

2019 Consumer Confidence Report

Your Annual Drinking Water Quality Information



EGREMONT WATER DEPARTMENT

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MA DEP PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY ID# 1090000

This report provides a snapshot of the drinking water quality that was achieved last year. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how its quality compares to state and federal standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM INFORMATION

Our water system is routinely inspected by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MA DEP). MA DEP inspects 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 Massachusetts certified operators who oversee the routine operations of our system. Your water is treated by sand filters and by adding a controlled amount of sodium hypochlorite for disinfection and is constantly monitored by us and MA DEP to determine the effectiveness of existing water treatment and to determine if any additional treatment is required.

YOUR DRINKING WATER SOURCE

❖ Where Does My Drinking Water Come From?

Egremont Water Department's water comes from Karner Brook, a surface water supply location on Mount Washington Road. The source is designated by MA DEP Source Name: Karner Brook Reservoir and ID Source Number: 1090000-01S. Maximum daily consumption on the system was 47,360 gallons. Egremont's water system supplies approximately 180 service connections, including 8 businesses, and serves a population of approximately 650 people. The Great Barrington Fire District water supply is available for emergency use.

❖ How are These Sources Protected?

MA DEP prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report to assist in the identification of potential sources of contamination. A susceptibility ranking of "high" was assigned to this system. Due to the nature of surface water supplies, these sources are considered highly vulnerable to potential contamination. The complete SWAP report is available at the Egremont Water Department's Office, or by contacting the Western Regional Office of MA DEP at (413)755-2215.

HEALTH NOTES

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Department of Environmental Protection (MA DEP) 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 be reasonably 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. Egremont Water Department is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in home 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 (800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Cross connections are potentially hazardous situations for public or private potable water supplies and a source of potable water contamination. A cross connection is any potential or actual physical connection between a potable water supply and any source through which it is possible to introduce any substance other than potable water into the water supply. Common cross connection scenarios are a garden hose whose spout is submerged in a bucket of soapy water or connected to a spray bottle of weed killer. Cross connections between a potable water line and a non-potable water system or equipment have long been a concern of the Department of Environmental Protection (MA DEP). MA DEP established regulations to protect the public health of water consumers from contaminants due to back-flow events. The installation of back-flow prevention devices, such as a low cost hose bib vacuum breaker, for all inside and outside hose connections is recommended. 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 our community. For additional information on cross connections and on the water system's cross connection program, please contact us.

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 storm water 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 storm water 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 storm water runoff, and septic systems.

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

COMPLIANCE WITH REGULATIONS

Does Drinking Water Meet Current Health Standards?

We are committed to providing you with the best water quality available. Last year, for all the parameters that were tested, your drinking water met and exceeded all applicable health standards regulated by the state and federal government. For more information regarding our system you may also visit the EPA website at: <http://www.epa.gov/enviro/facts/sdwis/search.html>.

We are required to have daily coverage of the treatment facility by a primary operator holding a Full 1T treatment license. In mid-2019, we came into compliance with the operator requirements under a temporary emergency certification from the Massachusetts Division of Professional Licensure (Mass DPL) and with the assistance of the operators on our staff. We learned on January 29, 2020 that our application for our new operator's full license (which was applied for in September 2019) was not accepted by Mass DPL, and that the Operator is required to work 4-5 additional months of service before a full license can be reissued. Because of DPL's lack of timely communication, we were in violation of treatment requirements due to operator staffing. We have knowledgeable staff overseeing the treatment plant and have retained contract operator services to meet the additional licensing requirements.

WATER QUALITY TESTING RESULTS

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 NTU =Nephelometric Turbidity Unit pCi/L =Unit measure of radioactivity

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.

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

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) - The highest level of a disinfectant 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 below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Turbidity - A measure of the cloudiness of water. Turbidity is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.

Massachusetts Office of Research and Standards Guidelines

(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.

The water quality tables following show the most recent water quality testing results where levels were detected and compares those levels to standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. MA DEP may reduce the monitoring requirements for *volatile organic contaminants (VOCs)*, *inorganic contaminants (IOCs)*, or *synthetic organic contaminants (SOCs)* because the source is not at risk of contamination. Egremont Water Department currently has a waiver for IOCs and Perchlorate. The last IOC panel was conducted in April 2014.

With the exception of those compounds noted in the tables below, all other compounds in the panels reported undetectable levels.

Lead & Copper	Date(s) Collected	90 th (%)	Action Level	MCLG	Sites Sampled	Sites Above Action Level	Possible Source
Lead (ppb)	2 nd Quarter 4 th Quarter	0.0064 0.0087	0.015	0.015	20 20	0 0	Corrosion of household plumbing and erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	2 nd Quarter 4 th Quarter	0.975 0.947	1.3	1.3	20 20	0 0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits and leaching from wood preservatives
Bacteria	Date(s) Collected	Highest Number	MCL	MCLG	Violation		Possible Source
Total Coliform	Monthly	0	1	0	No		Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform (<i>E.coli</i>)	Monthly	0	0	0	No		Human and fecal waste
Turbidity*	Treatment Technique	Lowest % (Monthly)	Highest Det. Value		Violation		Possible Source
Daily Compliance (NTU)	5	---	0.069		No		Soil runoff
Monthly Compliance	95% min	100	0.069		No		Soil runoff

*Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality. Monthly turbidity compliance is related to a specific treatment technique (TI). Our system filters the water so at least 95% of our samples each month are below the turbidity limits specified in the regulations.

Inorganic Contaminants

Regulated Contaminant	Date(s) Collected	Highest Result	Range Detected	MCL or MCDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Violation
Nitrate (ppm)	2 nd Quarter	0.0578	N/A	10	---	No

*Possible NITRATE Contamination sources include runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, sewage, and erosion of natural deposits.

Secondary Contaminants

Regulated Contaminant	Date(s) Collected	Highest Result	Range Detected	MCL or MCDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Violation
Sodium (ppm)	2 nd Quarter	3.76	N/A	---	ORSG-20	No

*Possible SODIUM Contamination sources include natural sources, runoff from use as salt on roadways.

Other Organic Contaminants and VOC Residuals (highest running average)

Source: chlorination by-product, industrial process

Regulated Contaminant	Date(s) Collected	Highest Result	Range Detected	MCL or MCDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Violation
Chloroform (ppb)	Quarterly	11.0	3.5 - 11	---	70	No
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	Quarterly	4.9	1.41 – 4.9	---	80	No
Chlorodibromomethane (ppb)	Quarterly	1.3	<0.50 – 1.3	---	60	No

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products - Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids

Regulated Contaminant	Date(s) Collected	Highest Result	Range Detected	MCL or MCDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Violation
THM (ppb)	Quarterly	8.66	6.0 – 8.66	80	N/A	No
HAA5 (ppb)	Quarterly	9.95	3.9 – 9.95	60	N/A	No
Chlorine Residual (ppm)	Monthly	1.10	0.40 – 1.10	4	4	No

Opportunities for Public Participation:

If you would like to participate in discussions regarding your water quality, you may attend the Water Commission meetings, held the 2nd Thursday of each month at Town Hall.

Contact Us:

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