



Town of Monson, Water & Sewer Department

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

Randy L. Emerson - W&S Laborer, Dale S. Barnes-Johnson – Secretary

We are dedicated to providing a safe, dependable and affordable supply of drinking water to our customers. For more information about your water system, please visit [Our Page](#) on the Town's Web-Site at www.monson-ma.gov

MONSON'S 2007 WATER QUALITY REPORT

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water which we monitor and test accordingly, ensuring that you receive the safest and highest quality drinking water possible. This report includes 2007 water quality testing results, information on improvements we have made to our water system, and tips on how you can help to protect our wells and use water wisely. When you save water you also save money, energy and help protect the environment.

During calendar year 2007 our application to the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) loan program made the final priority list and was recommended for financing in 2007 by the Massachusetts DEP. The DWSRF loan program assists Public Water Suppliers in implementing the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act by providing low interest loans (2%) for a period up to 20 years to water supplier with qualifying projects. The DWSRF loan program has made 1.8 million dollars available to the Town of Monson for comprehensive system improvements based on preliminary cost estimates. The project will include the construction of a new water tank on Ely Road, a new building for the Bethany Road Well and a water main replacement on Fern Hill Road. We received approval for the project at the spring Town Meeting and we plan to begin construction during 2008.

The Board meets on alternate Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. at the Monson Water Dept.; meetings are posted at the town offices, on our [web page](#) and in the newspaper. The public is always invited to attend or contact us with any concerns you may have with your water quality. Your support is appreciated as the Commission and staff strive to improve and upgrade the water system while keeping rates at or below the state average and ensuring you receive the highest quality drinking water and best service possible 24 hours a day, 365 days per year.

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, 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 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 which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; **Radioactive contaminants** which can be naturally-occurring or be a result of oil and gas production, and mining activities.

Monson's Water Sources	DEP Source ID #	Source Type	Location
Bethany Rd Well	1191000-03G	Groundwater	East side of Chicopee Brook off of Bethany Rd
Palmer Rd Well	1191000-04G	Groundwater	West side of Chicopee Brook off of Rt. 32
Bunyan Rd Replacement Wells	1191000-06G & 07G	Groundwater	West side of Chicopee Brook off of Bunyan Rd

Total Pumping for 2007 = 172,237,000 gallons. Average of 471,882 gal/day. Our peak day was 879,000 gallons on 9/5/2007

Monson Source Protection ~ MassDEP completed a Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) Report in 2002 which assesses the susceptibility of the water sources supplying Monson. The SWAP report is available at our office or online at www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/dws/. Based on the information collected during the assessment our system received a susceptibility ranking of high. One of the major recommendations of the report was the completion and adoption of a Source Water Protection Plan (SWPP) which was done in 2004 and available at our office or online on our [web page](#). This plan will assist us in minimizing risks to our water sources and provide guidelines for future growth and development. Remember to protect your drinking water through proper auto care and waste disposal and remember to dispose of hazardous household chemicals at hazardous materials collection days. If you choose to fertilize think about using organic types. Please follow the directions on the package and use only what is necessary more is not always better.

How Is Monson's Water Treated? ~ Many drinking water sources in New England are naturally corrosive (i.e. they have a pH of less than 7.0). So, the water they supply has a tendency to corrode and dissolve the metal piping it flows through. This not only damages pipes but can also add harmful metals, such as lead and copper, to the water. For this reason it is beneficial to add chemicals that make the water neutral or slightly alkaline. The Monson Water Department adds Sodium Carbonate (Soda Ash) to adjust the water to a non-corrosive pH. Testing throughout the water system has shown that this treatment has been effective at reducing lead and copper concentrations.

Cross Connection Program ~ 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 Monson 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 device at a hardware store or plumbing supply store. 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 us.

