

ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

Consumer Confidence Report

For the year 2008

Prepared by:

The Freetown Water Commission

PWS ID# 4102035

The Freetown Water Commission is pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of water and services we deliver to you every day. The statistics in this report are based on testing done throughout 2007. We hope you will find it helpful to know the sources of your water and the process by which safe drinking water is delivered to your home.

The Source of Your Water

The Freetown Water Commission (FWC) purchases water from the City of Fall River for the residents who live near the Assonet/Fall River town line and from the City of New Bedford for the residents who live around the East Freetown/New Bedford town line.

Is My Water Treated?

The City of Fall River water is treated surface water from North Watuppa Pond and the Copicut Reservoir. The City uses a conventional treatment system. The water is treated with NaOH (sodium hydroxide) to increase the pH. Pre-chlorinated (seasonally), poly aluminum chloride (coagulant) and CO₂ is added to assist with corrosion control. Fluoride is added to the water and then pumped to the distribution system and our consecutive user systems. The City of New Bedford comes from a surface supply comprised of five ponds and is comprised from Little Quittacas, Great Quittacas, Pocksha, Assawompset and Long Pond which is treated at the Quittacas Water Treatment Plant. Treatment consisted of conventional filtration, disinfection, corrosion control, and fluoridation (as of January 2007). However, the continual developments of privately owned lands in the watershed area pose a concern for the water quality entering the ponds.

If you have any questions about this report, the SWAP report, or concerning your water utility, please contact the Freetown Water Commission at 508/644-4000. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility.

The Freetown Water Commission routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The following tables show the results of monitoring for the period of January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007. As water travels over the land, or underground, it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. It's important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk.

Freetown Water Commission

Freetown Water Commission's (FWC) water supply system
Is operated and maintained by WhiteWater, Inc. (WWI)

If you have any questions about this report, please contact
Helen Medeiros @ the Water Department Office, 508.644.4000.

Board of Commissioners

Michael Pillarella, Chairman
Robert Kelliher
John Walsh

The (FWC) encourages public participation. Meetings are scheduled every Monday the 2nd & 4th week in the evening located at the Freetown Town Hall, 3 North Main Street, Assonet, MA.

Additional copies of this report are available upon request.

DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM WATER QUALITY

The report summarizes only those items detected during sampling – not all contaminants that are monitored

90th Percentile of Sample	Action Level	MCLG	# of Sites		Violation	Possible Source of Contamination
			# of Sites sampled	Above Action Level		
Lead (ppb)		ND		0	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Copper (ppm)		ND		0	NO	

Copper Concerns

Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's disease should consult their personal doctor.

Testing for Lead/Lead Concerns

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing.

If you are concerned about potentially elevated lead levels in your home's water (even though overall results do not indicate elevated levels of lead), simply flush the tap for 30 seconds to two minutes prior to using for cooking or drinking. For more information on lead testing, please call Russell Tierney at 1.888.377.7678 or the Safe Drinking Water Hot Line at 1.888.426.4791.

Microbial Results	Highest #	MCL	MCLG	Violation	Possible Source of Contamination
	Positive in a Month				
Total Coliform Bacteria	0		0	No	

Coliform are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used to indicate that other, potentially harmful bacteria may be present. Your water source is tested monthly and has been found to be free of these contaminants. The total coliform rule requires water systems to meet a stricter limit for coliform bacteria. Coliform bacteria are usually harmless, but their presence in water can be an indication of disease causing bacteria.

Key to Tables

- ppm – parts per million corresponds to one penny in \$10,000
- pCi/L – picocuries per liter
- n/a – not applicable
- * MRDLG – maximum residual disinfection level goal
- * NTU – nephelometric turbidity units
- * ppb – parts per billion corresponds to one penny in \$10,000,000
- * ND – non-detect
- * MRDL – maximum residual disinfection level. The highest level of A disinfection allowed in drinking water
- * MREM/Year – millirems per year
- * TT – treatment technique

Some Terms Defined

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

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.

