Acton Water District

SUMMER 2019

Water Words Notice

A common buzz word over the past few years surrounding state and federal government priorities is "infrastructure." Most commonly thought of as roads, bridges, and buildings, infrastructure is defined by Merriam-Webster as "the system of public works of a county, state or region." Water supply is an extremely important component of infrastructure, and, in my humble opinion, the most important, as water sustains life. The importance of functioning infrastructure in a thriving community cannot be stressed enough. In the last decade, we've made significant additions and improvements to our water infrastructure right here in Acton.

Ten years ago, we commissioned our first full-scale water filtration plant, the North Acton Water Treatment Plant; then we undertook some priority replacement and rehabilitation of our distribution system beneath Acton's roads that is the conduit to deliver high quality water to our customers; and, in 2015, we commissioned our second full-scale filtration plant, the South Acton Water Treatment Plant (SAWTP). We now sit here on the cusp of our third filtration plant, to be built off Post Office Square in Acton Center commencing in 2020. Upon completing the Acton Center Water Treatment Plant (ACWTP), about 85% of our water supply will be filtered. Addition of these critical pieces of infrastructure requires careful financial planning and implementation of strategies that most efficiently fulfill our needs.

Each year at the District's Annual Meeting, an appropriation of $500,000 is voted upon and specifically designated for improvement of our buried infrastructure, the pipes. Utilizing an engineered analysis in our Master Plan, and consulting with our engineers, we prioritize projects for execution, and then designate available funding for design, procurement, and construction. Projects that involve buried infrastructure require careful planning, as they present multiple challenges and can be extremely impactful to the community. Given a condensed period when weather cooperates in New England, efficient and precise coordination with the Town, customers, other utilities, and contractors is of paramount importance.

The financial burden on all ratepayers will be rising in the imminent future due to planned capital improvements, primarily the ACWTP—a projected $9.2-million project. We greatly appreciate the ongoing support of you, our customer,

Ronald Parenti recently stepped down after a long tenure as a Water Commissioner. His valuable perspective and institutional knowledge will be greatly missed and we hope he will continue to be an active volunteer on water related issues. Thank you for your many dedicated years of service to the residents of Acton!

in completing these necessary improvements. With careful implementation and planning, we are striving to mitigate this impact to the greatest degree possible. For instance, like the SAWTP, we've been approved for funding through the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust for the ACWTP, thus entitling us to a low 2% interest rate, with a potential for an even lower rate on the 20-year bond based on Acton's classification as a "Housing Choice" community. This funding strategy will save ratepayers upwards of $2 million over the life of the debt. We anticipate that will impact the Debt Fee in the year 2022, with plant commissioning in the summer of 2021.

Finally, during the past three years, we've contracted with a company called Water Smart Software to take our customer interaction, education, and notification to the next level. For no additional cost, this software allows our customers to access an online portal through which they can better understand how they use water and get text or email notifications, including when potential leaks are detected during monthly meter reading activities. Also, enrollees can receive a report to see how their water use compares to that of similar households, view water use history, and pay water bills online. If you've not checked it out, call our office to inquire, or visit *www.actonwater.com/watersmart for more information*.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Allen, *District Manager*

For more information, additional copies, or to comment on this report, please contact:

Acton Water District

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Stormwater and You

Stormwater is a water resource that runs off surfaces, such as rooftops, landscaped areas, and driveways during and after precipitation events like rainfall and snowmelt. This water is often untreated or minimally treated, which creates problems because as it flows along streets and in pipes, it picks up all sorts of pollutants. These pollutants may include fertilizer, petroleum products, trash, pet waste and other materials found on pavement, roofs, and lawns. Poorly managed stormwater can create impairments to surface water bodies and infiltrate into groundwater, which is where Acton's drinking water is drawn from.

