

The Turners Falls Water Department's main source of water consists of two artesian wells located off Center Street in Montague Center these gravel-packed Wells #1192000 1G and #1192000 2G, pump 1.2 to 2 million gallons of water per day to the filter plant. The treated, filtered water is then discharged into the gravity fed distribution system. The storage facilities in Turners Falls have a total storage capacity of 6.3 million gallons. Lake Pleasant and Green Pond are emergency backup surface water supplies.



Call Mike or Nancy for additional information or to answer any questions. 413-863-4542

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 particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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

**Think about it !**

**Bottled Water \$1.25/12 oz**

**Turners Falls Water \$1.90/1000 Gallons**

**It is estimated that 80% of bottled water comes out of a tap.**

**Water Leak Test** – Most water meters have a red triangle on the face of the meter. If this triangle moves, even slightly when you are not using any water, you may have a leak. Toilets and faucets are the first plumbing to check, tablets are available at the water department to check for toilet leaks and pamphlets to help you detect the problem.

**Water Use** -The average daily water consumption for the Turners Falls Water District in the year 2008 was 796,374 gallons per day, with a peak demand of 1.9 million gallons on 6/12/08.

## **BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS**

Kenneth Morin - Chairman

Stephen Call - Kevin McCarthy

### **STAFF**

#### **Superintendent**

Michael Brown

#### **Pump Station Operators**

John Collins - Jeffrey Hildreth - Stephen Fitzpatrick

#### **Clerk/Collector**

Nancy Holmes

#### **Regular Meetings**

1st Wednesday of the Month 5:30 pm

At the Water Department Office

226 Millers Falls Rd Turners Falls, Mass

#### **Annual Meeting**

of the

Fire District is held the third Tuesday in April

**Protecting Turners Falls Water Supply :** The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) for the water supply source serving this water system. This report is a planning tool to support local and state efforts to improve water supply protection. Although the TFWD has many safeguards in place, the overall susceptibility ranking to contamination of the ground water supplies is high, based on the presence of numerous high ranking threat land uses within the Zone II water supply protection areas. The report commends our water system on its proactive approach to source protection. A complete SWAP report is available at the TFWD, the Board of Health office and online at <http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/drinking/swapreps.htm>. For more information call the TFWD 863-4542. **Things You Can Do To Protect Our Water Supply** Use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly, Do Not use the river beds to dispose of any waste, Take used motor oil and other such fluids to the Towns hazardous waste collection sites.

# Water Quality Report

Reporting Year—2008

July 2009



**Turners Falls Water Department**

**Public Water Supply**

**#1192000**

**226 Millers Falls Road**

**Turners Falls, MA 01376**

**413-863-4542**

**Fax 413-863-3175**

**Email**

**[turnerswater@yahoo.com](mailto:turnerswater@yahoo.com)**

**Environmental Protection Agency's**

**Safe Drinking Water Hotline**

**1-800-426-4791**

**Massachusetts Department**

**of Environmental Protection**

**1-413-784-1100**

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.) 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 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, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operation and wildlife. **Inorganic contaminants** such as salts and metals can be naturally occurring or results from urban storm water 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 storm water 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 storm runoff, and septic systems. **Radioactive contaminants** 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 prescribe 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 that must provide the same protection for public health.



The Department of Environmental Protection has granted the Turners Falls Water Department a waiver on testing of Inorganic and Synthetic Organic Compounds because the source is not at risk of contamination. The last samples collected for these contaminants were taken on 1/21/03 for SOC and 8/28/03 for the IOC and both were found to meet all applicable EPA and DEP Standards.

## 2008 Water Quality Testing Results



## Lead & Copper Testing

*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. Turners Falls Water Department 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>. On July 18, 2007 the TFWD sampled 30 homes for Lead and Copper. Again our results are below the Lead & Copper rule action levels. Our next round of Lead & Copper samples will be due the 3rd quarter of 2010.*

Substance	Date Collected	Action Level	MCLG	90th Percentile	# of sites above action level	Likely Source
Lead	7/18/07	15 ppb	0	1.7 ppb	0	Corrosion of household Plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper	7/18/07	1.3 ppm	1.3	.0446 ppm	0	Corrosion of household Plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservation

### Definitions

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):**The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set 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.

**Action Level (AL) -** The concentration of a contaminant which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**90<sup>th</sup> Percentile-**Out of every 10 homes sampled-9 were at or below this level. **ppm**-parts per million **ppb**-parts per billion

### What is a Cross Connection and What Can I do About it?

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 the 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 Turners Falls Water Department recommends the installation of backflow prevention devices, such as a low cost hose bib vacuum breaker, for all inside and outside hose connections. You can purchase this at a hardware store or plumbing supply store. There is a limited supply available at the water department office. This is a great way for you to help protect the water in your home as well as the drinking water system in your town. For additional information on cross connections and on the status of your water system's cross connection program, please contact Superintendent Mike Brown @ the Turners Falls Water Department 863-4542.

Polluted Source



Clean Drinking Water