



Quabbin Sunrise Cooperative

2022

PWS ID: #1309001

REPORT ON WATER QUALITY

This report is a snapshot of the quality of the drinking water that we provided last year. The statistics in this report are based on testing done throughout 2022 and prior years. We hope you will find it helpful to know the sources of your water and the process by which safe drinking water is delivered to your home.

Where Does My Water Come From?

Quabbin Sunrise Cooperative is a manufactured housing community located in Ware, MA. The water system serves 65 connections whose source is a 6-inch diameter bedrock well drilled to 262 feet and can provide adequate water storage for two days. The storage tanks consist of six 3000-gallon plastic storage tanks housed in the well building. Pressure is maintained between 55-70 psi in the distribution system, and there is an older well which can be used as an emergency source should a problem occur with the present supply.



It's Their Legacy

SHOULD SOME PEOPLE TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?

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. EPA/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.

Maintaining Water Quality

Quabbin Sunrise Cooperative continuously strives to produce the highest quality water possible to meet or surpass every water quality standard. We monitor both our sources and distribution system very closely. The standards we operate under were enacted by the U.S. Congress as the Safe Drinking Water Act in 1974 and were amended in 1986 and 1996.

In order to ensure tap water is safe to drink, the DEP and EPA prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Massachusetts Department of Public Health regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

Tips To Help Conserve Water

Water conservation measures are an important first step in protecting our precious resource. Such measures preserve the supply of our source water. To help you help us, we offer the following conservation tips:

- Fix leaking faucets, pipes, toilets, etc.
- Replace old fixtures; install water-saving devices, in faucets, toilets and appliances.
- Wash only full loads of laundry.
- Do not use the toilet for trash disposal.
- Take shorter showers.
- Do not let the water run while shaving or brushing teeth.
- Soak dishes before washing.
- Run the dishwasher only when full.

The Quabbin Sunrise Cooperative Water System is operated and maintained by WhiteWater, Inc. If you have any questions about this report, please contact WhiteWater at 1-888-377-7678.



Additional copies of this report are available upon request and at www.whitewateronline.com

Please contact the Cooperative at (413)967-0175 if you have any water-related concerns.

DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM WATER QUALITY

This report summarizes only those items detected during sampling - not all contaminants that are monitored.

| Microbial Results | Highest # Positive in a Month | Total # Positive | MCL | MCLG | Violation | Possible Source of Contamination |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|-------------|------------------|---|
| Total Coliform | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | No | Naturally present in the environment |
| E. Coli | N/A | 0 | * | 0 | No | Human and animal fecal waste |

*Compliance with Fecal Coliform / E. Coli MCL is determined upon additional repeat testing.

Total Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system.

| Lead & Copper | Date(s) Collected | 90th Percentile of Sample | Action Level | MCLG | # of Sites sampled | # of Sites Above Action Level | Exceeds Action Level? | Possible Source of Contamination |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|---------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Lead (ppb) | 2021 | 1.5 | 15 | 0 | 5 | 0 | No | Corrosion of household plumbing systems |
| Copper (ppm) | | 0.325 | 1.3 | 1.3 | | 0 | No | Corrosion of household plumbing systems |

TESTING FOR LEAD

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. **Quabbin Sunrise Cooperative** 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>.

| Key to Tables | SOURCE WATER CHARACTERISTICS | |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ppm – Parts per million, corresponds to one penny in \$10,000 ppb – Parts per billion, corresponds to one penny in \$10,000,000 ppt—Parts per trillion, corresponds to one penny in \$10 billion pCi/L – Picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity) ND – Not detected n/a – not applicable RAA –Running annual average TT—Treatment technique | <p>The sources of drinking water in the United States (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.</p> <p>Contaminants that may be present in source water include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 | <p>urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. These contaminants can also come from gasoline storage, 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. |

