

## Substances found in Tap Water

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 through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals, and in some cases, 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 water runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, and farming.

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

**Organic chemical contaminants** -including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which 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** -which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

## Health Notes

In order to ensure that **tap water is safe to drink**, the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) 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's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. **Immunocompromised 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. EPA/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on lowering the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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**. Cummington Water Department 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

**Cross-connections** are potentially hazardous situations for public or private potable water supply and a source of potable water contamination. A cross-connection is any potential or actual physical connection between a potable water supply and any source through which it is possible to introduce any substance other than potable water into the water supply. A common cross-connection scenario could include a garden hose whose spout is submerged in a bucket of soapy water or connected to a spray bottle of weed killer.

Cross-connections between a potable water line and a non-potable water system or equipment have long been a concern of the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). MassDEP established regulations to protect the public health of water consumers from contaminants due to back-flow events. The installation of back-flow prevention devices, such as low cost hose bib vacuum breakers, for all inside and outside hose connections is recommended. You can purchase these at a hardware store or plumbing supply store. This is a great way for you to help protect the water in your home as well as the drinking water system in your community. For additional information on cross connections and on the status of your water system's cross-connection program, please contact us.

## Opportunities for Public Participation

Please contact us or come to the Water Commission meetings at the Community Center the first Monday of every month at 7:00 PM if you would like to publicly discuss your drinking water system.

*"Water is essential for all dimensions of life."*

World Bank Institute

## Contact Us

**Dennis Forgea, Water Operator**

Phone: (413) 634-5358

Cummington Water Commissioners:

Dann Emerson (413)634-8804

Donna Forgea (413) 634-5358

Tomasz Jaracz (413)634-2180

## Cummington Water Department

33 Main St  
Cummington, MA 01026

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE



## 2014 Consumer Confidence Report

Your Drinking Water Quality Information

## Cummington Water Department

33 Main St  
Cummington, MA 01026

MA DEPT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY ID# 1069001

This report provides a snapshot of the drinking water quality that was achieved last year. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how its quality compares to state and federal standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

Prepared by *Housatonic Basin Sampling and Testing* on behalf of your water supplier. This report is a compilation of best available data sources including: licensed operators' reports; water supply owner's coordination; MassDEP public records; and EPA online records. The report represents an accurate account of your water quality to the best of our knowledge.

# Cummington Water Department

## Your Drinking Water Source

The drinking water for Cummington Water Department comes from a gravel packed well at the Ball-field on Main Street. The water is pumped through 8-inch mains to two storage tanks (Dodwell's Road Tank and Route 9 Tank). The Fanny Rodger Spring is currently severed from the system but can be utilized as a backup supply. The sources are designated by MassDEP Source Name and ID Source Number as: Well #3 [1069001-03G] and Fanny Rodger Spring [1069001-04G]

Cummington Water Department makes every effort to provide you with safe and uncontaminated drinking water. Treatment consists of adding a controlled amount of potassium hydroxide to increase the pH of the water and make it less corrosive to the pipes, fixtures, and piping joints in your homes. The water quality achieved by our system is monitored by us and MassDEP to determine if any future treatment may be required.

Our Licensed Water Operator and maintenance staff routinely inspect the system. In addition, MassDEP inspects the system every few years to evaluate compliance with current State and Federal regulations. We continue to upgrade meters and any identified concerns on an ongoing basis. Our last DEP Sanitary Survey was conducted on December 1, 2014.

## How are these Sources Protected?

MassDEP prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report that was published in October 2003 to assist in the identification of potential sources of contamination. A susceptibility ranking of "moderate" was assigned using the information collected. Potential contamination sources include high residential land use, agricultural activities, septic systems, lawn care/gardening, transportation corridors. The complete SWAP report is available by calling any of the contact numbers listed or by contacting the Western Regional Office of Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection at (413)755-2215. You may also view this report online at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/water/drinking/swap/wero/1069001.pdf>

## Does My Drinking Water Meet Current Health Standards?

We are committed to providing you with the best water quality available. We are proud to report that last year your drinking water met and in most cases exceeded all applicable health standards regulated by the state and federal government.