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

Massachusetts Office of Research and Standards Guideline (ORSG): This is the concentration of a chemical in drinking water, adverse, non-cancer health effects are likely to occur after chronic (lifetime) exposure. If exceeded, it serves as an indicator of the potential need for further action.

Total Coliform: A bacteria that indicates other potentially harmful bacteria may be present.

90th Percentile: Represents the highest value found out of 90 percent of the samples taken in a representative group.

All drinking water, including bottled water and tap 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 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800.426.4791). (Website: www.epa.gov).

In order to ensure tap water is safe to drink, the DEP and the EPA prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Massachusetts Department of Public Health regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health. For more information you can visit the EPA or MDPH websites respectively.

SUMMARY OF FINISHED WATER CHARACTERISTICS

Regulated Contaminants	Date(s) Collected	Highest Level Found	Range Detected	MCL	MCLG	Violation	Possible Source of Contamination
Disinfection By Products							
Trihalomethanes (ppb) East Freetown	Annual Drinking Average	43	17.6-43.0	80	80	No	By Product of drinking water chlorination
Trihalomethanes (ppb) Assonet	Annual Drinking Average	74.5	53.4-74.5	80	80	No	By Product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (ppb) East Freetown	Annual Drinking Average	48.8	22.1-48.8	60	60	No	By Product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (ppb) Assonet	Annual Drinking Average	28.8	8.0-28.8	60	60	No	By Product of drinking water chlorination

Inorganic Contaminants							
Barium (ppm) / NB	2008	0.006	0.006	2	2	No	Discharge of drilling wastes. Discharge from metal refineries. Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrates (ppm) / NB	2008	0.06	0	10	10	No	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tank, sewerage. Erosion from natural deposits.

Nitrates (ppm)/ FR	Jan 29	0.12		10		No	Runoff from fertilizer use, Leaching from septic tank, Sewerage. Erosion from natural deposits.
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Radioactive Contaminants							
Alpha Emitters (pCi/l / FR)	2012	0.2	n/a	15pCi/l	0		Erosion of natural deposits
Beta Emitters pCi/l / FR	2012	1.3	n/a	mrem/yr	0		Decay of natural and man made deposits
Radium 226 & 228	2012						

<u>Turbidity</u>	TT	Highest Level Found	Lowest Monthly % of Samples Less than MCL MCLG	Violation	Major Source in Drinking Water
Daily Compliance (NTU) / NB	1	0.19	n/a	No	Soil Runoff
Monthly Compliance* / NB	At least 95%	n/a	99.50%	No	Soil Runoff
Daily Compliance (NTU) / FR			0.07%	none	Measures cloudiness of the water
Monthly Compliance* / FR					Measures cloudiness of the water

* Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water and is measured because it is an indicator of the effectiveness of a filtration system. Monthly turbidity compliance related to a specific treatment technique (TT). The water is filtered so at least 95% of all the samples taken during a month are below limits specified in the regulations.

Unregulated Contaminants	Date(s) Collected	Result or Range Detected	SMCL	ORSG	Possible Source of Contamination
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Volatile Organic Contaminants					
Perchlorate/FR	16-Jul				Man made chemical
TOC/FR	15-Feb	Compliant	None	None	Naturally occurring in surface waters
Inorganic Contaminants					
Sodium-FR /NB (ppm)	2008	10*21	n/a		Erosion of natural deposits
Sulfate-FR / NB	2007	19	n/a	n/a	Erosion of natural deposits

Sodium is a naturally-occurring common element found in soil and water. It is necessary for the normal functioning of regulating fluids in human systems. Some people, however, have difficulty regulating fluid volume as a result of several diseases, including congestive heart failure and hypertension. The guideline of 20 mg/L for sodium represents a level in water that physicians and sodium sensitive individuals should be aware of in cases where sodium exposures are being carefully controlled. For additional information contact your health care provider, your local board of health or the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Environmental Health Assessment at 617.624.5757.

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, or farming.

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

Organic Chemical Compounds 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.

