

Allan Kent  
Chairman



Dean D'Alessandro  
Kevin Rudden

## **TOWN OF MENDON WATER COMMISSION**

**20 Main Street Mendon, Massachusetts 01756**

**Phone: (508) 473-2547 Fax: (508) 478-8241**

**Email: [watercom@mendonma.gov](mailto:watercom@mendonma.gov)**

**[mendonma.gov/water](http://mendonma.gov/water)**

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### **2016 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report**

**Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)**

**FOR THE**

**Mendon Water Commission**

*Mendon, Massachusetts*

**Mendon Public Water Supply (PWS) ID Number: 2179000**

**Hopedale PWS ID Number: 2138000**

Consecutive System Interconnected on Cape Road at the Town Line between Hopedale and Mendon  
AND at Dudley Road, Mendon at the intersection with Westcott Road, Hopedale.

The Mendon Water Commission has prepared this report to provide important information about the town's public water system, including all drinking water testing between January 1 and December 31, 2016.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Dan Byer, Municipal Clerk for the Water Commission, at the phone number or email address above. The Town of Mendon has been purchasing water from the Town of Hopedale since June 1, 2005.

Consumer Confidence Reports for both Mendon and Hopedale are available in both Town Halls or can be found at:

**<http://www.mendonma.gov/water/CCR>**

#### **Water Commission Meetings:**

The Mendon Water Commission encourages you to attend its meetings. The Commission typically meets monthly in the Mendon Town Hall. Please check the Town of Mendon website or contact the Water Commission office to confirm meeting dates. Also, if a situation warrants, public hearings will be held and you will be notified through the news media or by U.S. Postal Service mail.

#### **Water Commissioners during 2016:**

Allan Kent, Chairman (*Term Expires May 2017*)

Dean D'Alessandro (*Term Expires May 2018*)

Kevin Rudden (*Term Expires May 2019*)

#### **Water Commission Staff during 2016:**

Timothy Watson, Certified Water Operator

Leah Cameron, Municipal Clerk

#### **Water Sources:**

The water within Mendon's public water system comes from the Town of Hopedale. This water comes from several wells in a few locations. The main location is the well field on Mill Street within the Hopedale golf course. At this location, more than 30 wells are being pumped by a vacuum system which supplies the majority of water to be treated. Additionally, water comes from 5 separate wells located around the treatment plant itself. More information about the watershed is available on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Surf Your Watershed website at: [www.epa.gov/surf](http://www.epa.gov/surf)

<u>Source Name</u>	<u>MassDEP Source ID#</u>	<u>Location of Source</u>
Mill St. Well Field	2138000-01G	Within Hopedale Golf Course
Greene St. Gravel Packed Well	2138000-02G	Within Water Treatment Plant
Greene St. Gravel Packed Well 1	2138000-03G	Within Water Treatment Plant
Greene St. Gravel Packed Well 2	2138000-04G	Within Water Treatment Plant
Greene St. Bedrock Well	2138000-05G	Within Water Treatment Plant
Greene St. Bedrock Well	2138000-06G	Within Water Treatment Plant

## **Treatment:**

The water is sent to the treatment plant located off of Greene Street in Hopedale. There, the raw water is immediately treated with chlorine gas and the pH is adjusted to be a neutral 7 by adding sodium hydroxide. These corrosion control chemicals help to reduce the amount of lead and copper in the water. The water is then sent through Greensand Plus filters, which contain silica sand and manganese dioxide. These filters remove any remaining contaminants, such as iron and manganese, to the point of being undetectable by our water tests. The filtered water is then sent through an ultraviolet system, removing any viruses the water may contain. After this process is completed, the water is then chlorinated a final time before being sent into the distribution system.

## **Water Quality Monitoring:**

Water quality is constantly monitored by the Hopedale Water Department and Mass Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), based on a sampling schedule set forth by MassDEP. This helps to determine the effectiveness of existing water treatment and whether any additional treatment is required. Beyond that, the water within the Mendon system itself is monitored monthly for coliform bacteria and yearly for by-products of chlorine: trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids. Lead and copper testing is done every other year and asbestos is tested for every seven years.

