Town of East Longmeadow
Department of Public Works
2003 Water Quality Report

Dear Customer: We are pleased to present a summary of the quality of the water provided to you during the past year. The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires that utilities issue an annual "Consumer Confidence" report to customers in addition to other notices that may be required by law. This report details where our water comes from, what it contains, and the risks our water testing is designed to prevent. East Longmeadow is committed to providing you with the safest and most reliable water supply. Informed customers are our best allies in maintaining safe drinking water.

East Longmeadow's drinking water meets or surpasses all federal and state drinking-water standards.

Call us for information about the next opportunity for public participation in decisions about our drinking water. The Board of Public Works serves as water commissioners. Their meeting schedules are posted at Town Hall.

Water Source

In 2003, the Department supplied a total of 668 million gallons of water. The Town purchases its water from the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission. Drinking water produced by the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission originates from a surface water supply, the Cobble Mountain Reservoir, located in western Massachusetts. The Borden Brook Reservoir, a smaller surface water supply that feeds into Cobble Mountain Reservoir, contributes to the system's combined water supply capacity of 25 billion gallons.

The reservoirs and the land surrounding the reservoirs are collectively called the watershed. Watershed protection is the Commission's first defense in maintaining a pure water source. The Commission within the Cobble Mountain watershed area owns approximately 13,000 acres of reservoir and land. Inside the watershed boundaries there is no commercial industry, the population density is low, and only limited farming and grazing is practiced. To further protect the water supply, boating, swimming, hunting and fishing is forbidden in and around the reservoir areas and watershed lands.

The reservoir water flows to the West Parish Filters Treatment Plant, located in Westfield, Massachusetts, where it is filtered through slow and rapid sand filtration, treated to inhibit corrosion of home plumbing, adjusted for pH, and disinfected before it flows to the 60 million gallon underground storage tanks at Provin Mountain Reservoir located in Agawam, Massachusetts. Clean drinking water is supplied, at an annual average of 35 million gallons per day, to Springfield and the surrounding communities, Agawam, East Longmeadow, Longmeadow and Ludlow, through the 617 mile piping network of large sized transmission mains and smaller sized distribution mains.

The Town has four connections to the Springfield water supply system: Elm Street, Harkness Avenue, North Main Street and Dwight Road. The northwest quadrant of Town is serviced directly by these four connections.

The southern and eastern sides of the Town are serviced by what is referred to as a high-pressure system. Water delivered from the City of Springfield is pumped at the Chestnut Street Pump Station into the high-pressure system. This water can go either into one of the two storage tanks on Prospect Street (75 thousand or 1.5 million gallons) or this water can go directly to a home of business for consumption. Since this water may be stored in the tanks for an undetermined amount of time, the Town of East Longmeadow Department of Public Works adds chlorine at the Chestnut Street Pump Station as it pumps the water. This booster chlorination, as it is commonly referred to, helps to ensure that there are no bacteria in the system.

How to Read This Table

This report is based upon tests conducted in the year 2003 by the Department. The table below shows what substances were detected in our drinking water during 2003. Although all of these that are listed are under the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) set by U.S. EPA, and therefore not expected to cause any health risks, we feel it is important that you know exactly what was detected and how much of the substance was present in the water. Terms used in the Water-Quality Table and in other parts of this report are defined here.

Maximum Contaminant Level or 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 or 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.

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

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

Key To Table

AL = Action Level

MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level

MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal

TT = Treatment Technique

NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units

ppm = parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/l)

ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l)

Contaminant	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Highest Annual Average	Range	Major Sources	Violation
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes]	ppb	80	N/A	69	38-103	By-product of drinking water chlorination	NO
HAA5 [Total Haloacetic Acids]	ppb	60	N/A	44	33-67	By-product of drinking water chlorination	NO

Contaminant	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Major Sources	Violation
Nitrate (ppm)	ppm	10	10	0.10	Natural deposits, stormwater/fertilizer runoff	NO
Barium (ppm)	ppm	2	2	0.010	Common mineral in nature	NO

Contaminant (Inorganic)	90th Percentile	# of Sites Exceeded	# of Sites Sampled	Action Level	MCLG	Major Sources	Violation
Copper (ppm)	0.13	0	100	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives	NO
Lead (ppb)	9.0	7	100	15.0	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	NO

Contaminant (Microbiological)	MCL	MCLG	Highest Single Measurement Detected	Lowest Monthly Percent	Major Sources In Drinking Water	Violation
Turbidity (NTU) Rapid Sand Filtration*	TT	N/A	0.87	98.5%	Soil run-off	NO
Turbidity (NTU) Slow Sand Filtration**	TT	N/A	0.26	100%	Soil run-off	NO

-Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.
-The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has reduced our monitoring requirements for lead and copper. The results listed in the table reflect the last lead and copper sampling, which was conducted in September 2002.
*Rapid Sand Filtration: The turbidity level of the filtered water shall be less than or equal to 0.3 NTU in 95% of the measurements taken each month and shall not exceed a maximum of 1.0 NTU in any single measurement.
**Slow Sand Filtration: The turbidity level of the filtered water shall be less than or equal to 1.0 NTU in 95% of the measurements taken each month and shall not exceed a maximum of 5.0 NTU in any single measurement.

Additional Health Information

Sources of drinking water (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 throughout the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- 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 urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, 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, including synthetic and volatile organics, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800-426-4791).

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested. Flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water to reduce lead content. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than is 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/Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

We'll be happy to answer any questions about the Water Division [PWS ID# 1085000] and our water quality.
Please call David J. Gromaski, P.E., Superintendent, at 525-5400.

Resident
East Longmeadow, MA 01028

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