2016 Consumer Confidence Report
Your Annual Drinking Water Quality Information

EGREMONT WATER DEPARTMENT

P.O. BOX 681| SOUTH EGREMONT, MA 01258
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 adding a controlled amount of sodium hypochlorite for disinfection and filtered to remove small particles and organisms such as sediment, algae and bacteria. The water 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. As part of our ongoing commitment to you, last year we made the following improvements to our system: Pumps were rebuilt and/or replaced on our maintenance schedule; leak detection was accomplished throughout the year in an effort to save processed water, meters are serviced on a regular basis to assure accurate readings. We have no outstanding deficiencies since our last DEP Sanitary Survey and are working on all State recommendations.

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 one day consumption on the system was 68,000 gallons. That leak was repaired. Egremont's water system supplies approximately 180 service connections, including 8 businesses, and serves a population of approximately 650 people. The Great Barrington Water Supply is available for emergency use.

How are These Sources Protected?

MA DEP prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report that was published in October 2002 to assist in the identification of potential sources of contamination. A susceptibility ranking of "high" was assigned to this system. There are few activities that pose significant anthropogenic threats to the reservoirs; however, 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 us at (413) 528-0182 ext 17 or the Western Regional Office of MA DEP at (413)755-2215. You may also view this report online at:
http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/water/drinking/swap/wero/1090000.pdf

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 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. 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 or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over relatively short amounts of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should contact their doctor.

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 status of the water system's cross connection program, please contact us.

Residents can help protect our water resources by:

- Practicing good septic system maintenance
- Supporting water supply protection initiatives and conservation measures
- Taking hazardous household chemicals to hazardous materials collection days
- Limiting pesticide and fertilizer use, etc.

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.

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. Certain tests were not conducted, or were conducted later than required by state regulation.

Samples for SOCs are due every 3rd year during the second quarter, Nitrate and Sodium due annually in the second quarter and DBPs are due every quarter. All samples analyzed had concentrations that meet drinking water standards.
For more information regarding our system you may also visit the EPA website at:
http://www.epa.gov/enviro/facts/sdwis/search.html

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 on the tables below, all other compounds in the panels reported undetectable levels.

Lead & Copper	**Date(s) Collected**	**90th (%)**	**Action Level**	**MCLG**	**Sites Sampled**	**Sites Above Action Level**	**Possible Source**
Lead (ppb)	2nd Quarter	0.0036	0.015	0.015	20	0	Corrosion of household plumbing and erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	2nd Quarter	1.2	1.3	1.3	20	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 *(E.coli)*	Monthly	0	0	0	No		Human and fecal waste
Turbidity	**Treatment Technique**	**Lowest Monthly % of Samples**	**Highest Detected Daily Value**	**Violation**			**Possible Source**
Daily Compliance (NTU)	5	---	0.040	No			Soil runoff
Monthly Compliance	95% min	100	0.040	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 (TT). Our system filters the water so at least 95% of our samples each month must be 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)	2nd Quarter	ND	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)	2nd Quarter	6.4	---	---	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)	3rd Quarter	9.6	N/A			No
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	3rd Quarter	2.5	N/A			No
Chlorodibromomethane(ppb)	3rd Quarter	ND	N/A			No

Radioactive Contaminants (Sources include erosion of natural soil deposits)

Regulated Contaminant	Date(s) Collected	Highest Result	Range Detected	MCL or MCDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Violation
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	DUE 2024		---	15		No
Radium 226 (pCi/L)	DUE 2024		---	5		No
Radium 228 (pCi/L)	DUE 2024		---	5		No

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products –Triholomethanes and Haloacetic Acids

Regulated Contaminant	Date(s) Collected	Highest Result	Range Detected	MCL or MCDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Violation
(TTHM) (ppb)	Quarterly	12	11 - 15	80	N/A	No
(HAA5)(ppb)	Quarterly	9.1	4.7 - 12	60	N/A	No
Chlorine Residual (ppm)	Monthly	0.86	0.2 – 0.86	4	4	No

Other Unregulated and Secondary Contaminants (Sources include erosion of natural soil deposits)

Regulated Contaminant	Date(s) Collected	Highest Result	Range Detected	MCL or MCDL
pH	Daily	6.8	6.7 – 6.8	6.5 – 8.5
Total Dissolved Solids	Daily	---	0.007 – 0.414	500

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