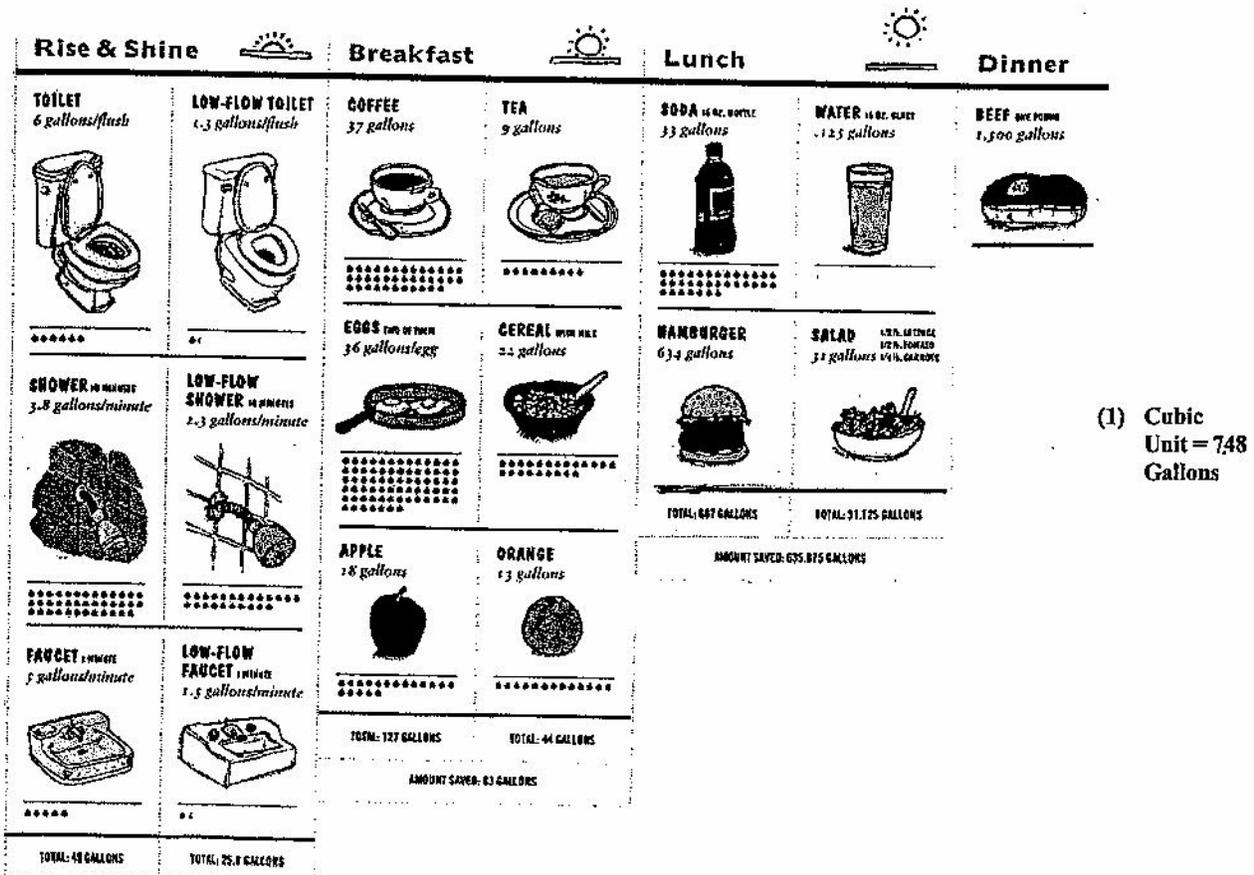
Radioactive Contaminants which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil or gas production or mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) regulations establish limits on 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 at 800/426-4791. (Website: www.epa.gov) 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. 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 at 800/426-4791.

Walk This Way: Making the right choices to reduce your water footprint

 = 1 GALLON DIRECT USE: THE MORE YOU USE, THE MORE YOU PAY

 = 1 GALLON VIRTUAL USE: THE MORE YOU MAKE THE THINGS YOU BUY, THE MORE YOU PAY



(1) Cubic Unit = 748 Gallons