The presence of these pollutants in the groundwater can degrade the overall quality and increase treatment requirements or introduce health threats. It is important to know about stormwater runoff and recognize what you as a homeowner can do to prevent pollution of our water resources. Simple tasks such as properly disposing of pet waste, keeping your vehicle properly maintained, limiting use of lawn chemicals, and helping to clear storm drains of debris can help achieve cleaner runoff. By preventing pollution at the source, we can minimize the need to implement larger and costlier solutions.

The Town of Acton, working to comply with Federal storm water regulations, has developed improved bylaws and is implementing educational outreach on the issue.

For more information on how the Town of Acton is managing stormwater and for property owner resources, please visit: *http://www.acton-ma.gov/339/Stormwater*; *https://www.thinkbluemassachusetts.org*.

A protective silt sack is placed inside of this catch basin grate to prevent sedimentation during nearby construction activities. This is an example of a measure being taken to prevent pollution from harming our water resources and to help keep our stormwater system operating properly.

Familiar Face, New Role

After serving the District for over 30 years in various roles, most recently as Chair of the Board of Water Commissioners, we are saying goodbye and thank you to Ron Parenti. His involvement began during the early days of the W.R. Grace contamination and he also worked through the use of District land for sand and gravel mining, amongst other early efforts. His thoughtful guidance and application of scientific principles to the issues facing the District will be greatly missed. Fortunately, Barry Rosen, a familiar face in water issues in Acton, was willing to step up and run for Commissioner. Barry brings a wide range of career experiences, long term Water District and Town volunteer service to the role of Commissioner. He began his career teaching biology, environmental science and engineering concepts and went on to be a school district administrator. His continuing interest in life sciences led to his research and development of biological and environmental computer models under National Science Foundation grants. Barry was then tapped to help establish and then direct a regional educational computer center to service teachers and students in New York State. From there, he went on to serve in various national and international business management positions for multiple Fortune 100 technology companies.

After serving as an officer in his neighborhood association, Barry has since devoted his local efforts to water issues concerning the quality and quantity of water that will be available to our community going forward. He has been the chairperson of the Water Land Management Advisory Committee (WLMAC) for almost all of his 14 year service on the committee. The WLMAC is tasked with researching and advising the Water Commissioners on various topics. Six years ago, when the Town of Acton Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) was reorganized to advise the Selectmen on water and wastewater issues, Barry was asked to serve on that committee as well. He is interested in improving communication and more widely educating the community on water challenges in hopes of building support for decisions the District must make.

Barry, his wife, Mary-Ann, and their son (who now lives on the West Coast) are long term residents of Acton. In his spare time, Barry enjoys reading spy novels and mystery thrillers, walking, making wine and watching his son sail competitively in San Francisco Bay.

Paying for Water Service

The board of Water Commissioners has approved a rate increase that will be effective on the water bill you will receive next month for water used between March and June. As noted by the District Manager earlier in this newsletter, investment in our water system and the cost and complexity therein, comes at a price.

Fortunately, the last rate increase was implemented in July 2015. Changing regulations and increased costs, including utilities, insurance, chemicals and lab analysis, as well as our commitment to infrastructure improvements, necessitate the need for the increase. We have added a rate calculator to our website, *www.actonwater.com/customer-service/my-water-bill-july-2019* so you can see the impact on your bill.

In addition to the water rate, your water bill includes a Service Fee ($15.00) and a Debt Fee that covers the debt service on the North Acton Water Treatment Plant ($14.75), the new water mains on Hayward Road and Stow Street, the acquisition of 16 Knox Trail ($7.00), the South Acton Water Treatment Plant ($22.25) and most recently, the purchase of 585 Main Street ($9.00).

The District offers several ways to save on your water bill. Water usage information and personalized ways to reduce water use are offered through our WaterSmart program. Rebates are available for customers who replace their toilets and washing machines with water efficient versions. Built into the base water bill for customers who use less than 300 cubic feet per quarter are not charged for that usage. A discount on the purchase of rain barrels is offered each spring for customers that purchase a barrel during our bulk delivery event. Finally, we offer free conservation devices such as showerheads, faucet aerators, and rain gauges by stopping into our office or visiting us at an event in Town.

