

2015 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

This report is a snapshot of the drinking water quality that was provided last year and previous years.

Included are details about where your water came from, what it contained, and how it compared to state and federal standards. Our system makes every effort to provide you with safe and pure drinking water.

for

Buffumville Heights Estates PWS ID #2226008



Prepared by

McCLURE
ENGINEERING, INC

The water system at Buffumville Heights Estates is operated by McClure Engineering, Inc. If you have any questions about this report, or for additional copies, please check the McClure Engineering website at <http://www.mcclureengineers.com/water.html> or contact Angela Jaffarian at (508) 248-2005.

This report contains very important information about your drinking water.
Please translate it, or speak with someone who understands it.

Community Drinking Water Sources ~

Buffumville Heights Estates is located in Oxford, MA and is supplied water by PWS Source ID#2226008-01G and #2226008-02G (01G and 02G) (Well #1 and #2). The wells are located near the pump house that houses the atmospheric storage tank and other water appurtenances on Melissa Lane. Data in this report reflects water quality from Well 01G and 02G. Buffumville Heights Estates continuously strives to produce the highest quality water possible to meet or surpass every water quality standard. We monitor our water source and distribution system very closely. The standards we operate under were enacted by the U.S. Congress as the Safe Drinking Water Act in 1974 and were amended in 1986 and 1996.

Is My Water Treated?

To ensure that we provide the highest quality of water available, certified operators and MassDEP regularly monitor water quality. Currently Well 01G and 02G are not treated. See more information in Water System Improvement Section. Chlorine disinfection is available for emergency situations.

Source Water Characteristics ~

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 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 that 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.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and US 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 contamination. 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 (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 infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice from their health care providers. EPA/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).

DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM WATER QUALITY

The quality information presented in the tables below is from the most recent round of testing done in accordance with the regulations. All data shown was collected during the last calendar year unless otherwise noted in the tables.

Microbial Results	Highest # Positive Samples in a Month	MCL	MCLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Sources
Total Coliform	0	1	0	N	Naturally present in the environment
E. Coli	0	*	0	N	Human and animal fecal waste

Coliform are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator of potentially harmful bacteria that may be present. *Compliance with the Fecal Coliform/E.coli MCL is determined upon additional repeat testing.

Lead & Copper	Last Date Collected	90 th Percentile	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	# of sites sampled	# of sites above Action Level	Exceeds Action Level	Possible Sources of Contamination
Lead (ppb)	2014	8.5	15	0	5	1	N	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)		1.26	1.3	1.3	5		N	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.

Lead and copper sampling is scheduled once every 3 years. The last samples collected were in Quarter 3 of 2014, and the next sample collection will be during 2017.

Lead and Copper Information:

Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

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.

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. Buffumville Heights 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://epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

SUMMARY OF FINISHED WATER CHARACTERISTICS

Regulated Contaminants	Date Collected	Highest Result or Highest Avg Detected	Range detected	MCL	MCLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Sources
Fluoride (ppm)	4-27-15	0.5	0.4-0.5	4	4	N	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; aluminum & fertilizer factory discharge.
Nitrate (ppm)	4-27-15	0.31	0.3-0.31	10	10	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; erosion of natural deposits
*Perchlorate (ppb)	9-29-14	0.113 ppb	0.096 – 0.113	2	N/A	N	Rocket propellants, fireworks, munitions, flares, blasting agents
*Turbidity	10-22-12	0.1-0.3	0.3	-		N	Soil Runoff

Other (*Secondary) Contaminants	Last Date Collected	Result or Range Detected	SCML	Possible Sources	Health Effects
*Manganese (ppb)	4-27-15	12	50 ppb	Erosion of natural deposits	Infants and children who drink water containing manganese at high concentrations may have learning and behavior problems. People with liver disease who drink water containing manganese at high concentrations may have neurological disorders.
Magnesium (mg/L)	10-22-12	0.98	-		See below
Calcium (mg/L)	10-22-12	8.92	-		See below
Chloride (mg/L)	10-22-12	4	250		See below
Odor (T.O.N.)	10-22-12	1	3		See below
pH	10-22-12	6.47-6.75	6.5-8.5		See below
Potassium (mg/L)	10-22-12	.5	-		See below
Sulfate (mg/L)	10-22-12	8	250		See below
Alkalinity CaCO3 (mg/L)	10-22-12	16-55	-		See below
Total Dissolved Solids (mg/L)	10-22-12	80-86	500		See below
Hardness CaCO3 (mg/L)	10-22-12	22.3-24.5	-		See below
Zinc (mg/L)	10-22-12	2.07	5		See below
Iron (mg/L)	4-27-15	0.08	0.3		See below
Other Contaminants	Last Date Collected	Result or Range Detected	ORSG	Possible Sources	Health Effects
*Sodium (ppm)	4-27-15	5.0-5.1	20 ppm	Natural sources	See below
*Radon (pCi/L)	7-29-15	32,800-33,500	10,000 pCi/L	Natural sources	See below
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	7-19-15	3.1-10.9	15	Natural sources	Can dissolve easily in water and can increase the risk of developing various cancers. http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/fact-sheet-for-radionuclides-including-uranium-in-drin.html

*Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist regulatory agencies in determining their occurrence in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. MassDEP recommends the annual sampling for Secondary Contaminants at Buffumville Heights Estates.