Here are some examples of potential contaminants that are monitored and treated:

- Gross Alpha Particle Activity
- Asbestos
- Haloacetic Acids
- Chlorine
- Inorganics
- Iron
- Lead and Copper
- Manganese
- Nitrate
- Nitrite
- Perchlorate
- Radium 226 and 228
- Secondary Contaminants
- Synthetic Organic Compounds (SOCs)
- Trihalomethanes
- Turbidity
- Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)

## **Source Water Assessment:**

As part of the Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP), MassDEP conducted assessments of our drinking water sources for the purposes of determining their susceptibility to potential contamination. A susceptibility ranking of “high” was assigned to this system, due to potential threats to water quality in the area, such as pesticides, fertilizers and chemical or fuel spills. The complete SWAP report is available online at: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/water/drinking/swap/cero/2138000.pdf> More information is listed in the “Ways to Protect Your Water Supply” section on measures that can be taken to reduce these threats.

## **Substances Found in Tap Water:**

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, MassDEP and the EPA prescribe regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The U.S. 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. 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

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 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 stormwater 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 use.
- **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and which may 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.

### Water Quality Testing Results:

The presence of the following contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health threat. The water quality information presented in the tables is from the most recent round of testing done in accordance with the regulations. All data shown were collected during the last calendar year, unless otherwise noted in the tables.

	Date Collected	90th Percentile	AL	MCLG	# of sample sites	# of sites above AL	Exceeds AL? (Y/N)	Possible Sources of Contamination
Lead (ppb)	8/19/14	3	15	0	5	0	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	8/19/14	0.495	1.3	1.3	5	0	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits, leaching from wood preservatives

	Highest # Positive in a Month	MCL	MCGL	Violation? (Y/N)	Possible Source of Contamination
Total Coliform	0	0	0	N	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform or E. Coli	0	*	0	N	Human and animal fecal waste

Turbidity*	TT	Lowest Monthly % of Samples	Highest Detected Daily Value	Violation? (Y/N)	Possible Source of Contamination	*Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is a good indicator of water quality.
Daily Compliance (NTU)	1	-----	0.74	N	Soil runoff	**Monthly turbidity compliance is related to a specific treatment technique (TT).
Monthly Compliance**	At least 95% <0.3	99%	-----	N		Our system filters the water so at least 95% of our samples each month must be below the turbidity limits specified in the regulations.

Regulated Contaminant	Date(s) Collected	Amount Detected	MCL or MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Violation? (Y/N)	Possible Source(s) of Contamination
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>						
Barium (ppm)	5/27/16	0.054	2	2	N	Discharge of drilling wastes or metal refineries, erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (ppm)	5/27/16	0.57	10	10	N	Runoff from fertilizer, leaching from septic tanks, erosion of natural deposits
Perchlorate (ppb)	8/18/16	0.12	2	NA	N	Rocket propellants, fireworks, munitions, flares, blasting agents
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>						
Gross Alpha (pCi/l) (minus uranium)	4/26/2012	0.71	15	0	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 & 228 (pCi/l) (combined values)	1/25/2012	0.84	5	0	N	Erosion of natural deposits

Regulated Contaminant	Date(s) Collected	RAA	Range Detected	MCL or MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Violation? (Y/N)	Possible Source(s) of Contamination
<b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfection By-Products</b>							
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) (ppb)	8/23/16	17.4	NA	80	NS	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5s) (ppb)	8/23/16	15.5	NA	60	NS	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine (ppm) (free)	Monthly 2016	0.39	0.19-0.53	4	4	N	Water additive used to control microbes

Unregulated & Secondary Contaminants	Date(s) Collected	Result or Range Detected	SMCL	ORSG	Possible Source(s) of Contamination
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>					
Sodium (ppm)	5/17/16	54	NS	20	Natural sources, runoff from use as road salt, by-product of treatment process
Sulfate (ppm)	5/17/16	18	250	NS	Natural sources
<b>Other Organic Contaminants</b>					
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	8/23/16	7.5	NS	NS	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chloroform (ppb)	8/23/16	5.6	NS	70	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Dibromo-chloro-methane (ppb)	8/23/16	4.3	NS	NS	By-product of drinking water chlorination

