

POSTAL PATRON

Salem and Beverly Water Supply Board 2005 Water Quality Report

En Français

Le rapport contient des informations concernant la qualité de l'eau de votre communauté. Faites-le traduire, ou parlez-en à un ami qui le comprend bien.

En Español

El informe contiene información importante sobre la calidad del agua en su comunidad. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.



2005 Water Quality Report

This report describes the Salem and Beverly Water Supply Board's drinking water sources and treated water quality for 2005.

This publication is mandated by the federal public right-to-know regulation requiring community water suppliers to provide specific treated water quality information annually to customers.

This report includes additional information beyond the minimum federal requirements as part of our ongoing commitment to increase public awareness of your drinking water and protection of this valuable resource.

For More Information...

About contaminants and potential health effects, please call the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791 or visit www.epa.gov/safewater.

About the Salem and Beverly Water Supply Board and your water quality, please call 978-922-2600. The Board also meets at the Water Filtration plant on Arlington Avenue in Beverly. Notices of these meetings are posted in the Beverly and Salem City Halls.

About your water distribution system, please contact the appropriate department in your city:

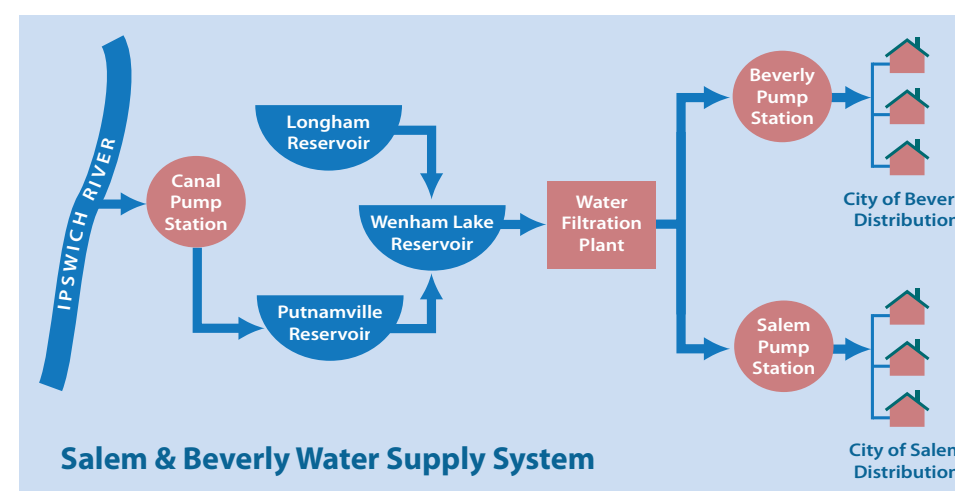
Salem Water Department
(PWS ID # 3258000)
phone: 978-745-9595

Beverly Water Department
(PWS ID # 3030000)
phone: 978-921-6000

Sources of Your Drinking Water

Salem and Beverly use approximately 3.5 billion gallons of drinking water per year. This water is drawn from the Ipswich River and three reservoirs: Wenham Lake Reservoir, Putnamville Reservoir and Longham Reservoir.

The Salem and Beverly Water Supply Board recognizes the practical and ecological importance of storing high winter and spring flows of the Ipswich River for use in summer when river flows are naturally low. During winter and spring, water is pumped from the Ipswich River to Putnamville Reservoir and/or Wenham Lake Reservoir for storage and use in summer. Water is not pumped from the river during summer. Similarly, Longham Reservoir augments Wenham Lake Reservoir.



Nonpoint Source Pollution

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Phase II Stormwater regulations require all communities with populations under 100,000 to implement control measures aimed at reducing water pollution caused by stormwater runoff. Stormwater runoff is a major cause of nonpoint source (NPS) pollution.

Approximately 40 percent of America's surveyed lakes, rivers, and estuaries fail to meet standards for safe fishing or swimming. According to the EPA, NPS pollution constitutes the nation's largest source of water quality problems.

NPS pollution occurs when runoff (rainwater or snowmelt) moves over the land picking up sediments and contaminants and then deposits them into lakes, rivers, and coastal waters. Overland flow picks up pollutants from driveways, crops, industrial sites, or malfunctioning septic systems before discharging into the river or storm drain.

