



U.S. POSTAGE PAID
STANDARD
PERMIT NO. 21
SCITUATE, MA

ECRWSS

On behalf of my associates at the Town of Scituate, Department of Public Works Water Division, it is indeed my pleasure to submit to you the 2008 Consumer Confidence Report. Many improvements to the water system infrastructure have been authorized by recent Town Meetings. Some of the significant projects are noted below:

- Reconstruction of drainage structures along the First Herring Brook to improve source water quality.
- Replacement of the activated carbon filter media at The Old Oaken Bucket Water Treatment Facility to improve the removal of natural color and the removal of organic chemical compounds.
- Exploration of potential surface and subsurface drinking water resources.
- Investigation into the viability of restoring aquatic wildlife habitat to the reservoir system.
- Cleaning and lining of water mains along Country Way, First Parish Road, and Beaver Dam Road to improve distributed water quality and improve fire protection flows.
- Replacement of a water mains and valves along First Parish Road west of Chief Justice Cushing Highway to improve fire protection flows within the high service delivery area.
- Installation of pressure reducing valves in Humarock to reduce leakage and reduce wear and tear on consumers' plumbing fixtures.
- Replacement of water mains along Tilden Road and Stockbridge Road to improve distributed water quality and improve fire protection flows.
- Institute a system wide program to replace aged water meters that are likely under registering water consumption.

Please review this Consumer Confidence Report; your comments are welcome.

Respectfully,

Eugene R. Babin, Water Division Supervisor for the Town of Scituate, Massachusetts, Department of Public Works

PWSID NUMBER: 4264000

Your Drinking Water Sources

The Town of Scituate's drinking water comes from seven sources: six wells and the Old Oaken Bucket Pond, Tack Factory Pond Reservoir system.

The wells are located off the Driftway (#18B); off Cornet Stetson Road (#'s 10 & 11); off Tack Factory Pond Road (#17A); off Old Forge Road (#22); and off Chief Justice Cushing Highway (#19) near the Town Hall.

An average day's consumption is 2 million gallons.

The preparation of a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) has been completed. The report is being used to determine ways to improve service to the consumers. The data was helpful in preparing the Water Resources Protection District, approved at the prior year Town Meetings.

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 assesses the susceptibility of public water supplies.

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 online at www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/dws/.

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. It 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, or farming.

Pesticides and herbicides – which may come from a variety of sources such as agricultural, 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.

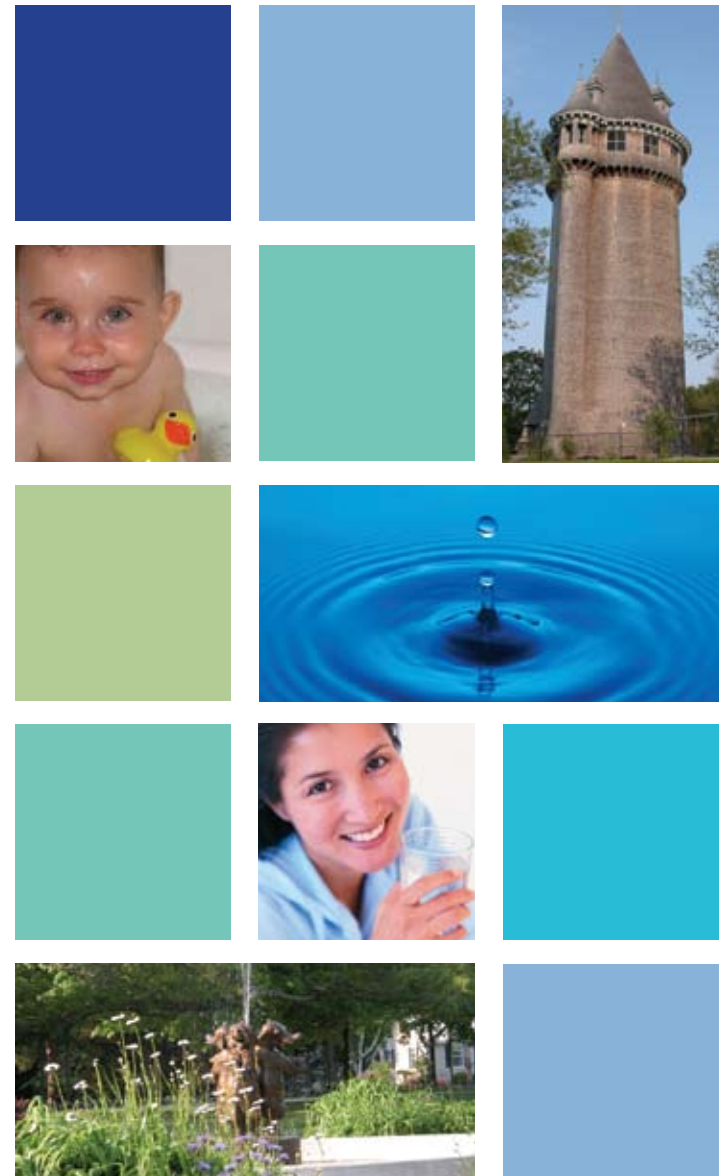
Radioactive contaminants – which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.