Another way we help some of our customers is by offering a Senior Citizen water bill discount that entitles seniors having low-to-moderate incomes to a reduction in their water bills. This discount is available to water users aged 65 and over who own their own residence and have an individually metered water service. To apply for this discount, customers must first receive approval for the Senior Citizen Property Tax Exemption offered by the Town of Acton. Information about this program is available by calling 978-929-6621 or through the following link: *www.acton-ma.gov/134/Assessor.*

Following the approval of an exemption by the Town Assessor, customers can then submit a copy of their Certificate of Exemption from the Town of Acton and a copy of their tax bill to the Acton Water District. The District will then authorize a water bill abatement in the same percentage as the real estate tax exemption, utilizing the winter reading cycle for the calculation. The abatement will be applied to the next water bill. Abatements will expire after one year, but can be renewed annually. For more information, please contact our Treasurer/Collector at 978-263-9107, or *maryjo@actonwater.com.*

Do you know about Cross Connections?

A cross connection is any actual or potential connection between a distribution pipe of potable water supplied by the public water system and any waste pipe, soil pipe, sewer, drain or other unapproved source. If not properly protected or eliminated, a cross connection can cause health problems and spread disease.

There are two methods by which contamination can enter the drinking water, backpressure and backsiphonage. Backpressure occurs when the pressure in the property exceeds the drinking water pressure. This can be caused by air conditioning units, boiler systems, and other pressure-building devices connected to the drinking water system. Backsiphonage occurs when the drinking water pressure drops off and the resulting vacuum sucks the water from the building. This can be caused routinely by a fire department's use of water due to a fire, water main breaks, and other heavy water demand.

Most cross connections are prevented by installing backflow devices. A hose bibb vacuum breaker, sold at any hardware store, prevents the typical garden hose cross connection. Backflow devices come in all different types to protect even the most dangerous liquids from being able to contaminate the drinking water. To our knowledge, there has never been a cross connection incident in Acton, but there have been several in the state of Massachusetts and even more nationally.

Everyone should be aware of, and do their part to prevent drinking water from becoming contaminated by cross connections. By surveying all industrial, commercial, and institutional facilities for cross connections, the Acton Water District ensures that the water supplied—down to the last free-flowing tap in every home and office—is of the highest quality. All residential homes with irrigation systems are required to have backflow protection. Learn more about cross connections by contacting Charlie Rouleau, our Cross Connection Coordinator, at 978-263-9107.

Do You Want to Become More Involved?

The Board of Water Commissioners meetings are typically scheduled on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 7:30pm; all citizens of Acton are welcome to attend. The beginning of each meeting is set aside for citizen comments that may not be on the agenda for discussion. If you wish to attend, please call us to confirm the next meeting date. The Acton Water District Annual Meeting is held on the third Wednesday of March. All interested persons are welcome to attend.

Water Words Notice
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for all customers of the
Acton Water District

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Beyond the Classroom

We periodically have the pleasure of hosting a Senior Intern from the Acton-Boxborough Regional High School. This is done through the Senior Internship Program administered by Genevieve Hammond, the Senior Career Activities Coordinator. This year, Aidan Rybicki was placed with our Environmental Manager for three weeks in May. Aidan will be attending Hobart College in Geneva, NY in the fall of 2019, studying Marine Biology. After attending a field trip with his Environmental Science class in April, he thought that learning about water quality sampling, treatment technology, data management, and communicating scientific issues to the public would be transferable to his planned course of study. During his time here, he was able to see, be a part of, and understand first-hand the complex environment in which water systems operate.

A quote from Aidan really sums up his time with us, "It amazes me that something as simple as drinking water could have so many complexities to it that I didn't fully grasp when I learned about it in school. I am really glad I was fortunate enough to spend three weeks here, learning the ins and outs of drinking water supply and the pieces that go with it." As Aidan reflected on his time here, he emphasized the amount of information we make available to our customers and how generous we are of our time as being things that more people should avail themselves of. We would like to thank Aidan for his assistance and wish him success in college, and remember, if marine biology does not work out, the water supply industry is always looking for our next generation of workers!

