

2013 WATER QUALITY REPORT

DIGHTON WATER DISTRICT

P W S I D # 4 0 7 6 0 0 0

Your Drinking Water Sources

The Dighton Water District is located at 192 Williams St North Dighton, Ma. The District customers get their water from 5 gravel packed wells. Three wells are off Cedar St., and two wells are off Walker Street. The District has emergency connections with the city of Taunton and the Somerset Water Departments. The Taunton tie-in is only used in Emergencies eg; hurricanes, blizzards etc. with permission from the Taunton Water Department.

Immune - compromised persons: 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 some infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. Guidelines are available from the EPA/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on lowering the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants by calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline: @ 1-800-426-4791.

Nondiscrimination Clause: In accordance with Federal law and the U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800)795-3272 (voice), or (202)720-6382(TDD)."

"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 @ (1-800-426-4791)."

Contact Gregory Olsen @ 508-824-9390 if you have any questions about this report.

Sources of drinking water (both tap water & 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. It can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity. 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, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm-water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, and farming.

Pesticides and herbicides- may come from a variety of sources such as agricultural, urban storm-water runoff, and residential uses.

Organic chemical contaminants -include synthetic and volatile organic chemicals that 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.

Asbestos- Water systems that contain (AC) pipe are vulnerable to asbestos contamination due to the presence of asbestos-cement pipe. Systems must sample for this contaminant dependent on the size of the system population, & the number of miles of (AC) pipe within the system.

"CLEAN WATER INTO THE FUTURE"

The District's water treatment plant has been operating since the fall of 2006. The plant was designed to remove iron, manganese, and organic color which is found in most groundwater throughout the southeast region of the state. The plant treats raw water from the 5 wells 365 days a year. Sample results have improved since the plant went online. The PH is more consistent which reduces the lead from leaching into the water from your household plumbing and fixtures. All Customers are welcome to tour the treatment plant during normal business hours of 8am-3:30pm.

IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

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.

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 a margin of safety.

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

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

90th percentile - used for calibrating the allowable limit set forth by the US.EPA as a guideline for the Lead and Copper sampling results. Eg. (**Out of every 10 homes, 9 were at or below this limit.**)

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

Variations and Exemptions – State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

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

Sodium: ORSG = 20ppm. (Natural sources; runoff from road salt)

Manganese: SMCL = .005ppm (Erosion of natural deposits)

Iron: SMCL = .3ppm (Naturally occurring, corrosion of cast iron pipes)

Flouride, Cyanide samples: test results for these contaminants were less than detectable limits.

Sampling Waivers

SOC Samples: Samples for these contaminants were taken on February 9, 2011 and September 14, 2011. Results from the tests were less than the detectable limits for these contaminants. The District has recently been granted a sampling waiver for these contaminants during the 2011-2013 compliance cycles. Next samples will be collected during 2014 in the next compliance cycle.

IOC Samples: Samples were taken for Inorganic compounds on February 9, 2011 during the first quarter of 2011. The results had no detects except for sodium. Sodium in the treatment plant finished water was 49.9mg/l or parts per million. Next sampling will be due 2019 compliance cycle.

VOC Samples: The Dighton Water District tested the wells for volatile organic compounds on 2/20/2013. Results from the treatment plant finished water showed no detectable limits for these contaminants other than chloroform which was 3.4ug/l micrograms per liter, Bromodichloromethane which was 4.3ug/l, & Chlorodibromomethane which was 2.9ug/l. These contaminants are disinfection byproducts & are unregulated contaminants which have no MCL (see caption below). The Dighton Water District adds sodium hypochlorite (chlorine bleach) to disinfect the water.

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

TABLE KEY

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

equivalent to one penny in \$10,000 dollars

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

equivalent to one penny in \$10,000,000 dollars

ppt: parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter

equivalent to one penny in \$10,000,000,000,000 dollars

pCi/l: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

2013 LEAD SAMPLING

The Dighton Water District collected 23 lead and copper samples 9/17/2013. All samples were below the action level for both lead and copper. (for additional information see the lead and copper section on next page) The District was granted a reduction in sampling for lead due to previous sample results below the 90th percentile threshold required by the Department Of Environmental Protection and EPA regulations.

I send **my deepest thanks to all participants in the lead and copper program.** Without your assistance we would not be able to reach our goal to collect these samples.