MONSON (PWS ID# 1191000) 2007 Water Quality Testing Results

The water quality test results presented in the table below are 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 table. The MassDEP continued our monitoring waivers in 2007 for Synthetic Organic Compounds (SOC) at the Bethany Rd. and Palmer Rd. wells because those sources were determined to be not at risk of contamination. SOC samples were collected on 2/24/2003 at Palmer Rd. and Bethany Rd. and on 11/6/2006 at Bunyan Rd. and were all found to be free of those contaminants. MassDEP has also maintained our reduced monitoring status for lead and copper sampling. Samples for lead and copper were last collected on 9/7/2005 and demonstrated that we continue to meet all applicable EPA and DEP standards. We are committed to providing you with the best water quality available. We are proud to report that last year your drinking water met all applicable health standards regulated by the state and federal government. Visit our [web page](#) for additional testing information. Please note a list of terms, abbreviations and definitions used has been included below the table.

Contaminant	Level Detected	Highest Detect Value	MCL	MCLG	Sample Date	Violation Yes/No	Likely Source
Nitrate	0.69 - 1.99 ppm	1.99 ppm	10 ppm	10 ppm	8/7/2007	No	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, erosion of natural deposits
Barium	0.03 – 0.056 ppm	0.056 ppm	2 ppm	2 ppm	8/7/2006	No	Discharge from drilling wastes & metal refineries, erosion of natural deposits
Chromium	0.0017 ppm	0.0017 ppm	0.1 ppm	0.1 ppm	8/7/2006	No	Discharge from pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	9.27 - 51.0 ppm	51.0 ppm	none	none	8/7/2006	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Sulfate	8.06 - 13.0 ppm	13.0 ppm	none	none	8/7/2006	No	Natural sources
Gross Alpha Activity	0.14 - 0.40 pCi/L	0.40 pCi/L	15 pCi/L	0 pCi/L	5/2/2006	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228	0.34 - 0.82 pCi/L	0.82 pCi/L	5 pCi/L	0 pCi/L	5/2/2006	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Contaminant	Level Detected	Action Level	90th Percentile	Sites Sampled	Sites Above Action Level	Violation Yes/No	Sample Date	Likely Source
Copper	0.012 – 0.25 ppm	1.3 ppm	0.17 ppm	20	0	No	9/7/2005	Household plumbing
Lead	<1.0 – 25.0 ppb	15.0 ppb	9.9 ppb	20	2	No	9/7/2005	Household plumbing

Action Level (AL) = The concentration of contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow; **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)** = The level of 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 contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology; **n/a** = not applicable; **nd** = not detectable at testing limit; **ppb** = parts per billion (1 drop in 10,000 gallons); **ppm** = parts per million (1 drop in 10 gallons); **pCi/L** = picocuries per liter; **mg/L** = milligrams per liter; **90th percentile** = Nine out of every ten homes sampled were at or below this level.

 **Health Information** ~ In order to insure that tap water is safe to drink, The MassDEP and EPA prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Mass 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. 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. Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. 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 to reduce lead content. Contact EPA's **Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791** for more information about contaminants, potential health effects and EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by 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.

Water Main Flushing ~ To ensure our water quality is at its best our flushing program will continue during 2008. Prior to flushing, notices will be published in the Hometown Section of the Springfield Republican paper and broadcast on MPACT. Updates will appear on our [web page](#) providing the expected daily flushing area. We apologize for any inconvenience 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 ~ There are 3 basic ways to use less water. **1. Change your habits.** By turning off water when not using it will save water and save you money. Water left on when brushing teeth needlessly waste 4 to 6 gallons of water every time you brush. When washing dishes wait until you have a full load. When doing laundry use the load selector to match the water level to the load size, or do only full loads. **2. Repair leaks.** Small drips can waste up to 100 gallons of water a day, repair leaky faucets, pipes, showerheads, plumbing fixtures and especially toilets to avoid high water bills and wasted water. **3. Install water-saving devices.** If you haven't already done so, update your toilet to a modern unit which use 1/3 of the water an older toilet uses. If replacing your clothes washing machine consider purchasing a new water efficient front loading model. **Outdoor tips:** Established lawns and most plants require only an inch of water a week and do not need to be watered every other day, or on a fixed schedule. Please only water when needed (grass does not move back when stepped on) and 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. Visit our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page on the Town's Web-Site at www.monson-ma.gov for more conservation tips.

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