

Your Community



Town of Marblehead WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION

Public Water Supply
3168000

A PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT

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

June, 2013

Dear Marblehead Water Customer:

The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) and Marblehead Water and Sewer Commission have prepared this 2012 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. Serving with me on the Commission are John Doane, Vice Chairman; Wilbur Bassett, P.E.; Bradford Freeman; and R. Thomas Hammond. Each commissioner is dedicated to assuring customer service and water quality. Along with Superintendent Amy McHugh, a skilled staff of 22 individuals handles the day-to-day operations of the water, sewer and drain systems as well as the permitting and billing processes.

The Town of Marblehead receives its drinking water from the MWRA and is responsible for delivery to our customers. The water travels through a series of trunk lines and smaller distribution pipelines to individual households and businesses. During periods of high use, adequate pressure is maintained by booster pumping stations located on Tedesco Street in Marblehead and Loring Avenue in neighboring Salem. Marblehead also operates the Village Street and Burke's Hill water storage tanks, ensuring sufficient water to meet fire flow and peak usage demand.

The Marblehead Water Department often receives questions about lead in tap water. There is no lead in the water supplied to your home. Marblehead has no known lead service lines. Sources of lead in drinking water include corrosion of household plumbing systems such as brass fixtures and piping (which contain lead in the alloy) and lead solder.

We are always concerned about the remote possibility of lead in tap water. Therefore, we test fifteen homes once a year. The 90th percentile lead level for Marblehead was 3.95 ppb; this does not 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 are continually maintaining Marblehead's 100-plus miles of pipeline, the booster pumping stations and the water tanks to ensure the best water service possible. Under the Commission's leadership, a capital spending program is utilized to prioritize and pace water system upgrades and to build upon system improvements being made by MWRA. In 2012, the Department purchased a utility truck with a 6000 lb capacity crane, conducted a town wide leak detection, completed our annual pipeline flushing, successfully participated in a DEP Sanitary Survey and continued with our remote meter reader installation.

The Commission and its staff aim to keep its customers informed of maintenance or construction projects whenever possible. Monthly Commission meetings, open to the public, are usually held on the first Tuesday of every month at the Water Commission office located at 100 Tower Way. The Marblehead Website (www.marblehead.org) contains postings of public meetings and meeting agendas. Contact information can be reached directly at www.marblehead.org/water. The Commission also uses local media and the Town's Code Red system to notify residents of pipeline flushing and other activities.

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

Sincerely,

F. Carlton Siegel, P. E.
Chairman