The Board of Commissioners would like to remind you to send back any & all Census that you receive.

Visit the Dighton Water District Website
@[http//.DightonWaterDistrict.com](http://.DightonWaterDistrict.com)

Health affects for Lead and Nitrates

Nitrate: Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10ppm is a health risk for infants less than six months of age. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider. Nitrate samples were collected on 4/10/2013 from the finished water at the treatment plant & the result was .70 mg/l.

Lead: Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels in 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. One step you can take to decrease your risk of lead in water is by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes. This only needs to be done after the water has been unused in the pipes for an extended period of time. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. (also see lead sampling in the informational section of this report.)

INFORMATIONAL SECTION:

Asbestos: The District has approximately 3 – 4 thousand feet of (AC cement asbestos) pipelines. The District is required to sample for this contaminant because (AC) pipe is connected to the municipal supply. The portion of the system with AC pipe was tested for asbestos particles on May 6 2013 and the result was less than the detectable limit of .19 million fibers/liter. The MCL for asbestos is 7million fibers/liter greater than 10 microns in length.

Sodium: Information on sodium is provided for the elderly population, and anyone within the District that has to monitor their daily intake of Sodium. Sodium samples were collected on 2/9/2011 at the water treatment plant. The sodium levels in the finished water sample was 49.9 mg/l.

Iron: The Iron levels in samples collected 4/10/2013 from the finished water at the treatment plant were 0mg/l. High amounts of iron can cause the red /rusty staining in white fixtures, and also in laundry when washing your clothes.

Manganese: Manganese levels in samples collected 4/10/2013 from the finished water at the treatment plant were .019mg/l. High concentrations of manganese can cause Black discolored water within a system.

Perchlorate: Samples were collected for perchlorates on 9/11/2013 to monitor water supplies for these contaminants. Results for the finished water sample collected at the treatment plant were .14ppb or micrograms / liter. The mcl for this contaminant is 2.0ppb. These contaminants are used as components of propellants used in rockets, missiles, and fireworks.

Lead & Copper Informational Section

Lead: During 2013 the Dighton Water District collected lead samples from 2 schools and also 23 customers within the District. Results for the samples collected for lead are as follows. The Elementary School & DR High School lead

results ranged from .001mg/l to .003mg/l. Home lead results ranged from 0mg/l to .004 for lead. None of the 23 samples collected exceeded the lead action level. DEP regulations require the 90th percentile sample not to exceed the limit which is .015mg/l for lead in drinking water. The 90th percentile for the 23 samples collected on 9/17/2013 was .003mg/l.

Copper: The Dighton Water District collected 23 copper samples on 9/17/2013. Samples were collected for copper within the customers' homes and copper samples were collected at two schools. Copper sample results were below the action level. Copper results ranged from .07 up to .58 mg/liter. The 90th percentile result for copper in the 23 samples was .43mg/ liter. The school results were .21up to.61 which are also below the action level of 1.3mg/l for copper. Lead and copper results have dropped since the previous samples collected during 2010.

“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”.

“Radon is a radioactive gas that you cannot see, taste, or smell. It is found throughout the United States. Radon can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in the foundation. Radon can build up to high levels in all types of homes. Radon can also get into indoor air when released from the tap water from showering, washing dishes, and other household activities. Compared to radon entering the home through soil, radon entering the home through tap water will be (in most cases) a small source of radon in indoor air. Radon is a known human carcinogen. Breathing air containing radon can lead to lung cancer. Drinking water containing radon may also cause increased risk of stomach cancer. If you are concerned about radon in your home, test the air in your home. Testing is inexpensive and easy. Fix your home if the level of radon in your air is 4 picocuries per liter of air (pCi/l) or higher. There are simple ways to fix a radon problem that aren't too costly. For additional information, call your State radon program or call EPA's Radon Hotline, 1-800-SOS.RADON.”

TTHM's: (Total Trihalomethanes) Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Manganese - EPA has established a lifetime health advisory (HA) value of 0.3 ppm for manganese to protect against concerns of potential neurological effects, and a One-day and 10-day HA of 1 ppm for acute exposure. However, it is advised that for infants younger than 6 months, the lifetime HA of 0.3 ppm be used even for an acute exposure of 10 days.

