



Town of Monson, Water & Sewer Department

P.O. Box 388, 198WD Main St., Monson, MA 01057-0388

E-mail: monsonws@samnet.net

Tel: (413) 267-4130 • Fax: (413) 267-4106

Office Hours: Mon.- Fri. 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.



Commissioners: Jack D. Gustafson – Chairman, Douglas R. North – Vice Chairman, Marshall L. Harris - Clerk

Staff: Craig W. Jalbert – Superintendent, Thomas J. Murphy - Assistant Superintendent,

Dave F. Martin - W&S Maintenance Man, Dale S. Barnes-Johnson – Secretary

We are dedicated to providing a safe, dependable and affordable supply of drinking water to our customers.

Please visit our page on the Town's new Web-Site at www.monson-ma.gov ~ e-mail monsonws@monson-ma.gov

MONSON'S 2004 WATER QUALITY REPORT

We encourage you to sit down and enjoy a nice refreshing glass of safe, dependable and affordable Monson water while reading about your water system and the quality of the water that you received last year. Along with the results of our 2004 water quality testing, you will find information about improvements we have made and tips to help maintain a safe supply of water and protect public health.

The process of replacing the pumping capacity we lost when the original Bunyan Rd well was shut down in 2002 is fully on its way. Our application for a USDA Emergency Community Water Assistance Grant and Rural Utilities Service Loan was approved. Two new replacement wells have been installed at Bunyan Rd, and bidding for the necessary controls and piping modifications to incorporate the new wells into our system is underway. We will also be adding an additional well to the Palmer Rd. well field to supplement that existing well's diminished capacity. When improvements at both locations are complete our pumping capacity will be back into compliance with MassDEP requirements. A total of 172,896,950 gallons of potable water, at an average rate of 472,396 gallons per day, was pumped from the town wells. The peak day was June 8, 2004 when 972,500 gallons were pumped, and we added 18 new connections to our water system. The Department revised and adopted two important documents pertaining to our water system. The first, Water Rules and Regulations, covers the use and operation of the system and the second, Water Construction Standards, deals with additions to the system. Both of these documents have been indispensable to us due to the proliferation of new homes and developments in Monson.

Water is a precious natural resource that should be protected and used wisely. Water is essential to sustaining life, yet is often taken for granted every day. An average person can live more than a month without food, but only about a week without water. Remember to protect your drinking water through proper auto care, and waste disposal, take hazardous household chemicals to hazardous materials collection days. If you choose to fertilize follow directions and use only what you need, more is not always better.

The Monson Water Commission meets on alternate Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. at the Monson Water Dept.; meetings are posted at the town offices and in the newspaper. The public is always invited to attend our meetings or contact us with any concerns you may have with your water quality. We feel strongly that it is our responsibility to ensure we are able to make the high priority system improvements we need while simultaneously maintaining and upgrading our infrastructure when it is fiscally advantageous without significant changes to our current water rate. Your support is appreciated as we continue to improve and upgrade the water system to provide the best service possible 24 hours a day, 365 days per year, while keeping rates at or below the state average.

Sources of Drinking Water ~ 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. Contaminates that may be present in source water include: **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria; **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals; **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; **Radioactive contaminants** which can be naturally-occurring or be a result of oil and gas production, and mining activities.

Monson's Water Sources ~ Monson has three groundwater sources located along the Chicopee Brook. The Bethany Road well-field, located along the East side of Chicopee Brook just North of the center of Monson, was installed in 1950 and is our supplementary source during times of high demand. The Palmer Road well-field located off of Rt.32 along the west side of Chicopee Brook serves as our primary supply and was installed in 1965. The Bunyan Road well-field was established in the late 1960s in the northern end of town located along the West Side of the Chicopee Brook. We no longer pump the original well at this source due to production decreases and aesthetic concerns, but in 2004, two new replacement wells were installed which we expect to have on line by June 2005. You can help protect our water sources by notifying the Police Dept. or our office if you notice any suspicious activity in the vicinity of any of our wells.