Senior Intern, Aidan Rybicki, is out checking on a monitoring point near the Conant 2 Wells.

Water Use Restrictions

Our seasonal water use restrictions are in effect from May 1 to October 1 of each year. Even though we have had above normal precipitation this spring, consistent application of these restrictions helps us to prudently manage our water supply and educate consumers to be mindful of water use before they are asked to further conserve water use during an emergency. Customers with even-numbered addresses may use water outdoors on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday while odd-numbered addresses may use water outdoors on Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday. No lawn watering is allowed between the hours of 7am and 7pm, and no outdoor water use of any kind is allowed on Mondays. The restrictions apply to both new and established lawns. We encourage homeowners to plant new grass either early in the spring or in October. The outdoor water use restriction applies not only to automatic and manual irrigation, but also, to any outdoor water use. Examples include filling or topping off pools, car washing, power washing, and recreation.

What was it?

We were too tricky with our last photo, no one even attempted to identify the inner workings of our Clapp/Whitcomb Water Treatment Plant in West Acton. In the early 1980's we installed our first granulated activated carbon (GAC) filter vessel at this site and added a second vessel in the 1990's. During 2018, one of the vessels began leaking and needed to be repaired. We took this opportunity to rehab both vessels. The photo shown was the piping at the bottom of the tanks which helps to direct water through the GAC media during periodic filter backwash cycles.

