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WATER & WASTEWATER SOLUTIONS

2024 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)
Annual Water Quality Report

WELLFLEET MUNICIPAL WATER SYSTEM
WELLFLEET, MA
PWS# 4318094

We are pleased to present to you our Annual Drinking Water Quality Report, also known as the Consumer Confidence Report. This report, a requirement of the 1996 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act, is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

Water Source

The Wellfleet Municipal Water System's (WMWS) water comes from two well fields located in Wellfleet. The Coles Neck Well Field, off Gristmill Way is composed of three deep wells that draw water from a sub-surface aquifer. This water source is located on 10.91 protected acres of undeveloped land that abuts the Cape Cod National Seashore and the Wellfleet Woods subdivision. The newer Boy Scout Camp Well Field is located off Old County Road. It is comprised of two 10-inch in diameter stone-packed deep wells. Water is then pumped to a 500,000 gallon water storage tank on Lawrence Road and delivered via 4-, 8- and 12-inch water mains.

The municipal water is treated with a small amount of potassium hydroxide solution to balance the pH and reduce acidity, which is the main cause for corrosion in household plumbing and water services. The average range of pH in the system is 7.4-7.7. No Fluoride is added to municipal water. Lead and copper samples were taken in 2023 and were found to be at acceptable levels. WWI will continue to monitor the water quality to ensure that municipal water meets or exceeds the Mass DEP and Federal EPA drinking water standards.

White Water, Inc. provides Wellfleet Municipal Water System with contract operation services. The contract operation includes the services of a state certified operator who monitors the water system for compliance with all state and federal drinking water regulations. The operating contract also includes services such as making emergency repairs when needed, making recommendations for improving water quality and increasing system reliability.

Source Water Assessment

The MassDEP has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report for Wellfleet Municipal Water Supply. The report assesses the susceptibility of public water supplies to contamination and makes recommendations. This report is available from the MassDEP website: http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/water/drinking/swap/sero/4318094.pdf.

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

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Be assured that Wellfleet Municipal Water Supply 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.

Source Water Protection

Source water is untreated water from streams, rivers, lakes, or underground aquifers that is used to supply public drinking water. Preventing drinking water contamination at the source makes good public health, economic, and environmental sense. You can be aware of the challenges of keeping drinking water safe and take an active role in protecting drinking water. There are lots of ways that you can get involved in drinking water protection activities to prevent the contamination of the ground water source: dispose properly of household chemicals, help clean up the watershed that is the source of your community's water, attend public meetings to ensure that the community's need for safe drinking water is considered in making decisions about land use, etc. Contact our office for more information on source water protection or contact the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at 1.800.426.4791. You may also find information on EPA's website at https://www.epa.gov/sourcewaterprotection.

Water Quality

Wellfleet Municipal Water System routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The following table shows any detection resulting from our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2024. It is important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk.

The sources of drinking water include rivers, lakes, ponds, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and radioactive material and can pick up substances resulting from human or animal activity. All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring, or manmade. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- **Pesticides and herbicides** 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, 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** can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations which limit the number of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems.

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U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that were detected throughout water quality monitoring and testing. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

Test Results

Unless otherwise noted, testing was done in 2024.
Unless otherwise noted, the highest concentration of each contaminant that was collected has been reported.

Contaminant	Violation (Y/N)	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants						
Total Coliform Bacteria	Y	7	highest number of positive samples (monthly)	Absent	0 positive	Naturally present in the environment.
Fecal Coliform – E.Coli	N	0	highest number of positive samples (monthly)	Absent	0 positive	Human and animal fecal waste.
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. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in the water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct an assessment. See results of that assessment further below in this report.						
Inorganic Contaminants						
Perchlorate (7/22/2024)	N	0.095	ppb	-	2	Rocket propellants, fireworks, munitions, flares, blasting agents
Sodium (7/19/2023)	N	15	mg/L	-	20 (ORSG guideline)	Erosion of natural deposits, urban storm runoff.
Contaminants including Pesticides & Herbicides						
Organic Chemicals (VOCs) (4/8/2024)		See results listed below; all others not listed resulted non-detect.	ug/L			

253B Worcester Road, Charlton MA 01507
Phone: (888) 377-7678 - Fax: (508) 248-2895

Chloroform (4/8/2024)	N	2.2	ug/L	-	-	Parameter included in Organic Chemicals (VOCs).
Radioactive Contaminants						
Radium 226 & 228 (combined values) (9/23/2020)	N	1.26	pci/L		5	Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross Alpha (9/23/2020)	N	0.21	pci/L		15	Erosion of natural deposits.
Secondary Contaminants						
Iron (8/20/2024, 9/20/2024)	N	0.22-1.25	ppm	4	4	Naturally occurring, corrosion of cast iron pipes
Manganese (9/20/2024)	N	17-25	Ppb	50	300 (ORSG guideline)	Erosion of natural deposits

	Lead & Copper – Last sampled in 2023						
Contaminant	**Violation (Y/N)**	**Level Detected**	**Range**	**Unit Measurement**	**MCLG**	**AL**	**Likely Source of Contamination**
Lead – 90th Percentile	N	3	ND-4	ppb	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Copper – 90th Percentile	N	0.019	ND-0.050	mg/L	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
	Number of sites exceeding **lead** action level: 0 Number of sites exceeding **copper** action level: 0						