Spring and Summer of 2013

The Winter 2012- 2013 produced adequate amounts of water. With early winter relatively snowless we did receive plenty of rainfall that kept the rivers and streams at their peak. We did receive substantial snowfall during late winter into spring. March left us with substantial snow that kept the river and stream levels at their maximum capacity. There were incidents where the melting snow left low lying areas flooded for a few days until the next storm arrived and turned the landscape a blanket of White again.

The Spring 2013 was a continuation of Winter that didn't want to quit. Snow fell well into spring through the month of April. A late spring kept outside watering at a minimum as the snow melt kept groundwater levels sustainable.

Summer 2013 was exceptionally wet. This has been the first summer of many we didn't need to adopt an outside watering ban. The local streams were maintained throughout the summer months into early winter with substantial amounts of water even though rainfall was below average for the summer months.

During the fall of 2013, the District had numerous issues with brown and black water complaints. We collected samples from customers while we were flushing the system in October. The samples were collected under the direction of the District Engineer to try to locate the source of the ongoing brown water issue. Elevated manganese was found in the customer samples. Chemical dosing at the plant was looked at to try to locate the source of the problematic issue. Since the District has been collecting quarterly manganese samples from the water exiting the plant.. **A "safe clean potable water supply" should be the number one priority to everyone.** More stringent regulations from EPA and increased water consumption from customers account for the high cost of treating drinking water now and into the future.

WATER AWARENESS PROGRAMS

The Dighton Water District has an annual Water Awareness Program that takes place at the Dighton Elementary School. Teachers from the school instruct 3rd grade students about water awareness and water conservation. This program is made possible through the cooperation of the principal and teaching staff at the Dighton Elementary School. Dighton Water District staff set up tours for 3rd grade students to visit the water treatment plant during the month of May each year. May is water awareness month. I would like to send my deepest appreciation and thanks to the past principals, present principal and all the teachers and water district staff that make this program the success it is not only today but hopefully well into the future.

During previous years Dighton teachers received state recognition awards from the numerous water works associations. They were presented awards at the State House in Boston. The teachers deserved the awards for their knowledge and dedication with the children from Pre-K thru 4th grade. The program has been a success in the past and I hope it continues well into the future. Hopefully the younger generation will gain an education on the importance of water conservation and protecting our drinking water sources that most of us take for granted.

GIVE CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

My thanks go out to all the students , the Elementary School principal, Ann Marie McMahon, former teacher Jeff White, Karen Rose, Ms. Anger and many other 3rd grade teachers and Elementary School staff I may have missed for helping the District to have one of the best water awareness programs in the state.

Handouts regarding water conservation & ways to protect the water supply are available at the Dighton Water District Office 192 Williams Street North Dighton, 02764. Hours are Mon-Thurs 8-3:30, Friday 8-3pm or you can call 508-824-9390.

WATER COSTS \$10.00 / GALLON

Bottled water can cost anywhere from 50 cents per gallon up to \$1.25 for a sixteen ounce bottle. This in turn could cost you up to \$10.00 dollars per gallon. Treated municipal drinking water if sold at \$5.00 dollars per 1000 gallons would cost 5 cents for 10 gallons. Even though \$5.00 per thousand gallons of water seems expensive it really isn't. As regulations change public water supplies are faced with increased costs due to the additional chemicals required to treat drinking water, and additional costs to run & operate the treatment plant.

"CLEAN WATER IS UP TO YOU"

Where can I see the SWAP Report?

The complete SWAP report is available at the Dighton Water District Office located at the water treatment plant 192 Williams Street and online at <http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/drinking/swapreps.htm>. You can contact the Superintendent at the District Office @ 508-824-9390 if you need more information regarding the SWAP Report.

Sources of contamination in well head protection areas include agricultural land, septic systems, gas stations and automobile junkyards to name a few.

Dighton is susceptible to potential threats because we have these uses in close proximity to the well fields.

