



City of Chelsea DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Public Water Supply
3057000

The Chelsea Department of Public Works is pleased to provide this annual newsletter to keep you informed about your water system. We would like to provide a recap of the major points for any new customers or residents who may not have seen last year's newsletter.

Our Distribution System

The City of Chelsea purchases all of its water directly from the MWRA. The water is delivered through five MWRA master meters into the city's distribution system. The distribution system consists of the network of pipes, valves, hydrants and service lines. The system delivers water to homes, businesses and other facilities for drinking and other uses. The system is also used for fire protection.

Chelsea's distribution system is comprised of approximately sixty miles of water mains ranging from six-inch to twenty-inch diameter. There are five hundred and thirty-nine hydrants that are owned and maintained by the city. There are approximately one thousand gate valves that allow isolated portions of the system to be shut down for repairs and maintenance. Seventy percent of the pipes in the system are over fifty years old with approximately forty-seven percent unlined cast iron pipe. Unlined pipe allows tuberculation (rust) to grow on the inside surfaces of the pipe. While not a health problem, these tubercles can affect the ability of the pipe to carry flows for fire fighting purposes and can affect the appearance of the water, such as yellow and red water problems.

Capital Improvements

In 2013 old cast iron water mains were replaced with ductile iron on the following streets: or portions thereof: Gardner Street, Heard Street, John Street, Maple Street, Sixth Street, and Spruce Street. This expenditure represents a substantial commitment from the City Council, the City Manager and the Department of Public Works to continue to improve the quality of your drinking water and to provide improved flows to aid the Fire Department in their mission.

Lead and Coliform Results

The Chelsea DPW tests for lead in 15 homes every year. In 2013, Chelsea was above the Lead Action Level of 15 ppb, with a result of 26.5 ppb. Chelsea has a lead service line replacement program and has identified all the remaining lead service lines. This year the city will once again replace 7% of the estimated 300 remaining lead service lines. To find out more about the program, please contact the phone number listed below. For more information about the potential presence of lead in tap water and steps that may be taken to reduce exposure, please see page 5.

The Chelsea DPW takes 65 bacteriological or total coliform samples each month to ensure the quality of your drinking water. The EPA requires that no more than 5% of these samples test positive in a month. Chelsea's highest result was 1.8% in June.

If you have any questions or comments on your water or on town meetings, please call us at the following numbers.

Water Bills 617-466-4240
Water Meters 617-466-4302

Water Operations 617-466-4310
MWRA 617-242-5323

Joseph C. Foti, Director of Public Works