



THE TOWN OF PLAINVILLE WATER DEPARTMENT

2012 WATER QUALITY REPORT

MassDEP
PWSID
#4238000

This Report is a snapshot of the quality of water that we provided last year. Included are details about your water supply, such as where it comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards. We at Plainville Water Department are committed to providing you with the information because informed customers are our best allies.

For more information about your water, call James Marshall, Water Superintendent, at 508-695-6871. The Plainville Water Department is governed by a three member elected Board.

The Board meets in open public session twice monthly on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. The Commissioners invite the public to attend and participate in these meetings.

Plainville gets its' water from wells located in two watershed basins; the Taunton River Basin and the Ten Mile River Basin.

TAUNTON RIVER BASIN

Wells numbered 1, 1a, 2, 2a and 5 are located off East Bacon Street and George Street at Turnpike Lake and are considered groundwater under the direct influence of surface water; therefore requiring addition treatment and scrutiny.

Water from these sources is treated at the Turnpike Lake Well Water Treatment Facility where iron and manganese are removed, pH is adjusted chlorine is added for disinfection protection and ultra violet light is also used for disinfection protection.

Wells number 6a, 6b and 6c are located off Messenger Street and Hillside Road at Lake Mirimichi. This source water is treated for pH adjustment and chlorine is added as a disinfectant protection.

TEN MILE RIVER BASIN

Wells numbered 3, 3b and 3c are located to the rear of the Plainville Highway Department building and the water from these wells is pumped to a DRINKING WATER treatment filtration plant located at Whiting Street in North Attleboro where it is treated for iron and manganese removal, is pH adjusted, chlorinated for disinfection protection and fluoride is added. The water is pumped into the North Attleboro water system and we in turn operate a pump that brings water back into Plainville's distribution system.

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.

EPAI 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).

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and EPA prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by 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).

IS THERE LEAD IN MY WATER?

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 Plainville 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>.

Last year, we conducted more than 600 tests for over 80 drinking water contaminants. While certain contaminants were detected and are identified later in this report, none were at a level that required immediate action or warnings regarding health or public safety matters. There is more information regarding this in the chart included in this report.

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 source water before we treat it 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.

PESTICIDES AND HERBICIDES which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, and residential uses. Radioactive contaminants are naturally occurring.

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.

The following table lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2012 calendar year or during the most recent sampling period within the past five years. These were the only contaminants detected in all the monitoring required by the state. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1-December 31, 2012.

The state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old.

TERMS & ABBREVIATIONS USED IN TABLE:

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 which a water system must follow

N/A: not applicable

N/D: not detectable at testing limit

PPB: parts per billion or micrograms per litre

PPM: parts per million or milligrams per litre

PCI/L: picocuries per litre (measure of radiation)

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (SWAP)

What is SWAP? It is a requirement that the MassDEP and community water systems identify and assess the susceptibility (high, moderate, or low) of public water supplies. You can view the complete SWAP Report for Plainville at the office of the Plainville Water Department and online at <http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/drinking/sources.htm#reports>.

For more information call James Marshall, Superintendent at Plainville Water Department 508-695-6871

CONTAMINANT	MCL	MCLG	RESULT	MAJOR SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER	HEALTH EFFECTS
Radioactive Contaminants					
Gross Alpha	15	n/a	0.286pCi/L	Erosion of Natural Deposits	Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation. Some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer
Inorganic Contaminant					
Perchlorate	2.0 ug/L	n/a	0.17 ug/L	Rocket propellants, fireworks, flares, blasting agents	Perchlorate interferes with the normal function of the thyroid gland and thus has the potential to affect growth and development, causing brain damage and other adverse effects, particularly in fetuses and infants, pregnant women, the fetus, infants, children up to age 12, and people with a hypothyroid condition are particularly susceptible to perchlorate toxicity
Nitrate	10.0 mg/l	n/a	0.0-0.72 mg/L	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits	Infants below the age of 6 months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and if untreated may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and "blue baby" syndrome.
Disinfection Byproducts			*RAA		
(TTHM)					
Total - Trihalomethanes	80 ppb	0	53	By products of water Chlorination	May be cancer causing agents. Some people who drink water containing TTHM and Haloacetic Acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
Haloacetic Acids	50 ppb	0	30		

*RAA is a running annual average per site