluted source. The pollution can come from your own home. For instance, you're going to spray fertilizer on your lawn. You hook up your hose to the sprayer that contains the fertilizer. If the water pressure drops (say because of fire hydrant use in the town) when the hose is connected to the fertilizer, the fertilizer may be sucked back into the drinking water pipes through the hose. Using an attachment on your hose called a backflow-prevention device can prevent this problem.

The Blandford Water Department recommends the installation of backflow prevention devices, such as a low cost hose bib vacuum breaker, for all inside and outside hose connections. 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 town. For additional information on cross connections and on the status of your water systems cross connection program, please contact the Water Department at (413) 848-4279 x 304.

Public Participation

The Blandford Water Commissioners encourage the public to participate in the process of managing the Water Department by attending meetings posted at the Town Hall. Currently the Water Department holds meetings as needed. The Water Department Secretary is available in the town hall every Monday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and Wednesday and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Questions Regarding This Report

Should you have any questions regarding any of the information provided in this report, please contact the Blandford Water Department at (413) 848-4279 x 304. Copies of this report can be found at the Library, Post Office, and Town Hall.

The Board of Water Commissioners

William Levakis-Chairman
Bradley Curry-Clerk
Gordon Avery-Commissioner