2008 DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

Proudly presented by:

WATER DIVISION-DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
TOWN OF SCITUATE, MASSACHUSETTS, 02066



Postal Customer



WATER DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
TOWN OF SCITUATE, MASSACHUSETTS, 02066

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Department of Environmental Protection (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 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).

Conserve Water by Stopping Leaks

Unseen or unfixed, leaks can drip hundreds, even thousands, of gallons of water wastefully down the drain. A little detective work several times a year can catch these water thieves in the act and put them out of circulation. This detective work can also result in money in your pocket. A small (0.5 gallons per minute) leak can result in additional water and sewer costs of \$240 per month.

Faucets- Most leaks result from worn washers in household faucets and showerheads. These faucets, as well as seldom-used taps in the basement or storage rooms, should be checked periodically. Worn washers or "O" rings usually cause faucet leaks. Repairing faucet leaks is easy. All one need is turn off the supply line to that faucet, replace the washer, and turn on the line again. Any good do-it-yourself book will offer advice to help you with this simple task.

Toilets- The toilet is one of the most common water wasters but its leaks tend to be less noticeable than faucet leaks. To determine if your toilet is leaking, look at the toilet bowl after the tank has stopped filling. If water is still running into the bowl, or if water can be heard running, your toilet is leaking.

Most toilet leaks occur at the overflow pipe or at the plunger ball inside the tank. To locate a toilet leak, remove the tank lid and flush. The water level should come up to about a half-inch or so below the overflow pipe. Adjust the float level control screw, if necessary, so the valve shuts off the water at that level. If the valve itself is leaking, you may need a plumber to fix it.

Outside Taps and Irrigation Systems- Although water may not be seen or heard running, your toilet may have a silent leak. To test for a silent leak, drop a small amount of food coloring into the tank. DO NOT FLUSH. Wait for about 5 minutes. If the food coloring appears in the toilet bowl, your toilet has a silent leak. It is probably located in or around the plunger ball or flapper valve at the bottom of the tank. These leaks are also easy to fix with parts from your hardware store.

Check the outside taps for leaking water, particularly during the summer sprinkling season. A hose mistakenly left dribbling away in the grass or garden can waste thousands of gallons of water over the course of a summer. Remember to close outside faucets tightly every time you shut off the water!

Automatic irrigation systems require special consideration. Adjust the sprinkler heads so that water is directed to areas that require watering. Grass cannot grow on driveways! Also know how to override timers. One need not irrigate during a rainstorm or for several days thereafter. A healthy lawn can withstand several weeks of less than normal rainfall. Additionally check your water meter to see if water is entering the irrigation system when it should not be doing so. Small leaks in the underground system can result in many gallons being wasted.

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.

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)

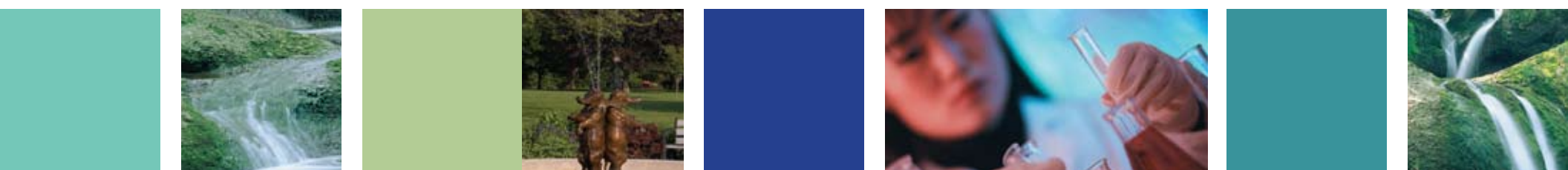
NTU= Nephelometric Turbidity Units

ND= Not Detected

N/A= Not Applicable

mrem/year= milliremms 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.



2008 WATER TESTING RESULTS

The water quality information presented in the table(s) are 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).

LEAD AND COPPER

	Date(s) Collected	90th Percentile	Action Level	MCLG	# of Sites Sampled	# of Sites Above Action Level	Possible Source of Contamination
Lead (ppb)	2007	0.04	15	0	10	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppb)	2007	0.15	1.3	1.3	10	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits leaching from wood preservatives

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 Scituate DPW Water Division 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>.

BACTERIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS

	Date(s) Collected	Result or Range Detected	Average Detected	SMCL	ORSG	Possible Source of Contamination	
Cryptosporidium (Treated Water)	2008	ND	ND	1	1	Warm Blooded Animals	
Cryptosporidium (Untreated Water)	2008	0-1	0	1	1	Warm Blooded Animals	
Giardia (Treated Water)	2008	ND	ND	1	1	Warm Blooded Animals	
Giardia (Untreated Water)	2008	0-6	1	1	1	Warm Blooded Animals	
		Highest # Positive in a Month	MCL	MCLG		Violation (Y/N)	Possible Source of Contamination
Total Coliform		1	1	0		No	Commonly Present in the Environment
		TT	Lowest Monthly % of Samples	Highest Detected Daily Value		Violation (Y/N)	Possible Source of Contamination
Turbidity Daily Compliance (NTU)		1	24	0.11		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.

Regulated Contaminant	Dates Collected	Highest Detect	Range Detected	Highest Average	MCL or MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Possible Source(s) of Contamination
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS							
Arsenic (ppb)	2008	ND	ND	0	10	—	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Fluoride (ppm)	2008	1.3	0.1-1.3	1.0	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Mercury (ppb)	2008	ND	ND	0	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from refineries and factories; runoff from landfills; runoff from cropland
Nitrate (ppm)	2008	1.9	0.3-1.9	0.7	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits

VOLATILE ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS

Chlorine (ppm)	2008	2.1	0.2-2.1	1.0	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorite (ppm)	2008	0.2	0.0-0.2	0.15	1	0.8	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine dioxide (ppb)	2008	350	0-350	40	800	800	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	2008	59	0-59	40	60	—	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Tetrachloroethylene (PCE) (ppb)	2008	0.5	0-0.5	0.5	5	0	Discharge from factories and dry cleaners
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) (ppb)	2008	84	0-84	61	80	—	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination

RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS

Gross Alpha (pCi/l) (minus uranium)	2002	ND	ND	ND	15	0	Erosion of natural deposits
GrossBeta/photom emmitters (pCi/L)	2002	ND	ND	ND	50	0	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Radium 226 & 228 (pCi/L) (combined values)	2002	ND	ND	ND	5	0	Erosion of natural deposits

SYNTHETIC ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS

2,4-D (ppb)	2008	ND	ND	ND	70	70	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)(ppt)	2008	ND	ND	0	500	0	Runoff from landfills; discharge of waste chemicals; residue of banned use in electrical transformers
Perchlorate(ppb)	2008	ND	ND	0	1	0	Discharge from wood preserving factories

Unregulated Contaminant	Dates Collected	Result or Range Detected	Average Detected	SMCL	ORSG	Possible Source
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS						
Sodium (ppm)	2008	10-65	45	—	20	Natural Sources; runoff from use as salt on roadways; by-product of treatment process
Sulfate (ppm)	2008	0-40	20	250	—	Natural Sources and TT

RADIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS

Radon (pCi/L)	2006	0-230	20	—	10,000	Natural Sources
---------------	------	-------	----	---	--------	-----------------

ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS

MTBE (ppb)	2008	ND	ND	20-40	70	Fuel Additive
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	2008	0-20	15	—	—	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Bromoform (ppb)	2008	0-4	4	—	—	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chloroform (ppb)	2008	0-40	52	—	—	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Dibromodichloromethane (ppb)	2008	0-6	2	—	—	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Secondary Contaminant	Dates Collected	Result or Range Detected	SMCL	Possible Source
Iron (ppm)	2008	0-0.3	0.3	Naturally occurring, corrosion of cast iron pipes
Manganese (ppm)	2008	0-0.1	0.05	Erosion of natural deposits
Aluminum (ppm)	2008	0-2.8	0.1	Byproduct of treatment process
Chloride (ppm)	2008	44-86	250	Runoff from road de-icing, use of inorganic fertilizers, landfill leachates, septic tank effluents, animal feeds, industrial effluents, irrigation drainage, and seawater intrusion in coastal areas
Color (C.U.)	2008	0-5	15	Naturally occurring organic material
Copper (ppm)	2008	0-0.5	1	Naturally occurring organic material
Corrosivity	2008		Non-corrosive	—
Odor (T.O.N.)	2008	0-1	3 Ton	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
pH	2008	7.2-8.4	6.5-8.5	—
Silver (ppm)	2008	ND	0.10	Erosion of natural deposits
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) (ppm)	2008	140-290	500	Erosion of natural deposits
Zinc (ppm)	2008	ND	5	Erosion of natural deposits, Leaching from plumbing materials

The Scituate Water Division routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The above table shows results of parameters for the period through December 31st 2008, that are of health significance. In each case the quantities found were less than health significant levels. As water travels over the land or underground, it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. It's important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk.

The Department of Environmental Protection has advised the Division that a Tier 3 public notification is required because a sampling for Cryptosporidium, E-Coli, and Giardia was undertaken outside of a 2-day window. The sample was taken late. The Department of Environmental Protection has advised the Division of a minor routine violation for failure to resample an invalidated sample within 24 hours. The sample was delivered to the laboratory late on a holiday weekend.