AUTOMATIC LAWN SPRINKLER CONNECTIONS

AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER SYSTEMS ARE ALLOWED TO BE CONNECTED TO THE MUNICIPAL WATER SUPPLY. UNDERGROUND LAWN IRRIGATION SYSTEMS MUST BE INSTALLED BY A **LICENSED INSTALLER & ALL SYSTEMS MUST BE PERMITTED** THROUGH THE PLUMBING INSPECTOR IN THE TOWN OF DIGHTON. ACCPRDING TO THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE DISTRICT **RAIN SENSORS** MUST BE INSTALLED ON THE SYSTEM AND A **TESTABLE BACKFLOW DEVICE** MUST BE INSTALLED ACCORDING TO THE CROSS CONNECTION RULES AND REGULATIONS. **NO INTERCONNECTIONS BETWEEN POTABLE AND NON-POTABLE DRINKING WATER SOURCES ARE PERMITTED** UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS DRINKING WATER REGULATIONS 310 CMR 22.22 FOR CROSS CONNECTIONS. **DEVICES MUST BE IN AN ACCESSABLE LOCATION** IN ORDER TO PERMIT TESTING BY A TRAINED **CERTIFIED BACKFLOW DEVICE TESTER.**

“ LAWN IRRIGATIONS”

Lawn irrigations are the biggest consumers of water during the hot weather in the summer months. In past years daily production from the Water District wells has increased from an average of 400,000 gallons per day up to over 1.2million gallons per day. Sprinklers place a great burden on the wells during the summer. The wells have to be throttled back during these periods in order to sustain adequate water levels in the well casings. Over pumping a well reduces the efficiency of the well and also increases the chance of contamination by causing the well to draw water from a larger radius than it would normally. We urge everyone to Conserve, Conserve, Conserve. **(see outside watering tips below)**

SPRINKLER BANS: Every customer should do your part and abide by any restrictions while they are in effect. Notices will be posted while water bans are in effect.

Some outside Watering tips

New England has a high precipitation rate, so turf grasses here don’t have to be watered to survive. Lawns may turn brown and dormant, but will green up rapidly when moisture in the soil is replaced.

Conserve resources by not watering the grass unless it really needs it. Let Mother Nature water your lawn! It not only saves the water supply but saves you money also.

If you do water; one inch of water is adequate to wet the soils 4-6inches deep. You can place a can or pan under the sprinkler, when an inch of water is in the can shut the sprinkler off. This is an easy way to measure when an inch of water has been applied to your lawn.

Water deep & less frequently to encourage deep root growth. Light watering encourages shallow roots, which leads to disease & stress.

The best time to water is early morning; less water is lost through evaporation. A lot of customers are seen watering lawns during the midday which can actually do more damage by burning the grass. Avoid watering during midday & try not to water in the evenings. Leaving your lawn damp during the night can promote fungus and disease growth.

Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP)

What is my system ranking? A susceptibility ranking was assigned to this system using the information collected during the assessment by Mass DEP.

The overall ranking of susceptibility of contamination for the Dighton Water District system is high because of the presence of at least one high threat land use within the water supply protection areas.

CROSS CONNECTION PROGRAM

Homeowners with private wells and municipal water supplies must be aware of possible contamination from the interconnection between the 2 systems. Residents must be aware that a safe clean water potable water supply is a precious resource that must be protected for future generations.

Wellhead Protection measures have been taken to reduce the contamination of wells. Updated Title Five Regulations were imposed to reduce the amounts of Nitrogen from septic systems entering water supplies. Conservation issues regarding wetland buffers and waterways also reduce contamination by limiting the uses in these sensitive areas. I strongly encourage each customer to preserve what we have by developing your own conservation and protection program. **Your children may even be able to give you some pointers** that they have learned in the Dighton Elementary School water awareness program.

Wellhead Protection areas: The primary protection area around a public water supply (PWS) is known as the Zone1. The Zone 1 is the 400 ft radius around the well or well field, which is owned or controlled by the water supplier using conservation restrictions. Towns have adopted bylaws that are used to place restrictions for land uses in these critical areas of the town. Dighton has adopted a DEP approved bylaw in May 2000. The area of an aquifer that contributes water to a well under the most severe pumping and recharge conditions is known as the Zone II. For public water supply wells that lack an approved Zone II, DEP applies an interim Wellhead Protection Area (IWPA). This is the area within a ½ mile radius for sources approved to pump 100,000 gallons/ day or greater. For smaller sources, the IWPA radius is proportional to the wells approved daily volume.

We need to protect the existing and future water resources that are left in Dighton to be sure there is an adequate supply for all future growth.

Some Do's & Don'ts on how you can protect your drinking water?

Household chemicals

Always use non-toxic and less toxic alternatives to household cleaners, oil based paints & insecticides.

Don't buy more hazardous chemicals than you need.

