



Town of Marblehead WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION

A PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT

From F. Carlton Siegel, P.E., Chairman of the Marblehead Water and Sewer Commission

June 2010

Dear Marblehead Water Customer:

The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) and Marblehead Water and Sewer Commission have prepared this 2009 Drinking Water Report in compliance with federal drinking water regulations. This brochure contains information on MWRA's source water reservoirs, water system and treatment improvements as well as the results of water tests.

In Marblehead, an elected five-member board oversees all water, sewer and storm drain functions. My fellow commissioners are Wilbur Bassett, P.E., John Doane, and Bradford Freeman and a fifth member to be elected in May, 2010 to replace deceased member Emerson Brown, who served the Commission faithfully for 39 years. Each of us is dedicated to customer service and water quality. A skilled staff of 23 handles the day-to-day operations as well as billing and permits for the water, sewer and storm drainage.

Superintendent Dana Snow retired in March, 2010 after more than 37 years with the department. He was replaced by Charles R. McCollum, who previously held the position of Assistant Superintendent.

After receiving drinking water from MWRA, the Town of Marblehead is responsible for delivering it to our customers. Water travels through a series of trunk and smaller distribution pipelines to individual households and businesses. During high use periods, adequate pressure is maintained by the Loring Avenue and Tedesco Street booster pump stations. Marblehead also operates the Village Street and Burke's Hill water storage tanks, ensuring sufficient water to meet fire flow and peak usage demand. Other important programs that help to maintain water quality include vulnerability assessments, annual pipeline flushing, routine leak detection inspections and a regular testing program to check for any signs of contamination.

The Marblehead Water Department receives many questions about lead in tap water. The simple answer is that there is no lead in the water supplied to your home. But, lead can enter tap water through contact with brass fixtures and piping (which contains lead in the alloy), lead solder and other household plumbing.

The community is concerned about lead in tap water. Therefore, we test fifteen homes twice a year. The 90th percentile lead level for Marblehead was 9.05 ppb; this doesn't exceed the Action Level of 15 ppb. Please see page 5 for more information on lead in tap water or call our department at (781) 631-0102.

We must continually maintain Marblehead's 100 plus miles of pipeline, booster pumping stations, and water tanks to ensure the best water service possible. Under the Commission's leadership, a capital program is utilized to prioritize and pace water system upgrades and to build upon system improvements being made by MWRA. The Commission has continued to improve the water supply system. Recent improvements have included the following:

- In 2009, the Water Department completed its third phase of water main replacement in Harbor Avenue, Ocean Avenue and Nahant Street. These were some of the oldest water mains in town.
- For 2010 there will be cleaning and lining on Marblehead Neck, cleaning and valve replacement on West Shore Drive and continued upgrading of water systems.

The Commission and its staff work to keep its customers informed of maintenance or construction projects whenever possible. For planned system improvements, abutters to projects are contacted and public meetings are held. The Commission uses the local media and the Marblehead Website (www.marblehead.org) to notify residents of pipeline flushing activities.

It is our goal to respond as quickly and completely as possible to any customer concerns, questions or complaints. The Marblehead Water and Sewer Commission is committed to bringing you the best drinking water possible. We hope that you will find the Annual Water Quality Report to Consumers interesting and educational. Please feel free to contact Superintendent Charles R. McCollum, at (781) 631-0102 with any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

F. Carlton Siegel, P. E.
Chairman