**Note: the state allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once a year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Not all contaminants are tested for every year due to monitoring waivers and therefore we use the most recent round of sampling. Some of the data presented is more than one year old, however, is limited to no older than five years.*

Assessments

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Assessment Type	Date Completed	Number Completed	Number of Corrective Actions
Level 1 Assessment	1/7/2025	1	4

Level 1 Assessment Findings: On 12/10/2024 two routine bacteria samples tested positive for total coliform and negative for e.coli, which triggered a Level 1 Assessment since there was more than one positive sample in a month. Repeat samples were taken on 12/11/2024 which resulted in five more total coliform samples testing positive. All repeat samples were negative for e.coli. On 12/13/2024, temporary chlorination was put into place. On 1/2/2025 additional samples were taken, and we were notified the following day that all samples had tested negative for both total coliform and e.coli. The Level 1 Assessment was conducted on 1/7/2025 which resulted in not finding a specific cause for the contamination, but we are performing actions to prevent any future contamination. We will submit a new Emergency Response Plan, Cyber Security Assessment, and conduct a Cross Connection Survey in the coming months. We continue to monitor the system closely for total coliform and E.coli.

Units of Measurement:

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/L)	A measurement that corresponds to one minute in two years, or a single penny in $10,000.
Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (µg/L)	A measurement that corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in $10,000,000.
Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) or Micrograms per liter (µg/L)	Measurements of radioactivity in water.
Millirems per year (mrem/year)	A measurement of radiation absorbed by the water.
Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)	A measurement of the clarify of water; turbidity more than 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.
Million fibers per liter (MFL)	A measurement of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

Definitions:

Action Level (AL)	the concentration of contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Treatment Technique (TT)	a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
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.
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.

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Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)	the highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water; there is convincing evidence that addition of disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)	the level of drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health; MRDLGs to do reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
Running Annual Average (RAA)	the average of all monthly or quarterly samples for the last year at all sample locations.
Non-Detect (ND)	the specified contaminant was not detected.
Level 1 Assessment	a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria has been found in the water system.
Level 2 Assessment	a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. Coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria has been found in the water system on multiple occasions.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Lead & Copper: Samples are generally collected, and action levels measured at the consumer's tap. 90% of the tests for a given system must be equal to or below the action level; therefore, a section of the results above has been calculated and are listed as the 90th percentile.

Lead: **Major sources in drinking water:** corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
Health effects statement: Infants and children who drink water containing lead more than the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink water containing lead more than the action level over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

Copper: **Major sources in drinking water:** corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
Health effects statement: Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper more than the action level over many years could, suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their doctor.

Arsenic: The United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) adopted the new MCL standard of 10ppb in October 2001. Water systems were required to meet this new standard by January 1 2006.

Total Coliform: Reported as the highest monthly number of positive samples for water systems that take less than 40 samples per month. Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful bacteria, may be present.

Turbidity: Turbidity has no health effects, however, can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of

disease-causing organisms, that can include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.

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 the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1 (800) 426-4791.

For most people, the health benefits of drinking plenty of water outweigh any possible health risk from these contaminants. However, 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/Center of Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1 (800) 426-4791.

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. Wellfleet Municipal Water System is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact WhiteWater at 888-377-7678. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

LEAD SERVICE LINE INVENTORY (SLI)

In October 2024 MassDEP approved our request to release a statement that our system has no service lines of Lead, Galvanized Requiring Replacement (GRR) or unknown materials. For information on all service lines in our water system, contact WhiteWater at 888-377-7678.

CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL & PREVENTION

What is a cross connection?
A cross connection occurs whenever a potable drinking water line is directly or indirectly linked to a piece of equipment or piping containing non-potable water.

Why should I be concerned about cross connections?
An unprotected or inadequately protected cross connection in your home or work place could contaminate the drinking water not only in your building, but in neighboring businesses and homes. Severe illnesses–

even death– have been caused by cross connection contamination events that could have been prevented. Unprotected and inadequately protected cross connections have been known to cause outbreaks of hepatitis A, gastroenteritis, Legionnaire's disease, chemical poisoning, body lesions (from exposure through showering), damage to plumbing fixtures and explosions.

How can a cross connection contamination occur?

Non-potable water or chemicals used in equipment or a plumbing system can end up in the drinking waterline as a result of backpressure or backsiphonage. Backpressure occurs when the pressure in the equipment such as a boiler or air conditioning unit is greater than the pressure in the drinking water line. Backsiphonage occurs when the pressure in the drinking water line drops due to fairly routine occurrences such as water main breaks, nearby fires, unusually heavy water demand. Contaminants are then sucked out and into the drinking water line.

What can I do to make sure my water supply is protected from cross connections?

· Contact your local water supplier to find out what he/she is doing to prevent cross connection contamination incidents.
· Survey your home to make sure you are not unknowingly creating a cross connection
· Do not attach any pesticide, chemical, or any other non-potable liquid applicators to your water line
· Install hose bibb vacuum breakers (HBVB) on all outside faucets. The HBVB isolates garden hose applications, protecting your drinking water supply from contaminants that could be drawn into your home through the hose.

We, at Wellfleet Municipal Water System work hard to provide top quality water to every tap. Water is a limited resource, so it is vital that we all work together to maintain it and use it wisely. We ask that all our customers help us protect and preserve our drinking water resources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life, and our children's future. Please contact us with any questions. Thank you for working together for safe drinking water.