



Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

# Department of Environmental Protection

Western Regional Office • 436 Dwight Street, Springfield MA 01103 • 413-784-1100

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Governor

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Secretary

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Commissioner

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL  
housatonicwater@gmail.com

October 9, 2024

James Mercer, Treasurer  
Housatonic Water Works Company  
80 Maple Ave Ste 1  
Great Barrington, MA 01230

Re: Great Barrington - DWP  
Housatonic Water Works Company  
PWS ID# 1113003  
PWS Type: COM  
**Manganese Results Greater than 0.3 mg/L**

Dear Public Water Supplier,

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) is in receipt of your manganese results. Your test results confirm that the manganese level in your distribution system is exhibited a concentration greater than 0.30 mg/L, MassDEP's Office of Research and Standards Guidance Level (ORSGL) for manganese. MassDEP recommends that people drink water with manganese levels less than 0.30 mg/L over a lifetime and also recommends that people limit their consumption of water with levels over 1.0 mg/L, primarily to decrease the possibility of adverse neurological effects. ***Infants up to one year of age should not be given water with manganese over 0.30 mg/L, nor should formula for infants be made with that water for more than a total of 10 days throughout the year.*** See MassDEP's Consumer FAQ for more information about manganese in drinking water <https://www.mass.gov/doc/manganese-in-drinking-water-typical-questions-and-answers-for-consumers-0/download>

#### Initial samples:

Mn concentration: 0.74 Mg/L, Date: 7/24/2024, Location: 314 North Plain Road

#### MassDEP is requiring you to take the following actions:

- 1. Notify your chief elected local official(s) and public health official(s)** of these results in accordance with 310 CMR 22.03(8) as soon as possible but not to exceed seven (7) days from the October 8 2024 Unilateral Administrative Order issued by MassDEP.

This information is available in alternate format. Please contact Melixza Esenyie at 617-626-1282.

TTY# MassRelay Service 1-800-439-2370

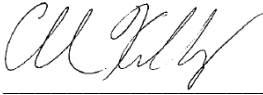
MassDEP Website: [www.mass.gov/](http://www.mass.gov/)

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2. **Notify your consumers of these results** in accordance with 310 CMR 22.03(8) and 310 CMR 22.16 (1) (a) 3 e and 310 CMR 22.15(3)(b) as soon as possible but not to exceed seven (7) days from the October 8 2024 Unilateral Administrative Order issued by MassDEP.
  - a) You may use the attached public advisory to inform your customers about the potential health concerns of exposure to elevated concentrations of manganese in drinking water to certain sub-populations. If you choose to use a different notice or add any system specific information to the attached public advisory you must receive written approval from your MassDEP regional office.
  - b) **Continue to notify your customers quarterly, including new billing units and new customers, until MassDEP determines that the level is reliably and consistently below 0.30 mg/L.**
3. Use the attached certification form to report your completion of the required public health and consumer notification
4. **For Community systems: After the initial notice a PWS may request a reduction in the quarterly notification requirement.** However, in no circumstance shall the general population notice be reduced to less than once per year or the notices for chief local officials, public health officials, new billing units and new customers be reduced to less than quarterly.
5. **For Community systems: Report these results in your next annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)** in accordance with 310 CMR 22.16A (8) (a), 310 CMR 22.16A (8) (f), 310 CMR 22.16A (23). For specific language and instructions please see: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/consumer-confidence-reports>
6. **Continue to monitor for manganese monthly, or as otherwise required by MassDEP** until MassDEP determines that the level is reliably and consistently below 0.30 mg/L at the entrance point to your distribution system in accordance with *310 CMR 22.03(2), 310 CMR 22.03(10), 310 CMR 22.07D, and 310 CMR 22.03(8).*

Please contact your David Averill at [David.averill@mass.gov](mailto:David.averill@mass.gov) or at 857-330-1069 if you would like to schedule a compliance and technical assistance meeting or to discuss this information.

Sincerely,



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Andrew Kelly  
Drinking Water Section Chief,  
MassDEP WERO Regional Office

Attachments: Public Advisory Instruction and Template  
Manganese Consumer FAQ  
Manganese Public Advisory Certification Form

cc: Great Barrington Board of Health  
Certified Operator  
Andrew Kelly – MassDEP WERO  
DWP – Boston

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