Always follow package directions on pesticides, fertilizers, and other household chemicals.

Don't over-use household chemicals. More is not better. Always follow the directions listed on the product label.

Don't use pesticides or herbicides near wells, and minimize the use of fertilizers around wells.

Always take leftover chemicals to hazardous waste collection centers.

Don't dispose of hazardous chemicals by pouring them down household drains, storm drains, or onto the ground.

Where does my water come from?

Your drinking water comes from 5 gravel packed groundwater wells. Groundwater is the water that flows through spaces in soil particles and through fractures in rock. Water also comes from rain & melting snow that percolates through the ground.

Why should I be concerned?

Even though some pollutants (such as bacteria, viruses, and phosphorus) can be reduced by passing through soil under certain conditions, groundwater can be easily contaminated by chemicals & oils. **Visit the website for updates & information regarding your water @ <http://.DIGHTON WATER DISTRICT.com>**

Underground Storage Tanks

Check heating oil tanks for leaks. Remove any deteriorating tanks. Replace underground tanks with above ground tanks that include a secondary containment area with a cover. **Don't** have tanks removed by contractors who are not licensed & are familiar with State guidelines for underground tank removal. Never locate new fuel storage tanks in the recharge area of a well.

Septic systems

Take care of your septic system. Keep records of your septic system maintenance. Inspect the tank every year. **Have your tank pumped every 2-3 years.** And avoid damage to your leach field and distribution lines by keeping heavy objects out of the area of the field. **Don't overload** your septic with solids by using a garbage grinder (unless the system was designed for a grinder). **Never pour grease** or cooking oils down the drain, it will clog the soil and system.

Don't pour chemicals, including **bleach** down the toilet or sinks. **Never use septic cleaners** or additives containing acids or chemical solvents such as trichloroethylene (TCE). For additional information on ways to protect the water supply you can contact Ma. DEP/DWP @ 617-292-5770.

Security measures

Security measures have been adopted by many Public Water Supplies to protect the valuable drinking water resources. Measures have been taken to ensure the Dighton Water District wells & water tanks are protected. **Contact the Dighton Police @ 508-669-6711 or the Water District @ 508-824-9390 if you notice any suspicious activities around the wells or water tanks. "Lets use our head" before someone contaminates our wells. We urge Dighton Water District customers to contact the Dighton Police or Water District Office if anyone suspicious poses as a District Employee.** The Board of Water Commissioners have policies to protect our customers from fraudulent entry. Call the Dighton Water District Office or Dighton Police at the numbers listed above if you have any suspicions.

Treatment Techniques

Clarification treatment plants: Small particles and organisms such as sediment, algae and bacteria can cause water to take on unpleasant odors and tastes, and sometimes make it unhealthy to drink. To remove this material, it is necessary to chemically treat the water and then pass it through two types of filtering units- a clarifier and a mixed media filter bed. The process begins with Polyaluminum Chloride being added to the water at an established rate. This prompts the small particles to coagulate, or stick together and form particles of increasing size. The chemically treated water then flows upward through a non buoyant granular media bed. A portion of the floc is removed in the upper section of the bed which removes up to 95% of the particles. The media bed consists of three layers of materials. The cleaner water is then collected in a central trough above the bed and transferred into the filter section. The filter is a conventional tri-media design comprised of gravel, garnet and anthracite which trap the remaining particles. Over time the filters clog and need to be cleaned using a high flow backwash process.

All chemicals used in the water industry are approved for water treatment by the following organizations: the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) accredits the National Sanitation Foundation (known as NSF International), and UL Chemicals also have to meet performance standards established by the American Water Works Association.

Disinfection with Chlorine(with filtration): All reservoirs and some ground water sources contain numerous microorganisms, some of which can cause people to become sick. It is necessary to disinfect the water to eliminate disease carrying organisms. Disinfection does not sterilize the water, it removes harmful organisms. Sterilization is too costly and kills all microorganisms, even though most are not harmful. The Dighton Water District uses sodium hypochlorite (chlorine) as its primary disinfectant. Chlorine destroys organisms by penetrating cell walls and reacting with enzymes. When combined with proper filtration, disinfection with chlorine has been proven effective at ensuring that water is free of harmful organisms and safe to drink.

LEAD IN DRINKING WATER

“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 Dighton Water District 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 maximize 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>.”