Report on Water Quality

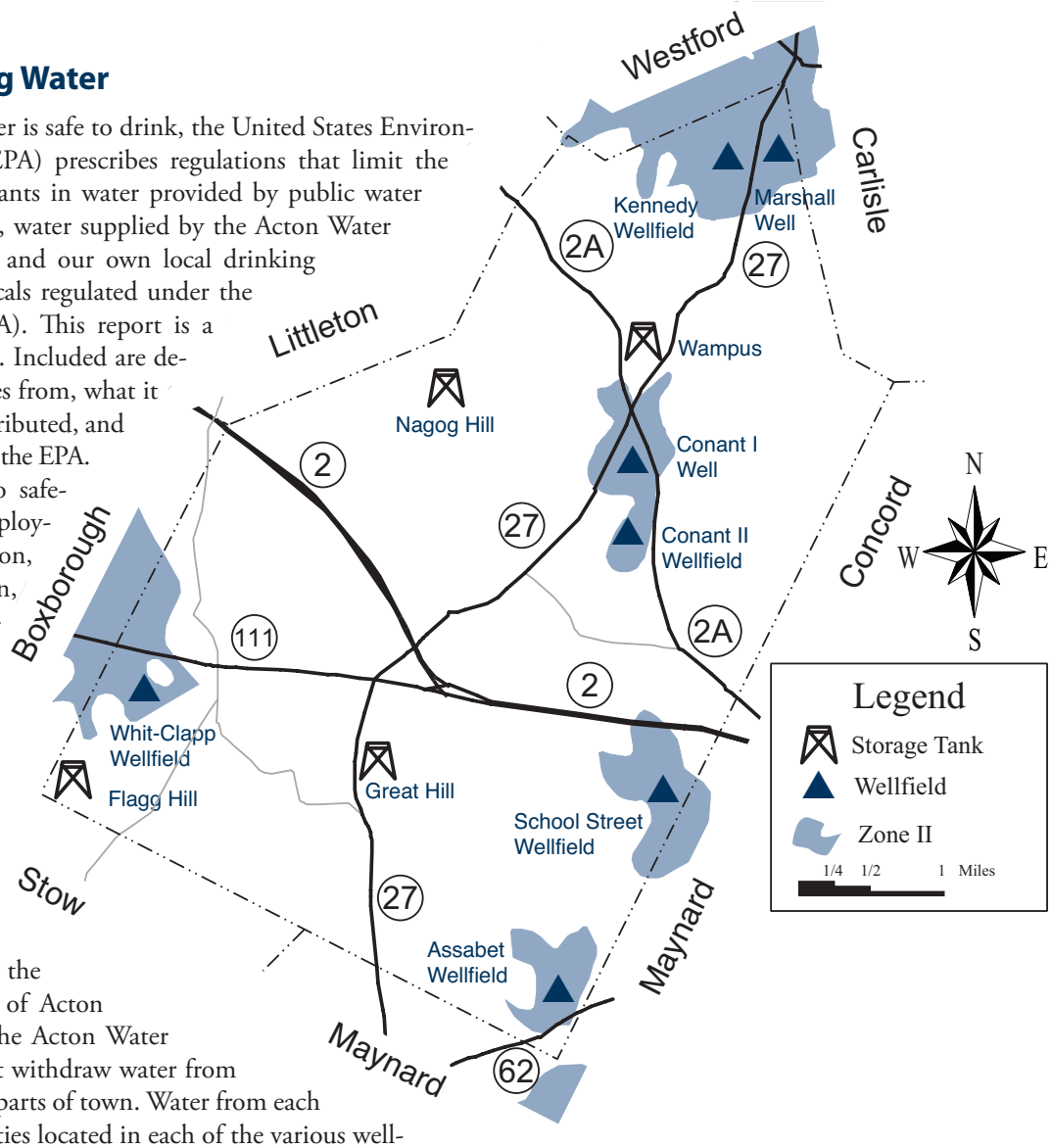
SUMMER 2019 PWS 2002000

Acton Water District

Testing for Your Drinking Water

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations that limit the amounts of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. In 2018, as in years past, water supplied by the Acton Water District (AWD) met EPA, state, and our own local drinking water health standards for chemicals regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is a snapshot of water quality in 2018. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, how it is treated and distributed, and how it compares to standards set by the EPA.

The AWD works diligently to safeguard your water supplies by employing multiple barriers for protection, including source water protection, distribution system protection, ongoing monitoring, and treatment. Last year, we collected more than 650 samples and tested them for more than 100 different potential drinking water contaminants.



The Source of Your Drinking Water

Your water comes from wells that tap the water held in the ground beneath the town of Acton and neighboring communities. The Acton Water District has 22 different wells that withdraw water from seven wellfields located in various parts of town. Water from each well is pumped to treatment facilities located in each of the various wellfields, and then into the distribution system (a network of approximately 130 miles of water mains, four storage tanks, and more than 1,100 fire hydrants), where it blends together and is delivered to homes, businesses, schools, and other public users. The map on this page shows the various storage tanks, wellfields, and the critical protective radius (called Zone II) around each wellfield.

Protection for Your Drinking Water

The Acton Water District employs three important "barriers" to maintain the highest possible quality of drinking water:

- A protective area called Zone II surrounds each of Acton's wells. Land use activities that could adversely affect water quality are restricted within the Zone II area.
- Each of Acton's wells is treated in order to remove impurities and improve the taste of the water. Water treatment specifics are listed below.
- The system of pipes that delivers water to your home is protected by a program that works to minimize "cross connections" between potable (intended for human consumption) and non-potable water. An example of a cross connection is a point where a drinking water pipe might connect to a fire suppression system or to an outside irrigation system.

Water Quality Data Table

The data presented in the table below are from calendar year 2018 unless otherwise noted. Only compounds that were detected in the water delivered to customers are reported in this table. Because water from all wellfields is blended within the distribution system, these data represent the range of water quality in all wellfields.