***Exceeding a Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level:** If the Department finds based on a health evaluation by the Department's Office of Research and Standards, that an SMCL exceedance, acting alone or in combination with other contaminants, poses an unacceptable health risk to consumers, the public water system shall take all actions necessary to reduce the SMCL concentrations to levels the Department deems safe by the deadline specified by the Department. Such public water system shall also monitor the water and provide public notice as directed by the Department and notify the Department in writing of its proposed actions.

***Sodium:** Some people who drink water containing sodium at high concentrations for many years could experience an increase in blood pressure.

***Perchlorate:** Perchlorate interferes with the normal function of the thyroid gland and thus has the potential to affect growth and development, causing brain damage and other adverse effects, particularly in fetuses and infants. Pregnant women, the fetus, infants, children up to the age of 12, and people with a hypothyroid condition are particularly susceptible to perchlorate toxicity.

***Manganese:** Manganese is a naturally occurring mineral found in rocks, soil and groundwater, and surface water. Manganese is necessary for proper nutrition and is part of a healthy diet, but can have undesirable effects on certain sensitive populations at elevated concentrations. US EPA has established a lifetime health advisory (HA) value of 300 ppb for manganese to protect against concerns of potential neurological effects, and a one-day and 10-day HA of 1000 ppb for acute exposure. Drinking water may naturally have manganese and, when concentrations are greater than 50 µg/L (micrograms per liter), the water may be discolored and taste bad. Over a lifetime, EPA recommends that people drink water with manganese levels less than 300 µg/L and over the short term, EPA recommends that people limit their consumption of water with levels over 1000 µg/L, primarily due to concerns about possible neurological effects. Children up to 1 year of age should not be given water with manganese concentrations over 300 µg/L, nor should formula for infants be made with that water for longer than 10 days.

***Radon:** Radon is a radioactive gas that you cannot see, taste, or smell. It is found throughout the United States. Radon can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in the foundation. Radon can build up to high levels in all types of homes. Radon can also get into indoor air when released from tap water from showering, washing dishes, and other household activities. Compared to radon entering the home through soil, radon entering the home through tap water will be (in most cases) a small source of radon in indoor air. Radon is a known human carcinogen. Breathing air containing radon can lead to lung cancer. Drinking water containing radon may also cause increased risk of stomach cancer. If you are concerned about radon in your home, test the air in your home. Testing is inexpensive and easy. Fix your home if the level of radon in your air is 4 picocuries of radon per liter of air (pCi/L) or higher. There are simple ways to fix a radon problem that aren't too costly. For additional information, call your State radon program or call EPA's Radon Hotline, 800.SOS.RADON.

***Turbidity:** Turbidity has no health affects. However turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches.

~ 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.

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, 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.

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.

mg/L = milligrams per liter

µg/L = micrograms per liter

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

ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/l)

pCi/l = picocuries per liter, or micrograms per liter (µg/l)

ND = Not Detected

N/A = Not Applicable

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.

~ EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION ~

SWAP (Source Water Assessment and Protection)

MassDEP has prepared a Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) report for Buffumville Heights Estates. The report assesses the susceptibility of public water supplies to contamination and makes recommendations. This report is available at the office of McClure Engineering at 119 Worcester Road, Charlton, MA and the MassDEP website <http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/water/drinking/swap/cero/2226008.pdf>

MassDEP assigned a susceptibility ranking of **Moderate** has been assigned to the well in our system based on the presence of moderate threat land use or activity within the water supply protection area.

If you have any questions, please contact McClure Engineering at 508-248-2005.

Opportunities to Participate ~

Any matters that concern your drinking water supply or issues you would like to see addressed can be presented at the regularly scheduled meeting of the trustees, association or board.



Water System Improvements ~

Our water system is routinely inspected by MassDEP for its technical, financial and managerial capacity to provide safe drinking water to you. The MassDEP issued an NON-CE-15-5D006 (NON) for the Sanitary Survey performed September 18, 2014 that required the system to permit a treatment system to reduce radon levels in Wells #1 and #2 . The PWS has done this and has received approval from the MassDEP to install the new treatment system with conditions. Also, in 2016, the PWS has performed the required tank inspection on the 5,000 gallon atmospheric storage tank. The PWS continues to monitor the water and make adjustments when necessary.

Cross Connection Control and Prevention

Cross connections are the links through which it is possible for contaminating materials to enter a potable water supply. The contaminant enters the potable water system when the pressure of the polluted source exceeds the pressure of the potable source. The action may be called backsiphonage or backflow. Essentially it is reversal of the hydraulic gradient that can be produced by a variety of circumstances. A cross connection is an actual or potential connection between a drinking water pipe and a polluted source. The pollution can come from your own home. Using a backflow prevention device on your hose connection when washing your car, for example, can prevent backsiphonage of car wash chemicals into a water supply.

Buffumville Heights Estates recommends the installation of low-cost hose bibb vacuum breakers for all inside and outside threaded spigots and hoses. You can purchase them at a hardware store or plumbing supply store. This is a great way to help protect the water system that serves your home and community!

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This report was prepared by McClure Engineering, Inc.
Also available at <http://www.mcclureengineers.com/water.html>

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