SUMMARY OF FINISHED WATER CHARACTERISTICS

| <u>Regulated Contaminants</u> | Date(s) Collected | Highest Detect Value | Range Detected | MCL | MCLG | Violation | Possible Source of Contamination |
|--|-------------------|----------------------|----------------|------|-------------------------|--|---|
| Inorganic Contaminants | | | | | | | |
| Barium (ppm) | 2020 | 0.002 | n/a | 2 | 2 | No | Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits |
| Nitrate (ppm) | 10/19/22 | 0.11 | n/a | 10 | 10 | No | Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits |
| Fluoride (ppm) | 2020 | 0.16 | n/a | 4 | n/a | No | Erosion of natural deposits; additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories |
| Radioactive Contaminants | | | | | | | |
| Gross Alpha (pCi/L) | 1/3/22 | 3.68 | n/a | 15 | 0 | No | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Radium 226 & 228 (pCi/L) (combined values) | 1/3/22 | ND | n/a | 5 | 0 | No | Erosion of natural deposits |
| <u>Unregulated</u> | Date(s) Collected | Result or Range | Average | SMCL | ORSG or Health Advisory | Possible Source of Contamination | |
| Inorganic Contaminants | | | | | | | |
| Sodium (ppm) | 2020 | 3.5 | n/a | - | 20 | Natural sources; runoff from use as salt on roadways; by-product of treatment process. | |

Sodium is a naturally-occurring common element found in soil and water. It is necessary for the normal functioning of regulating fluids in human systems. Some people, however, have difficulty regulating fluid volume as a result of several diseases, including congestive heart failure and hypertension. The guideline of 20 mg/L for sodium represents a level in water that physicians and sodium sensitive individuals should be aware of in cases where sodium exposures are being carefully controlled. For additional information, contact your health care provider, your local board of health or the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services at (603) 271-3503.

SOME TERMS DEFINED

Action Level (AL): *The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers a treatment or other requirement which a water system must follow.*

Level 1 Assessment: *A Level 1 Assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in the water system.*

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): *The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety*

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): *The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.*

Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL): *These standards are developed to protect the aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.*

Massachusetts Office of Research and Standards Guideline (ORSG): *This is the concentration of a chemical in drinking water, at or below which, adverse, non-cancer health effects are likely to occur after chronic (lifetime) exposure. If exceeded, it serves as an indicator of the potential need for further action.*

Total Coliform: *A bacteria that indicates other potentially harmful bacteria may be present.*

Unregulated Contaminants: *Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining their occurrence in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.*

90th Percentile: *Out of every 10 homes, 9 were at or below this level.*

Source Water Assessment Summary

The MassDEP has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report for the water supply source serving Quabbin Sunrise Cooperative. The report assesses the susceptibility of public water supplies to contamination and makes recommendations.

This report is available from the MassDEP website: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/western-region-source-water-assessment-protection-swap-program-reports/download>

A susceptibility ranking of **moderate** was assigned to all wells in our system by the MassDEP and they meet all US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and MassDEP drinking water quality standards.

Be assured that Quabbin Sunrise Cooperative in concert with its certified operator, WhiteWater, Inc., is addressing the concerns as stated in the SWAP Report and welcomes your input to our planning. If you have any questions, please contact WhiteWater, Inc., at 1-888 377-7678.



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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

Where to go for more information

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP)

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/>



Cross Connection Control and Backflow Protection in your water system



Typical Hose
Bibb Vacuum
Breaker

A Cross Connection means any actual or potential physical connection or arrangement between a pipe conveying potable water from a public water system and any non-potable water supply, piping arrangement or equipment including, but not limited to, waste pipe, soil pipe, sewer, drain, other unapproved sources. Quabbin Sunrise Cooperative recommends the installation of Hose Bibb type vacuum breakers on all outside faucets. This will protect all residents from the potential of backflow into their homes and the potable water system from a hose connection. Studies have shown that hoses are the most commonly unprotected cross connection. MassDEP and Quabbin Sunrise Cooperative require the physical separation between the public water supply to your home and a private well used for irrigation or other purposes, these instances will be monitored for compliance. For more information please contact Marcus Thompson, Cross Connection Coordinator, WWI at 888-377-7678.