Substance (units)	Range of Detects	Level Allowed (MCL)	Goal (MCLG)	Typical Source	Exceeds MCL?
Regulated Substances (MCL has been established)					
Arsenic (ppb)	0–6	10	0	Erosion of natural deposits	No
Barium (ppm)	0.02–0.087	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits	No
Chlorine (ppm)	0.0–0.9 0.14: highest running annual average	4 (MRDL)	4 (MRDLG)	Water additive used to control microbes	No
Fluoride (ppm)	0–1.1	4	4	Water additive which promotes strong teeth	No
Haloacetic Acid (ppb)	1–20 LRAA 0.98–11	60	No MCLG	Formed when natural organic material present in the water reacts with chlorine added as a disinfectant	No
Nitrate (ppm)	0–1.8	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits	No
Perchlorate (ppb)	0–0.26	2	No MCLG	Rocket propellants, fireworks, munitions, flares, blasting agents	No
Trihalomethanes (ppb)	12–105 LRAA 21–63	80	No MCLG	Formed when natural organic material present in the water reacts with chlorine added as a disinfectant	No
Turbidity (Nephelometric Turbidity Unit)	0.01–0.99 Lowest Monthly % Samples: 95.7	Maximum Day 1 NTU (TT)	95% of samples <0.3 NTU Monthly (TT)	A measure of the cloudiness of water. It is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our treatment processes.	No
Unregulated Substances (MCL has not been established)					
Iron (ppm)	0–1.12	No MCL	No MCLG	Erosion of natural deposits	Unregulated contaminants have no established MCL
Manganese (ppb)	0–575	No MCL	No MCLG	Erosion of natural deposits	
Nickel (ppb)	1–7	No MCL	No MCLG	Discharge from domestic wastewater, landfills, and mining activities	
Sodium (ppm)	62.6–83.1	No MCL	No MCLG	Erosion of natural deposits, road salting	
Sulfate (ppm)	8.7–24	No MCL	No MCLG	Natural Sources	
1,4–dioxane (ppb)	0.136–0.235	No MCL	No MCLG	Chemical solvent, lab reagent, stabilizer, adhesive, may be found in cosmetics, detergents, and shampoo.	
Chloroform (ppb)	0–60	No MCL	No MCLG	Formed when natural organic material present in the water reacts with chlorine added as a disinfectant	
Chlorodibromomethane (ppb)	0–4.59	No MCL	No MCLG	Formed when natural organic material present in the water reacts with chlorine added as a disinfectant	
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	0–18	No MCL	No MCLG	Formed when natural organic material present in the water reacts with chlorine added as a disinfectant	
Bromoform (ppb)	0–1.3	No MCL	No MCLG	Formed when natural organic material present in the water reacts with chlorine added as a disinfectant	
Lead and Copper (30 sites sampled during August/September 2016. Next sampling during Summer 2019)					
Substance (units)	**90th percentile**	**# sites above Action Level**	**Action Level**	**Typical Source**	**Exceeds AL?**
Lead (ppb)	0.01	2	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	No
Copper (ppm)	0.5	0	1.3	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching; Corrosion of household plumbing systems; from wood preservatives	No

For terms and abbreviations, see page 7.

Why Are Impurities in Your Drinking Water?

As water travels through the ground it dissolves naturally occurring minerals. It can also pick up substances resulting from animal or human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- **microbiological** contaminants (such as viruses and bacteria) that may come from septic systems, agriculture, and wildlife
- **inorganic** contaminants (such as salts and metals) that may be naturally occurring or result from stormwater runoff, wastewater discharge, mining, or farming
- **pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources, such as agriculture, stormwater runoff, and residential uses
- **organic chemical** contaminants, which are byproducts of industrial processes, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems
- **radioactive** contaminants, which can occur naturally or be the result of oil and gas production or mining activities

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some impurities. The presence of an impurity does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The Acton Water District has compiled information on drinking water and health in its drinking water resource center. Please feel free to visit or call us for information, or call the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Treatment for Your Water

To meet local, state, and federal requirements, and to improve taste and appearance, the Acton Water District treats all of its water before it is supplied to customers. The table below shows the treatment provided at each wellfield.

Treatment	Conant I Well	Conant II Wellfield	Marshall Wellfield	School Street Wellfield	Assabet Wellfield	Kennedy Wellfield	Clapp/Whitcomb Wellfield
Aeration *VOC removal*		♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦
Chlorination *disinfection*	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦
Fluoridation *tooth decay prevention*	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦
pH Adjustment *corrosion control*	♦		♦	♦	♦	♦	♦
Carbon Filtration *taste/color control*							♦
Membrane Filtration *mineral/color removal*			♦	♦	♦	♦	

TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

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

LRAA (Locational Running Annual Average): The highest level of contaminant as determined by a running annual average of all the samples taken from a sampling point.