NPS pollution can lead to beach closures, fish kills, habitat destruction, and unsafe drinking water. Unlike point sources (e.g., discharge pipes from facilities),

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nonpoint sources are diffuse, which makes them difficult to trace and control.

Everyone contributes to NPS pollution in one way or another. Land use such as agriculture, forestry, construction, and septic systems are all potential sources of nonpoint contaminants. Household contributors include improperly disposed pet waste, lawn fertilizer, paints, and motor oil. Automobiles, factories, and wood stoves emit airborne contaminants that return to the earth in the form of rain or snow. The amount of these contaminants that reaches water sources is increased by impermeable surfaces, such as roofs and pavement, which keep the soil from naturally filtering stormwater.

The Cities of Salem and Beverly are in the process of implementing Stormwater Management Plans (SWMP) designed to reduce stormwater runoff pollution and protect your source and surface waters. Public education and participation are required control measures for the SWMP.

Massachusetts Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) Program

The Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) Program assesses the susceptibility of public water supplies to contamination due to land uses and activities within the recharge area of the water supply. The water supply for Salem and Beverly consists of surface water from Wenham Lake (Source ID # 3030001-01S), Longham Reservoir (Source ID # 3030001-02S), Putnamville Reservoir (Source ID # 3030001-03S), and the Ipswich River (Source ID # 3030001-04S).

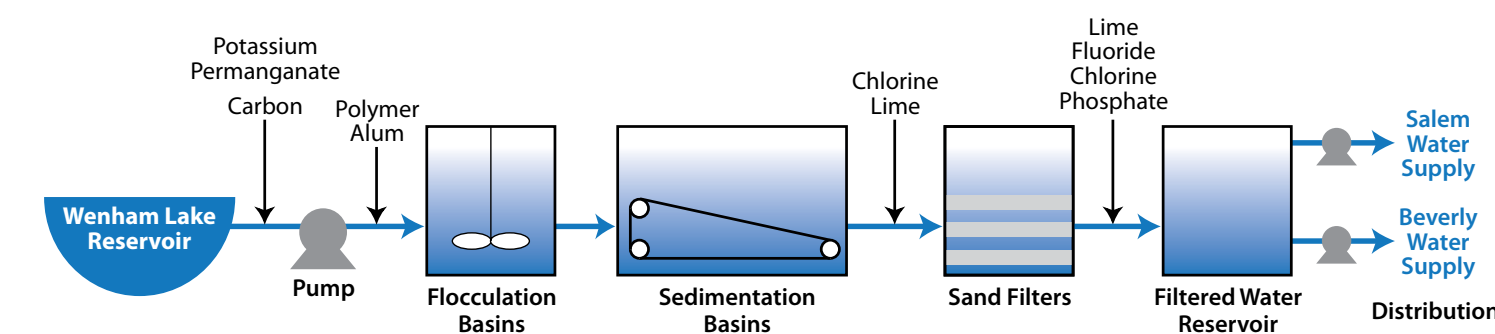
The DEP assigned a susceptibility ranking of high to the system using the information collected during the assessment by the DEP. A high ranking is given to any water supply that has at least one high threat land use within the water supply protection area. Since there are seventeen high threat land uses within the protection area including bus and truck terminals, airports, pesticide storage, and underground storage tanks, the Salem and Beverly water supply must be assigned a high susceptibility ranking. This ranking

does not imply that the cities have poor water quality or will have poor water quality in the future. It only draws attention to various activities within the watershed that may be potential sources of contamination.

The SWAP then assesses what the water supplier is doing to prevent contamination and recommends other measures that can be taken to further protect the sources. Some source protection measures Salem and Beverly have already implemented include reviewing the development of plans in the City of Beverly and the Towns of Wenham, Danvers, and Topsfield; conducting monthly stream monitoring throughout the watersheds; and managing geese on Wenham Lake.

If you would like more information, the complete SWAP report is available at the Salem and Beverly Water Supply Board and online at <http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/drinking/3258000.pdf>. You can also call the Salem and Beverly Water Supply Board at 978-922-2600.