How Is Monson's Water Treated? The Monson Water Department has had a corrosion control program in place since February of 1996 at our Bunyan Road Well in the form of a Soda Ash feed system. Soda Ash (Sodium Carbonate) is used to raise the pH of our source water to a level that minimizes corrosion to our distribution system and our customers plumbing. With the production and quality problems at the Bunyan Road Well it has forced us to switch to our Palmer Road Well where a similar treatment system has been installed by the department and initiated in early August 2002. The chemical feed system is inspected and monitored 7 days a week by the Water Department staff as per DEP requirements.

Our Testing Program ~ In calendar year 2004, the Massachusetts DEP maintained our reduced monitoring status for lead and copper sampling and also continued our monitoring waivers for Synthetic Organic Compounds (SOCs) at all of our wells and for Volatile Organic Contaminants (VOCs) at the Bunyan Rd. well-field because those sources were found to be not at risk of contamination. Samples for lead and copper were last tested on 10/24/02 and demonstrated that we continue to meet all applicable EPA and DEP standards. SOC samples were collected on 2/24/03 at all three wells and were found to be free of those contaminants. VOC samples were collected on 4/26/04 at our two non-waivered wells and were found to be free of those contaminants as well. We will continue to monitor and test accordingly to ensure you receive the safest and highest quality drinking water possible.

Monson 2004 Water Quality Test Results

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2004 calendar year. Unless otherwise noted, the presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The water quality information presented in the table 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 table. Below the table are the terms, abbreviations and definitions used in the table.

Substance of Contaminant	Level Detected	MCL	MCLG	Sample Date	Violation Yes/No	Likely Source
Nitrate	2.00 ppm	10 ppm	10 ppm	5/27/04	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium	.0064 ppm	2 ppm	2 ppm	06/08/04	No	Discharge from drilling wastes & metal refineries, erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	48.1 ppm	none	none	05/27/04	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Sulfate	12.0 ppm	none	none	05/27/04	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Contaminant	Action Level	90 Percentile	Sites Sampled	Sites Exceeding Action Level	Sample Date	Likely Source
Copper	1.3 mg/L	.283 mg/L	21	0	10/24/02	Household plumbing
Lead	.015 mg/L	.003 mg/L	21	1	10/24/02	Household plumbing

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

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.

Department of Environmental Protection (DEP): State ~ **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):** Federal ~ **n/a:** not applicable ~ **nd:** not detectable at testing limit ~ **ppb:** parts per billion ~ **ppm:** parts per million ~ **mg/L:** milligrams per liter ~ **90 percentile:** for every 10 sites tested 9 are at or below the action level

 **Health Information** ~ The EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA 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 contamination. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. 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. Contact EPA's **Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791** for more information about contaminants and potential health effects; and EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants.

 **Fluoride** is not added to the town's drinking water. Parents should discuss their children's fluoride needs with their pediatrician or dentist. Brush efficiently and remember to turn water off while brushing your teeth.

Water Main Flushing ~ To ensure our water quality is at its best our flushing program will continue during 2005. Prior to flushing, notices will be published in the Hometown Section of the Springfield Republican paper and broadcast on MPACT. Updates appear on our web-site providing the expected daily flushing area. We apologize for any reductions in pressure or discolored water that this may cause. The discolored water may not be aesthetically pleasing, but it will be temporary and it is not harmful, however we do advise you to take precautions regarding your laundry routine. 

 **Water Saving Tips** ~ Small drips can waste up to 100 gallons of water a day. Look for and fix leaky faucets, pipes, showerheads, plumbing fixtures and toilets to avoid high water bills and wasted water. You can't always see or hear a leaky toilet, but here is a simple test: Put a few drops of food coloring in your toilet tank, do not flush. If color appears in the bowl within 10-15 minutes, you have a leak. To repair it, the flush valve, flapper or valve seat may need cleaning or replacement. Parts are inexpensive and easy to install, or call your local plumber for assistance. In the yard, established lawns and most plants require only an inch of water a week. Lawns and plants do not need to be watered every other day, or on a fixed schedule. Please only water when needed (if grass does not move back when stepped on). If you choose to water your lawn, do so only during the cooler parts of the day, watering in the early morning or evening hours minimizes evaporation. Use mulch to retain water, an equivalent-sized patch of a mulched flower bed uses 4 times less water than a patch of lawn. Use drought tolerant plants, and add shade trees and shrubs to protect your lawn from the scorching sun.

In accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture Policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whiten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410 or call (202)720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.