

BELCHERTOWN WATER DISTRICT
EST. 1922
WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR JANUARY–DECEMBER 2015

Business Hours:

Monday - Friday 7AM-3:30PM

Board of Commissioners meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 206 Jabish Street.

Meetings are open to all and times are posted at town buildings.

Questions - Concerns

Kevin Williams (413) 323-6987 or BelchertownWaterDistrict@verizon.net

Belchertown Water District Facts:

<p>PWS ID#1024000 Jabish Wells 01G – 04G Daigle Well 05G Water Storage: 2 tanks Capacity: 600,000 Gallons 1115 Service Connections on approximately 20 Miles of Water Mains Average daily consumption 249,600 Gallons Highest daily consumption 675,900 Gallons</p>	<p>Ground water sources: 206 Jabish Street- 4 gravel packed wells 763 Federal Street- One gravel packed well Emergency generator enables uninterrupted water service. The Water District has two full-time employees and three part-time clerical employees. The District is governed by a three-member Board of Commissioners.</p>
--	---

The Belchertown Water District is routinely inspected by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) /Drinking Water program for our technical, financial, and managerial capacity to provide safe drinking water to you. To ensure that we provide the highest quality of water available, Massachusetts-certified operators oversee the routine operation of our system.

In August 1999 water treatment was initiated to reduce the levels of lead and copper by raising the pH of the water to an average pH of 6.9 with the use of sodium carbonate.

In August 2005 permanent chlorination units were installed at both pump stations as required by DEP. Chlorine levels are monitored daily at sources and throughout the system. The District's goal is to maintain a safe level for the system with minimal taste issues. The average residual is 0.25 mg/l, with highs and lows depending on system usage. The highest reading taken was 0.77 mg/l at the Jabish Well House on October 24, 2015. Some portions of the system had no detectable residuals at times.

In November 2010 The District began Iron and Manganese treatment using poly-phosphate, a sequestering agent, in an effort to further improve quality. These levels were also monitored with an average level 0.32 mg/l in 2014. Injection was terminated in June 2014 due to adverse effects creating frequent quality complaints.

Source Water Assessment and Protection Program (SWAP) The plan can be viewed at the District's Office. It concludes that the District has a high susceptibility of source contamination from road salt, hazardous material spills via trucks, trains etc.

Visit <http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/drinking/sourcewa.htm#reports>

Or <http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/drinking/1024000.pdf>

SUBSTANCES EXPECTED TO BE IN DRINKING WATER

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 the public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

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 mineral and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity, which could include:

Microbial Contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

Pesticides and Herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

Organic Chemical Contaminates, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, 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.

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 call the **EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791**.

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 for infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the **Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791**

Lead Levels: 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. Belchertown 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 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>

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 for a margin of safety.

Secondary Maximum Containment level (SMCL)- Standards developed to protect the aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.

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

Parts Per Million (PPB) - Parts Per Billion.

ND – None Detected

90th percentile: Out of 10 homes sampled, 9 were below this level.

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

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

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

Massachusetts Office of Research and Standards 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. If exceeded, it serves as an indicator of the potential need for further action.

TEST RESULTS

In mg/l (milligrams per liter) or parts per million (except lead and Trihalomethanes)

Contaminant	Level Detected	MCL	MCLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Source of Contamination
Barium * 2011 Jabish Daigle	0.19 0.09	2	2	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride * 2011 Jabish Daigle	0.06 0.09	4	4	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Nickel * 2011 Jabish Daigle	0.0065 0.0011	ORSG=.1		No	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate 2015 Jabish Daigle	1.66 0.791	10.0	10.0	No	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, sewage erosion of natural deposits
Sodium 2014 Jabish Daigle	66.9 27.7	ORSG = 20		No	pH adjustment with Sodium Carbonate

Lead And Copper

	Date	90 TH percentile	Action Level	MCLG	# of sites sampled	# of sites above Action Level	Possible Source of Contamination
Lead (ppb)	6/11/13	2.4	15	0	10	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	6/11/13	0.35	1.3	1.3	10	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from

Disinfection By-Products

Contaminant	Date Collected	Total Result	Range Detected	MCL/ MRDL	MCLG/ MRDLG	Violation	Possible source of Contamination
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) (ppb)	8/21/2014	7.4		80		No	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination

Secondary Contaminants

These contaminants are unregulated with no established drinking water standards. The purpose of monitoring secondary contaminants is to assist regulatory agencies in determining their occurrence in drinking water and whether future regulation is required. Finished water reported.