Water Treatment and Distribution



Water from the Ipswich River and the three reservoirs goes to a water filtration plant, operated 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by the Salem and Beverly Water Supply Board. The plant removes naturally occurring impurities, as required by federal regulations and good public health practices, and delivers the water to pumping stations owned by the cities of Salem and Beverly. These pumping stations deliver water

to your home in pipes owned and maintained by each city water department.

To improve corrosion control in the distribution pipes, Salem and Beverly modified existing treatment by switching to a new phosphate additive that is designed to optimize corrosion control throughout the distribution system and minimize dissolved lead in the pipes and household plumbing.

Treated Water Quality Data for 2005

Listed below are 24 contaminants detected in Salem's and Beverly's drinking water in 2005. We tested for more than 100 other contaminants in 2005 that were also not detected in your water.

Samples Collected from the Water Filtration Plant

Substance	Units	Highest Level Detected	Range of Detection	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Sources of Contaminant
Microbiological						
Total Coliform Bacteria	—	0%	ND	5%	0	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity ¹ 100% of the samples collected were below the TT of 0.3 NTU	NTU	0.23	0.05 – 0.23 95% of samples <0.3	TT = 0.3	0	Soil runoff
Total Organic Carbon ²	ppm	2.7	1.6 – 2.7	TT	NA	Naturally present in the environment
Inorganic Chemicals						
Arsenic	ppb	<1	no range, 1 sample required	50	NA	Erosion of natural deposits, runoff from orchards, glass and electronic production wastes
Barium	ppm	0.032	no range, 1 sample required	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes, discharge from metal refineries, erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	ppm	1.35	0.76 – 1.35	4	4	Water additive, promotes strong teeth, discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories, erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate	ppm	0.38	no range, 1 sample required	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite	ppm	<0.02	no range, 1 sample required	1	1	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits
Selenium	ppm	<0.001	no range, 1 sample required	0.05	0.05	Discharge from metal refineries, erosion of natural deposits
Sodium ³	ppm	39	no range, 1 sample required	NR	NR	Naturally present in the environment
Sulfate ⁴	ppm	26.7	no range, 1 sample required	NR	NR	Naturally present in the environment

Organic Chemicals						
Bromodichloromethane	ppb	13	no range, 1 sample required	NR	NR	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chlorodibromomethane	ppb	4	no range, 1 sample required	NR	NR	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chloroform	ppb	22	no range, 1 sample required	NR	NR	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Perchlorate ⁵	ppb	< 0.18	< 0.18	NR	NR	Rocket propellants, fireworks, munitions, flares, blasting agents

Radionuclides						
Gross Alpha ⁵	pCi/L	0.23	0.14 – 0.23	15	0	Erosion of natural deposits
Beta Particle ⁵	mrem/yr	2.4	2.1 – 2.4	4	4	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Radium ⁶ (226 & 228 combined)	pCi/L	0.3	0.1 – 0.3	5	0	Erosion of natural deposits

Samples Collected from the Distribution System

Substance	Units	90th Percentile	Range of Detection	Action Level	Ideal Goals	Sources of Contaminant
Copper ⁷ (none of the samples exceeded the action level)	ppm	0.255	0.022 – 0.408 ppm	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing, erosion of natural deposits
Lead ⁷ (6 samples exceeded the action level)	ppb	14	ND – 96 ppb	15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits

Substance	Units	Highest Level Detected	Range of Detection	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Sources of Contaminant
Organic Chemicals						
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	69 ⁸	35 – 110	80	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids	ppb	37.3 ⁸	0.6 – 73.0	60	NA	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Inorganic Chemicals						
Chlorine (total)	ppm	1.83	0.00 – 1.83 (MRDL)	4 (MRDL)	4 (MRDLG)	Water additive used to control microbes
Asbestos	MFL	<0.190	no range, 1 sample required	7	7	Decay of asbestos cement water mains, erosion of natural deposits

Notes

¹ Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. Turbidity is monitored because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of filtration. Reported turbidity monitored at the clearwell. Turbidity standard of less than 0.3 NTU is acceptable.

² Finished water TOC compliance is determined in accordance with the requirements of 310 CMR 22.07E (6)(e)4a. TOC levels for 2005 were in compliance with applicable criteria.

³ The Massachusetts DEP Office of Research and Standards has set a guideline concentration of 20 ppm for sodium.