### Terminology Used in Water Quality Testing Results:

- **90<sup>th</sup> Percentile:** Out of every 10 homes sampled, 9 were at or below this level.
- **Action Level (AL):** The highest level of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.
- **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. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The highest level of a disinfectant (chlorine, chloramines, chlorine dioxide) 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 (chlorine, chloramines, chlorine dioxide) below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- **NA:** not applicable
- **ND:** not detected
- **NS:** none set
- **NTU (nephelometric turbidity units):** Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.
- **Running Annual Average (RAA):** Average of four quarters
- **Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water
- **Variances and Exemptions:** State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions
- **pCi/l (picocuries per liter):** a measure of radioactivity
- **ppb (parts per billion):** One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter [ug/l])
- **ppm (parts per million):** One part substance per million parts of water (or milligrams per liter [mg/l])
- **ppt (parts per trillion):** One part substance per trillion parts of water (or nanograms per liter [ng/l])
- **Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL):** These standards are developed to protect the aesthetic qualities of drinking water, such as taste and odor, and are not health-based.
- **Massachusetts Office of Research and Standards Guideline (ORSG):** 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.
- **Unregulated Contaminants:** Substances without MCLs for which EPA requires monitoring. For some of these substances, the Massachusetts Office of Research and Standards (ORS) has developed state guidelines or secondary MCLs. Unregulated contaminants are only reported when they were detected.

### Violations:

#### Drinking Water Violations – Treatment Technique – Failing to meet contact time:

On July 19, 2016, Hopedale failed to meet the treatment technique of meeting their contact time requirements for approximately 1.5 hours.

Contact Time – In order to ensure proper disinfection, water in the treatment plant must be in contact with chlorine or a similar disinfectant for a minimum about of time. On July 19, 2016 this did not occur for a period of time (approximately 1.5 hours.)

Although chlorine quickly kills most bacteria, it is less effective against organisms such as viruses and parasites. For this reason, water needs to mix with chlorine for a longer time period to kill such organisms. The amount of time necessary, or the “contact time” depends on the amount of disinfectant in the water and the temperature of the water. This situation does not require that you take immediate action. If it had you would have been notified immediately. Tests taking during this same time period did not indicate the presence of bacteria in the water. The event occurred due to a utility pole close to the station being hit by a car, interrupting the power to the treatment plant and alarm equipment. Since this incident, Hopedale has switched pumps and ordered a replacement as well as began looking into getting this type of event to register on our monitoring equipment. All other contact times for the year have met all requirements.

Please share this information with everyone who drinks this water, especially those who do not receive this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

#### **Health Information:**

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 (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 who are 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/CDC (Centers for Disease Control) 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) or <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>

#### **Lead in Home Plumbing**

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. The Mendon Water Commission 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>

#### **Sodium Sensitivity**

Individuals who are sensitive to sodium, such as those experiencing hypertension, kidney failure, or congestive heart failure, should be aware of sodium levels and carefully control their exposure.

#### **Cross Connections:**

A cross connection is formed at any point where a drinking water line connects with equipment, systems containing chemicals or water sources of questionable quality. Outside water taps and garden hoses tend to be the most common sources of cross-contamination at home. For example, fluctuation in water pressure can cause water to be siphoned or sucked backwards through pipes and hoses. This could occur if the water pressure dropped when a hose was turned on to apply spray fertilizer. In such a situation, the fertilizer could be sucked back into the drinking water pipes. The Mendon Water Commission recommends the installation of backflow prevention devices, such as Hose Bibb vacuum breakers, on all hose connections in order to prevent cross connections. These are inexpensive and are available from your local plumbing contractor or supplier. For more information on backflow prevention, contact the Safe Water Drinking Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. As required by Massachusetts Drinking Water Regulations 310 CMR 22.22 (3) (b), the Mendon Water Commission has an approved Cross Connection Program Plan. All cross connections in Mendon businesses that are supplied by public water are surveyed by a certified backflow tester on an annual basis. These records are available for your inspection at the Water Commission office in the Town Hall.

#### **Ways to Protect the Water Supply:**

- Dispose of all unused household hazardous wastes at the Board of Health's Household Hazardous Waste Day. Call 508-634-2656 for more information.
  - **There is a Hazardous Waste Collection day scheduled for October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017 9am-12pm at the Mendon Highway Barn (66 Providence St.)**
- Minimize the use of fertilizers, pesticides, or herbicides. Sweep up any spills instead of washing them into the street or storm drain. Do not apply them before a heavy rain is anticipated. Use natural alternatives to these substances.
- Maintain your septic system. The septic tank should be emptied once every three years. Call 508-634-2656 for more information.
- Conserve water to help support a growing population and avoid watering bans. Avoid excessive lawn irrigation. Check for leaks within your system. Purchase water saving devices, such as low flow toilets and showerheads.



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