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): 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.

MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal): 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.

MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal): The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

90th Percentile: The concentration of a substance that falls at the top 90 percent of all values for that substance.

pCi/L: picoCuries per liter

ppm: part per million by volume

ppb: part per billion by volume

TT (Treatment Technique): A required process intended to reduce the level of contaminant in drinking water.

Discussion of Data Table Detections

ARSENIC: Water systems, such as ours, with arsenic above 5 ppb (50 percent of the MCL), but at or below 10 ppb (the MCL) must include the following statement. While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

FLUORIDE: The Acton Board of Health voted in 1970 to adjust the fluoride level in drinking water to prevent tooth decay/cavities. On June 8, 2015, the Acton BOH voted to adopt the Centers for Disease Control's recommended adjusted fluoride dose to 0.7 mg/L. AWD implemented the new adjusted dose at all of its treatment plants in 2015.

SODIUM: Although sodium does not have a Maximum Contaminant Level, the MassDEP does have a guideline of 20 parts per million (ppm) for sensitive individuals, such as those on very salt-restricted diets. The AWD notifies the Acton Board of Health of sodium results, and results of the most recent sodium tests are posted at various locations in town. Sodium levels in drinking water vary considerably from well to well and month to month. For the most accurate data on sodium levels at your home, an individual tap sample would be necessary.

LEAD AND COPPER: 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. The AWD 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 (800-426-4791) or at *http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead*.

MANGANESE: Manganese is a nutrient that is part of a healthful diet. Drinking water may naturally have manganese and, when concentrations are greater than 50 parts per billion (ppb), the water may be discolored and taste bad. Over a lifetime, EPA recommends that people drink water with manganese levels of less than 300 ppb; over the short term, EPA recommends that people limit their consumption of water with levels of more than 1,000 ppb, primarily due to concerns about possible neurological effects. Children up to one year of age should not be given water with manganese concentrations greater than 300 ppb, nor should formula for infants be made with that water for longer than 10 days. As we continue to implement filtration for manganese removal, sources with higher concentrations are relied upon less to meet our water demand.

1,4-DIOXANE: During 2018 the AWD collected samples for this compound in the raw and treated waters of the Assabet and School Street wells. This sampling was conducted due to the presence of this compound at the WR Grace and Nuclear Metals, Inc. Superfund sites near our South Acton wells. 1,4-dioxane is not a regulated contaminant, and the MassDEP has not established an MCL. The AWD is following the potential regulation of this contaminant and the effect it may have on our water system. Some people who drink water containing 1,4-dioxane at high concentrations for many years could experience chronic kidney and liver effects and liver cancer. More information is available at *www.actonwater.com/water-quality/14-dioxane*.

VOLUNTARY MONITORING: In addition to the monitoring required by the Safe Drinking Water Act, the AWD voluntarily conducts hundreds of additional tests each year to ensure high-quality water. For more information on our voluntary monitoring, please contact us.

VULNERABILITY: Some people may be particularly vulnerable to impurities in drinking water. 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, and some elderly people and infants can be particularly at risk for infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

Source Water Assessment and Protection Report Available

The Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) program requires states to assess the susceptibility of public water supplies to potential contamination. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) has completed its assessment on each of the Zone II areas for the Acton Water District's wells. A susceptibility ranking of "high" was assigned to each Zone II using the information compiled by MassDEP. Copies of the SWAP report are available at the Acton Water District office or on the website: *www.ActonWater.com*.

The AWD has long recognized the susceptibility of its sources, and has worked closely with the town and state to maximize the protection of all of its Zone IIs. For more information, please call Matthew Mostoller, AWD Environmental Manager, at 978-263-9107.