⁴ Massachusetts has set a secondary maximum contaminant level of 250 ppm for sulfate, to protect the aesthetic quality of your drinking water.

⁵ Gross alpha, beta particle, and perchlorate testing was performed in 2004. The Massachusetts DEP Office of Research and Standards has set an interim guideline of 1 ppb for perchlorate.

⁶ Radium testing is required once every three years. Samples were collected in June 2003.

⁷ Lead and copper testing was performed in June 2005 and November/December 2005. See lead and copper compliance monitoring section below for details on lead and copper sampling.

⁸Highest level detected is based on a running average of data from the current and previous three quarters.

Lead and Copper Compliance Monitoring

There is no lead in the water that enters the distribution system. Lead enters the drinking water through the corrosion of household plumbing. Lead in tap water is controlled by adding corrosion inhibiting chemicals to the water supply during the treatment process.

Since the Salem and Beverly Water Supply Board (the Board) began implementing a new blended phosphate corrosion control treatment in 2004, frequent monitoring of lead and copper levels has been continuing in the distribution system. This monitoring is examining the progress of the corrosion control treatment process and will continue until the treatment is optimized in accordance with the DEP Lead and Copper Rule.

During 2005, two rounds of the monitoring were performed, one in June and one in November and December. During each round, sixty samples were collected from residents' homes, thirty in Salem and thirty in Beverly. Federal and State drinking water standards require that lead and copper levels in drinking water be less than 15 ppb and 1.3 ppm, respectively, in at least 90 percent of the samples tested. These limits are referred to as "Action Levels". The 90th percentile levels in samples tested in June were 15 ppb lead and 0.233 ppm copper, and in November/December they were 14 ppb lead and 0.255 ppm copper. These concentrations are equal to or below the drinking water standards and indicate that the new treatment is working effectively in the system. The Board will conduct another round of compliance sampling in May and June of 2006 to continue to evaluate the performance and effectiveness of the new treatment process.

Definitions

Action level – The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers a treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

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.

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 Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) – The highest level of a disinfectant (chlorine) 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 highest level of a disinfectant (chlorine) below which there is no known risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfection to control microbial contaminants.

MFL – Million fibers per liter (fibers > 10 microns in length)

TT (Treatment Technique) – A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

NR (Not regulated) – Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining their occurrence in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

ppm – One part per million; equivalent to \$1 in \$1,000,000.

ppb – One part per billion; equivalent to \$1 in \$1,000,000,000.

pCi/L – Picocuries/L; A measure of the radioactivity in water.

NTU – Nephelometric turbidity units, a measure of the suspended material in water.

90th percentile – Out of every 10 homes sampled, 9 were below this level.

Compliance with Health and Safety Standards

The Salem and Beverly Water Supply Board is committed to providing drinking water that meets or surpasses all primary and secondary health and safety standards. State and federal regulators routinely monitor our compliance and testing protocols to ensure that we deliver safe drinking water to customers. Laboratory staff at our water filtration plant conduct more than 38,000 water-quality tests on your drinking water every year.



Substances Found in Drinking Water

All sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) contain some naturally occurring contaminants or substances. As rain passes through the atmosphere, travels over the surface of the land into ponds, streams, rivers, lakes and reservoirs or passes through the ground into wells and springs it dissolves naturally-occurring gasses and minerals and, in some cases naturally-occurring radioactive material in the rocks. The water can also pick up substances resulting from animals or human activity. Drinking water, including bottled water, will contain at least small amounts of some substances or contaminants. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive and in most cases, would provide no added health protection. In fact, water without some dissolved minerals and gasses tastes bad and can be harmful. **Therefore, the presence of some substances, referred to as contaminants, does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.**

To ensure that your water is safe to drink, the EPA regulates the allowable amount of certain contaminants in the water provided by public water systems. This report provides you with information about the contaminants found naturally in your drinking water, the levels at which they were found, and the likely source of each contaminant.

Copper and Lead

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 doctor.

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. 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 disabilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

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 elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested. Flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

- **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.

- **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining and farming.

- **Pesticides and herbicides** may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

- **Organic chemical contaminants** include synthetic and volatile organic chemicals that are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.

- **Radioactive contaminants** can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than people in the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, those with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, elderly persons, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are also available from the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.