Additional Facts on Lead

- Lead is a naturally- occurring metal that for most of the 20th century was used regularly as a component of paint, piping (including water service lines), solder, brass, and until the 1980’s, as a gasoline additive. We no longer use lead in many of these products, but older products – such as paints and plumbing fixtures in older houses – that contain lead remain. EPA and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) report that lead paint (and the contaminated dust and soil it generates) is the leading source of lead exposure in older housing.
- While lead is rarely present in water coming from a treatment plant, it can enter tap water through corrosion of some plumbing materials.
- A number of aggressive and successful steps have been taken in recent years to reduce the occurrence of lead in drinking water.:

•In 1986, Congress amended the national Safe Drinking Water Act to prohibit the use of pipe, solder or flux containing high lead levels.

- The Lead Contamination Control Act of 1988 led schools and day-care centers to repair or remove water coolers with lead-lined tanks. EPA provided guidance to inform and facilitate their action.
- Since the implementation of the Lead and Copper Rule (1991), many community drinking water systems are required to actively manage the corrosivity of water distributed to customers. In addition, community water systems conduct routine monitoring at selected houses where lead service line and lead solder exist. If more than 10% of the homes tested have elevated lead levels (defined as more than 15 parts per billion) water providers must notify their consumers via several means. They must also take steps to reduce the problem, including improving corrosion control and possibly replacing lead service lines that contribute to lead contamination.
- You can’t see, smell or taste lead in your water. *Testing at the tap is the only way to measure the lead levels in your home or workplace.* If you choose to have your tap water tested, be sure to use a properly certified laboratory. Testing usually costs between \$20 and \$100.

LEAD IN DRINKING WATER ONLINE RESOURCES

1. US EPA Lead Hotline- The national Lead information center
<http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/nlic.htm>
2. US EPA “Lead in Drinking Water”
<http://epa.gov/safewater/lead/index.html>
3. US Center for Disease Control & Prevention

New epa regulation for meters and brass connections and fittings:

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) ensures the quality of Americas drinking water and is administered by EPA. As of January 4, 2014 water meters must conform to the new NSF61 standards which will reduce the percentage of lead that comes in contact with potable water. The Dighton Water District has implemented a meter upgrade program that will be ongoing as of this date in order to comply with the new regulations.

The Board of Commissioners: Monthly meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month. The Dighton Water District has its annual meeting on the fourth Thursday in May. Meetings are televised throughout the week on the Dighton cable channel.

WATER RESOURCES TRUSTEES

MISSION STATEMENT- TO SOLICIT, RECEIVE, AND ADMINISTER GIFTS OR BEQUEST OF MONEY OR PROPERTY FOR EXPLORATION, ACQUISITION, AND DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC WATER RESOURCES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE RESIDENTS

Water System Improvements

Our water system is routinely inspected by the Massachusetts department Of Environmental Protection (Mass DEP). Mass DEP inspects our system for its technical, financial, and managerial capacity to provide safe drinking water to you. To ensure that we provide the highest quality of water available, your system is operated by a Massachusetts certified operator who oversees the routine operations of your system. As part of our ongoing commitment to you we made the following improvements.

The District had a major leak at the muddy cove **Bridge on Pleasant Street**. An 8 inch cast iron water line let go at a coupling under the muddy cove pleasant street bridge intersection in July 2013. At the time of installation of that section of waterline no gate valves were installed to isolate that section of the bridge if needed in an emergency. District personnel worked on the line last July to cut in two main gate valves and installed a hydrant on the north side of the bridge to use as a flush point or jumper hydrant in the future. The old line was capped on both sides of the bridge and the muddy cove waterline was reconnected to provide water to the existing residents in the area. The District has numerous bridge and water body crossings that need attention in the near future. We have comprised a list of these capital projects in order to get estimated costs and timeframes to repair and replace with dates when the projects should be completed. The District will keep everyone posted on any updates as they become available.