## Drinking Water Violations

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis and to inform you when we do not complete all required monitoring. Results of regular monitoring are indicators of whether our drinking water meets health standards. During the period from April 1 through April 30 2014 we detected total coliform bacteria in our water. This bacteria is an indicator that conditions are conducive for other detrimental bacteria growth. Repeat monitoring was conducted and indicated the problem was resolved. We returned to compliance in June 2014. For more information regarding our system you may also visit the EPA website at: <http://www.epa.gov/enviro/facts/sdwis/search.html>

## IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** – The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)** – The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

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

**90th Percentile** – Out of every 10 homes sampled, 9 were at or below this level.

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

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)** - 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.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)** - 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.

**Turbidity**—A measure of the cloudiness of water. Turbidity is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.

## Water Quality Testing Results

The water quality tables show the most recent water quality testing results where levels were detected and compares those levels to standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency and Massachusetts Environmental Protection Agency.

MassDEP may reduce the monitoring requirements for *volatile organic contaminants (VOC's)*, *inorganic contaminant (IOC's)*, *synthetic organic contaminants (SOC's)* because the source is not at risk of contamination. Cummington Water Department currently holds a waiver allowing decreased Arsenic and Perchlorate testing on both sources, and decreased SOC and IOC monitoring for the Fanny Rodger Spring. Our last full panel of VOC's was conducted in July 2014.

With the exception of those compounds noted on the tables below, all other compounds in the panels reported undetectable levels.

|   | Date(s) Collected | 90th (%) | Action Level | MCLG | Sites Sampled     | Highest # of Positive (month)  | MCL | MCLG | Violation |
|---|-------------------|----------|--------------|------|-------------------|--|-----|------|-----------|
| Lead (ppb)  | Quarter 3 2012    | 1        | 15           | 0    | 7 (5+2 at School) | 3  | 1   | 0    | Yes       |
| *Possible LEAD Contamination sources include Corrosion of household plumbing and erosion of natural deposits.   |                   |          |              |      |                   | *Possible sources of contamination, naturally present in the environment   |     |      |           |
| Copper (ppm)  | Quarter 3 2012    | 0.025    | 1.3          | 1.3  | 7 (5+2 at School) | 0  | *   | 0    | No        |
| *Possible COPPER Contamination sources include Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits and leaching from wood preservatives. |                   |          |              |      |                   | *Possible sources of contamination, human and fecal waste *MCL compliance is determined upon additional repeat testing |     |      |           |

## INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS

| Regulated Contaminant | Date(s) Collected | Highest Result | Range Detected | MCL or MCDL | MCLG OR MRDLG | Violation |
|-----------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|-----------|
| Nitrate (ppm) 03G     | 22 April 2014     | 0.8            | 0.55-0.67      | 10          | 10            | No        |
| Nitrate (ppm) 04G     | 23 May 2014       | 5.0            | 3.4-5.0        | 10          | 10            | no        |

\*Possible NITRATE Contamination sources include runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits

## Secondary Contaminants

|              |               |     |   |   |         |    |
|--------------|---------------|-----|---|---|---------|----|
| Sodium (ppm) | 22 April 2014 | 5.6 | — | — | ORSG-20 | No |
|--------------|---------------|-----|---|---|---------|----|

\*Possible SODIUM Contamination sources include natural sources, runoff from use as salt on roadways.

## Residents can help protect our water resources by:

- Practicing good septic system maintenance
- Supporting water supply protection initiatives and conservation measures
- Taking hazardous household chemicals to hazardous materials collection days
- Limiting pesticide and fertilizer use, etc

## UNITS OF MEASURE

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| ppm   | = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l) |
| ppb   | = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l) |
| ND    | = Not Detected                                      |
| N/A   | = Not Applicable                                    |
| NTU   | =Nephelometric Turbidity Unit                       |
| pCi/L | =Unit measure of radioactivity                      |