

## WATER QUALITY REPORT 2015



### MY WATER

#### Is my water safe?

Last year, as in years past, your tap water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards. Local Water vigilantly safeguards its water supplies and once again we are proud to report that our system has not violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard.

#### Do I need to take special precautions?

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 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 (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).



#### Where does my water come from?

Currently, four gravel packed wells located at the intersection of Bardwell and River Streets in Belchertown provides Bondsville and Thorndike with cold, clean water.

#### Source water assessment and its availability

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has completed a Source Water Assessment and Protection Report (SWAP) for our wells which supply water to the Bondsville/Thorndike Water Districts. The purpose of the SWAP Program is to identify potential threats to our water supply sources so we can take appropriate action to improve source protection.

For a complete copy of this report, please contact: Robert Flagg, Superintendent at 413-283-9922, please leave your name, address and telephone number.

#### Additional Information for Lead

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. Bondsville Fire and 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 two 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 and 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 Connection Program

A cross connection is a connection between a drinking water pipe and a polluted source. The pollution can come from your own home. For instance, you're going to spray fertilizer on your lawn. You hook up your hose to the sprayer that contains the fertilizer. If the water pressure drops (say because of fire hydrant use in town) when the hose is connected to the fertilizer, the fertilizer may be sucked back into the drinking water pipes through the hose. Using an attachment on your hose called a backflow prevention device can prevent this problem. The Bondsville Water District promotes a cross connection program for its customers, and surveys, tests and recommends where backflow devices should be installed when violations are detected.



## My Water—continued

### Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

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 Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). The 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:

microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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 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; and radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Some graphics and paragraphs are presented in cooperation with the American Water Works Association. The Authoritative Resource on safe water.



<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG or MRDLG</u>	<u>MCL, TT, or MRDL</u>	<u>Your Water</u>	<u>Range</u> <u>Low High</u>	<u>Sample Date</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
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#### Disinfectants & Disinfectant By-Products

(There is convincing evidence that addition of disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants).

THMS (Total Trihalomethans) (ppb)	NA	80	6.2	NA	2014	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine (as C12) (ppm)	4	4	0.75	0.07 0.75	2015	No	Water additive used to control microbes

#### Inorganic Contaminants

Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.19	NA	2014	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen) (ppm)	10	10	2.4	NA	2015	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (optional) (ppm)		MPL	14	NA	2014	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching
Manganese (mg/L)			0.0078	NA	June 2015	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching

## Conservation Tips

- Check household faucets for leaks. A faucet with even a slow drip takes 10 to 25 gallons of water. Just think, 15 drips per minute add up to almost 3 gallons of water wasted per day, 65 gallons wasted per month, and 788 gallons wasted per year!
- Keep showers to 5 minutes or less in length. A five-minute shower takes 10 to 25 gallons of water.
- Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator. Then you won't have to run tap water to cool it.
- Use a broom to sweep your driveway, garage, or sidewalk instead of using water.
- Use a bucket of water to wash your bike or the family car and rinse quickly with a hose.
- Water your lawn in the evening or in the early morning to avoid evaporation. Be careful to water only the lawn and not the sidewalk or street
- Use water only when you need it. Don't leave water running; be sure to turn it off when you are finished.

## Water Quality Data Table

The table on page 2 and below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. There were no major detections found in any of the tested water contaminants for 2012.

<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>AL</u>	<u>Your Water</u>	<u>Sample Date</u>	<u># Samples Exceeding AL</u>	<u>Exceeds AL</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Copper-action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.21	2014	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	4.3	2014	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

### ADDITIONAL CONTAMINANTS

In an effort to insure the safest water possible the State has required us to monitor some contaminants not required by Federal regulations. Of those contaminants only the ones listed below were found in your water.

<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>State MCL</u>	<u>Your Water</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Explanation and Comment</u>
sulfate	250 mg/l	15 mg/l	No	*Sulfate is a substance that occurs naturally in drinking water.
perchlorate	2 ug/l	0.29 ug/L	No	*Perchlorate is both a naturally occurring and man made chemical that is used to product rocket fuel, fire-works, flares and explosives. Perchlorate can also be present in bleach and in some fertilizers.

\*Definitions taken from EPA website.

Unit Descriptions	
Term	Definition
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
pCi/L	pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
positive sam- ples/month	positive samples/month: Number of samples taken monthly that were found to be positive
positive samples	positive samples/yr: The number of positive samples taken that year
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

Important Drinking Water Definitions
<b>Definition</b>
<b>MCLG:</b> Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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.
<b>MCL:</b> Maximum Contaminant Level: 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.
<b>TT:</b> Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
<b>AL:</b> Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
<b>Variations and Exemptions:</b> State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
<b>MRDLG:</b> Maximum residual disinfection level goal. 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.
<b>MRDL:</b> Maximum residual disinfectant level. 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.
<b>MNR:</b> Monitored Not Regulated
<b>MPL:</b> State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

**ONLY TAP WATER DELIVERS QUALITY OF LIFE**  
 Tap water is more than a convenience; it is central to our way of life. If only the faucet could talk to us. It might remind us how often we turn to it for safe water to drink, wash our clothes, prepare our food, and provide us with the everyday quality of life we enjoy. Tap water is so intricately part of our lives that we can hardly imagine a day without tap water.



## How can I get involved?

Board of Commissioners meetings are held on the first or second Tuesday of the month at the Bondsville Safety Complex at 3174 Main Street, Bondsville at 7:00 pm.

Board of Commissioners  
 David LaVallie Chairman  
 Richard Dranka  
 Robert Young

Treasurer/Clerk  
 Rosalie J. Lopes

## Bondsville Fire and Water District

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 P O Box 179  
 Bondsville MA 01009

Tel: 413.284.1627  
 Fax: 413.284.0165

Email: [bfwd3174@comcast.net](mailto:bfwd3174@comcast.net)

Office is open Monday,  
 Wednesday and Friday  
 From 1 PM to 5 pm.

**Important:** *Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools and businesses). You can do this by posting this report in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.*

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”  
 To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S. W., Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).

**For more information about this report, please contact:**

Robert J. Flagg Phone: (413) 283-9922 [eastnationalwater@comcast.net](mailto:eastnationalwater@comcast.net)