Meter upgrade project: The District has begun to initiate a residential water meter upgrade program. The program has developed from the meter testing stage into the meter replacement stage. District personnel are removing older meters from residential homes and replacing them with more modernized meters that record water usage more accurately. This program saves customers by providing precisely accurate readings which in turn cuts down on the unaccounted for lost water that must be reported to DEP annually. These meters when installed with additional fixtures will have the capability to provide the District the ability to detect, record, and notify residents if they have a leak in their household plumbing. Some customers in the District have large usage bills that were caused by water leaks that were not noticed right away and were picked up after the next round of readings. Some of these leaks may have been leaking for 6 months or even longer. The biggest offender is the bathroom fixtures and toilets. Water that is leaking from these fixtures goes unnoticed because it flows directly to the household septic system or the Municipal Sewer connection if you are connected to the Town Sewer system. Unusually high or low readings can only be detected between billing cycles which is semi-annually or every 6 months. These leaks can be easily detected in a matter of minutes by placing color tablets in the

toilet tank and letting the water set in the tank for 15 or 20 minutes. When you go back to check the toilet fixture you notice the color from the tank is now in the bowl itself the tank flapper valve is leaking and must either be repaired or replaced. The District has tablets that you can pick up at the office on Williams Street that changes the color of the water in the tank blue which makes it easy to detect a leak. You can also check by flushing the fixture and place a food color in the tank so that you notice the color in the tank compared to the water in the bowl itself. Water is a precious commodity and everyone must do their part to conserve as much water as possible not only now but into the future. Treatment processes are expensive and the cost of chemicals is only getting higher. These costs have to be covered by increasing water rates to cover the additional operating expenses.

Water quality issues: The District water treatment plant operates and runs at least 12 hours/ day on weekends and 16 hrs Monday thru Fridays. This is being done to try to curb the ongoing calls for rusty water in customer's lines.

Monitoring Waivers: Mass DEP has reduced the monitoring requirements for Inorganic contaminants(IOC), perchlorates, and synthetic organic contaminants because the source is not at risk of contamination. The last samples collected for these contaminants were collected on February 9, 2011 and were found to meet all applicable USEPA and Mass DEP standards.



DIGHTON WATER DISTRICT DROP BOX

For your convenience payments can be made after hours by placing them in the District Drop box at the guardrail on the south side of the District driveway.



The New Water District Sign

I want to send my sincere thanks to Mr Gary Levesque the DR High School wood shop teacher & instructor, and all the students that took part and were involved in the design and construction of the new Water District Sign. The new sign is a welcome addition to the District Office driveway at 192 Williams Street in North Dighton.

For years the only sign for the Williams Street office was a tattered piece of painted plywood. The old painted plywood sign was installed by the contractor that built the water treatment plant. It was placed on one of the trees on the north side of the driveway depicting the construction project identification, the site contractor, and the engineering firm that designed the plant. We received numerous complaints from customers and residents of the District because the sign was almost hidden and not very visible where it was in the tree.

The Shop instructor and the students at the DR high school were asked to design and begin the sign project. Mr. Lévesque at the DR high school wood shop spent numerous hours to come up with the preliminary design. A draft was made and the final design was approved by the Board that was present at that time. The only cost to the District was actually the materials to make the sign. The oak used to construct the sign came from District property located at the old Office on 527 Somerset Ave. There was a giant oak behind the main office and garage that needed to be taken down because it was causing damage to the roof and septic system.

The Oak tree was taken to a local sawmill to be cut and processed to use for the new sign. I send my deepest appreciation to the late Mr. Jeff Pavao for his hard work and effort that he took on as a voluntary project for the Dighton Water District. The tree was cut at no cost to the District customers and taxpayers. The sign is located on 192 Williams Street for everyone to see and enjoy now and into the future.

DR shop Students to make a veterans memorial plaque

The students at the Dighton Rehoboth High School are also in the process of designing and constructing a veteran’s memorial plaque. The plaque will be placed at the Water District Office treatment plant at 192 Williams Street. The plaque will honor the local veterans from Dighton that have served the country in all branches of the armed forces. The plaque will be placed near the flowering pear tree donated by Araujo Farms in front of the water treatment plant. The students that participated in the student government day voted on the location of the tree and the plaque. I want to send my deepest thanks to everyone that has contributed to the Dighton Water District this past year and would like to extend my deepest gratitude to Mr. Gary Levesque the wood shop instructor and teacher, The late Mr. Jeff Pavao, Kenny Araujo Farms, all the students that attended the student government day at the District, All the members of the finance Committee and anyone who has volunteered and contributed to make the District what it is today.



Flowering Pear tree Site for the veterans plaque



Water Treatment Plant Office
 192 Williams Street, ph; 508-824-9390, fx; 508-823-8372