

2014 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. District customers get their water from 5 gravel packed wells. Three wells are located off Cedar St., and two additional wells are located off Walker St. 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 are 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)

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)

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

Sampling Waivers

SOC Samples: Samples for these contaminants were taken on February 11, 2014. Results from the tests were less than the detectable limits for these contaminants.

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 for volatile organic compounds on 2/10/2014. Results from the treatment plant finished water showed no detectable limits for these contaminants other than chloroform which was 3.5ug/l micrograms per liter, Bromodichloromethane which was 4.2ug/l, & Chlorodibromomethane which was 2.4ug/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.”

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>

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 4/8/2014 from the finished water at the treatment plant & the result was .86 mg/l.

Nitrite: Samples were collected on 4/8/2014 and the results showed non detected or 0mg/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 this contaminant because (AC) pipe is connected to the municipal water supply. The portion of the system with AC pipe was tested for asbestos particles on May 6 2013 and results were 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 1/8/2014 and had sodium levels at 55.9mg/l . Samples collected on 6/27/2014 had sodium levels at 44.7 mg/l.

Iron: The Iron levels in samples collected 4/8/2014 from the finished water at the treatment plant were .04mg/l. High amounts of iron can cause the red /rusty staining in white fixtures, and also in laundry when washing clothes.

Manganese: Manganese levels in samples collected 4/8/2014 from the finished water at the treatment plant were .056mg/l. High concentrations of manganese can cause Black discolored water within a system.

Perchlorate: Samples were collected for perchlorates on 9/09/2014 to monitor water supplies for these contaminants. Results for the finished water sample collected at the treatment plant were .12ppb 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 to 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.

SEASON OF 2014

The winter 2013- 2014 produced adequate amounts of water. With early winter relatively snowless we did receive ample amounts of rain to sustain water levels in streams and local ponds. We did receive some substantial snowfall late into the spring of 2014. 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 of 2014 was a continuation of a winter that didn't want to quit. We had adequate amounts of snow that fell well into the month of April. The late spring snow kept outside watering at a minimum although several customers did irrigate their lawns as soon as the snow melted off the lawns.

Summer 2014 was moderately dry. Most of the rain we received came in heavy downpours which filled the streams and rivers but subsided just as quickly. These rains kept the groundwater levels fluctuating throughout the summer months and into the fall.

The fall of 2014 we received rainfall that replenished the water levels in the rivers and wells that were lacking from the summer dry conditions.

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 not only now but well into the future.

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.

"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/day up to over 1.2million gallons/day. Sprinklers place a great burden on the wells during the summer. 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)**

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 mid-day & try not to water in the evenings. Leaving your lawn damp during the night can promote fungus and disease growth.

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. **RAIN SENSORS** MUST BE INSTALLED ON THE SYSTEM. A **TESTABLE BACKFLOW DEVICE** MUST ALSO BE INSTALLED ON THE IRRIGATION SYSTEM ACCORDING TO THE DISTRICT RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR CROSS CONNECTIONS. **NO INTERCONNECTIONS BETWEEN POTABLE AND NON-POTABLE DRINKING WATER SOURCES ARE PERMITTED.** IN ORDER TO BE CONNECTED TO THE MUNICIPAL WATER SUPPLY THEY MUST COMPLY WITH THE MASSACHUSETTS DRINKING WATER REGULATIONS 310 CMR 22.22 FOR CROSS CONNECTIONS. **DEVICES MUST BE IN AN ACCESSABLE LOCATION** IN ORDER TO BE TESTING BY A TRAINED **CERTIFIED BACKFLOW DEVICE TESTER.**

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.

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

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 usually set up tours for 3rd grade students to visit the water treatment plant during the month of May each year.

The month of May is water awareness month. 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.

During previous years teachers at the Dighton elementary school received state recognition awards from numerous water works associations. The teachers received the awards for their dedication in educating students from Pre-K thru 4th grade about water conservation and the importance of protecting our water. The program has been a success in the past and will hopefully continue well into the future.

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-Friday 7:30-3:30, 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. Constant regulation changes increase costs to public water supplies due to the additional chemicals required to treat the drinking water, and additional costs to operate the treatment plants.

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.

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. Preserve what we have by developing your own conservation and protection program. **Your children may even be able to give you some pointers** 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 Zone 1. 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 adopted a DEP approved bylaw in May 2000. The Zone 2 area of an aquifer is the area that contributes water to a well under the most severe pumping and recharges. DEP applies an interim Wellhead Protection Area (IWPA) for public water supply wells that lack an approved Zone II. This is the area within a 1/2 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.

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 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, automobile junkyards, and golf courses to name a few.

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

“CLEAN WATER IS UP TO YOU”

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 Commissioners have policies to protect our customers from fraudulent entry.

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. (continued next page)

Lead in Drinking Water continued.

The Dighton Water District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in household plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours or more in your plumbing, 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 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 was used regularly for most of the 20th century as a component of paint, piping (including water service lines), solder, brass, and a gasoline additive until the 1980’s. We no longer use lead in many of these products. 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 household plumbing fixtures and 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 actions.
- 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 lead regulation for meters and brass connections and fittings: The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) ensures the quality of America’s 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. In order to comply with the new regulations the Dighton Water District has implemented a meter upgrade program.

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. Our system is operated by a Massachusetts certified operator who oversees the daily system operations. They also ensure that we provide the highest quality of water available. As part of our ongoing commitment to you we made the following improvements.

Meter upgrade project: District personnel are replacing residential meters with more modernized meters that record water usage more accurately.

Water quality issues: The District water treatment plant operates and runs at least 12 hours/ day on weekends and 16 hours/day Monday thru Friday. 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 sources are not at risk of contamination. The last samples collected for these contaminants were collected on 2/9/2011, & 2/11/2014 and were found to meet all applicable USEPA and Mass DEP standards.