Contaminant	Jabish Level Detected	Daigle Level Detected	SMCL	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Source of Contamination
Iron	0.034-0.048	0.76-1.01	.30	No	Corrosion of cast Iron Pipes ,Erosion of natural deposits
Manganese	0.009-<0.037	0.054-0.0709	.05	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Alkalinity	95.7	75.3	None	No	(as CaCo3)
Calcium	14.4	23.5	None	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Magnesium	4.05	4.22	None	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Hardness	52.6	76.1	None	No	(as CaCo3)
Potassium	3.45	1.39	None	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Chloride	83.7	24.9	250	No	Natural Sources
pH	7.06	7.17	6.5-8.5	No	
Sulfate	13.0	22.0	250	No	Natural Sources
TDS	249	152	500	No	
Zinc	<0.0490	<0.0490	5	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Radioactive Contaminants collected 7/14/2015

Contaminant	Location	Total Result	Range Detected	MCL/ MRDL	MCLG/ MRDLG	Violation	Possible source of Contamination
Gross Alpha (pCi/l) (minus uranium)	Jabish Daigle	1.89 0.093	0.093-1.18	15	0	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 & 228 (pCi/L) (combined values)	Jabish Daigle	1.454 0.545	0.545-1.454	5	0	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Belchertown Water District collected all necessary samples in 2015 to comply with DEP all other samples were non-detected.

Important information from 2015

September 2015 the Belchertown Water District reported 2 of 11 routine bacteria samples tested positive for Total Coliform. No bacteria were detected in 16 follow up samples collected from the distribution system or from the 5 water sources, and no E. coli bacteria were detected in any samples. This was not an emergency but reported as a violation. If it had been an emergency, you would have been notified immediately. The source of the bacteria has not been determined. As a result of this incident the District reported as required by DEP to comply with 2015 requirements as well as completed a Level 1 assessment as required by the 2016 revised coliform rule. The District increased chlorine levels as a precaution and increased bacteria sampling the following month.

Total Coliform: Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms indicating the need to look potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessment(s) to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments.

MassDEP has reduced the monitoring requirements for the following contaminant groups because the source is not at risk of contamination. The last sample collected for these contaminants was found to meet all applicable US EPA and MassDEP standards

<p>* Inorganic Contaminants: Last sampled 4/19/2011 approved for waiver for 2013</p> <p>Synthetic Organic Compounds Sampled Daigle well 1/17/2012, Jabish wells 4/17/2012 ND none detected for new waiver period.</p> <p>Lead: Last sampled in 2013 Reduced monitoring granted in 2014. Next required sampling in 2016.</p> <p>Copper: Last sampled 10 sites in 2013. 90th percentile =.348 ppm, action level 1.3ppm. Reduced monitoring granted in 2014. Next required sampling in 2016.</p> <p>Trihalomethanes Last sampled 8/21/2014 level detected 7.4, MCL 80. Detected levels are the results of chlorine disinfection.</p> <p>Volatile Organic Contaminants Samples taken 7/15/2014 ND none detected for new waiver period.</p> <p>HAA- Haloacetic Acids Samples taken 8/12/2014 ND none detected. Next sample required in 2017.</p> <p>Perchlorate Samples taken 8/16/2011 ND approved for waiver in 2013.Next sample required in 2017.</p> <p>Asbestos Sample collected 5/7/2013 <0.19 MFL (Million fibers per liter).MDL</p> <p>Arsenic Sample taken 4/19/2011 ND approved for waiver in 2013</p> <p>* Information on these contaminants and samples can be obtained at the Water District office.</p>
--

Cross Connection and You

A cross connection is a connection between a drinking water pipe and a contaminated source. The contamination can come from your own home. For instance, suppose you're going to spray fertilizer on your lawn. You hook up your hose to the sprayer that contains the fertilizer. If the pressure drops (because of fire hydrant use in the town) when the hose is connected to the fertilizer, the fertilizer may be sucked back into the drinking water pipes through the house. The same scenario may exist with a hose left in a bucket or swimming pool. Using an attachment on your hose called a backflow prevention device can prevent this problem.

The Belchertown Water District recommends the installation of backflow prevention devices, such as a low cost hose bib vacuum breaker, for all inside and outside hose connections. These can be purchased at a hardware store or plumbing supply store.

The District also requires proper devices on all lawn irrigation systems and recommends the annual testing each device requires. The District is required to have a licensed cross connection inspector on staff. Home inspections are free of charge and recommended if you have a lawn irrigation system.

This is a great way to help protect the water in your home as well as the drinking water system. For additional information on cross connections and on the status of the District's cross connection program please call the **Belchertown Water District at 413-323-6987.**

*Remember conservation and source protection are the key to a long lasting precious resource.
This report can be obtained at the Water District Office, 206 Jabish Street, Belchertown, MA*