The Town of Falmouth is committed to providing its residents with drinking water of the highest quality possible and we constantly strive to improve all facets of our water system. Our goal is to ensure that we will have ample water supplies in the future that are contaminant-free. Although we currently comply with federal and state standards for drinking water quality, please review this report carefully; it is intended to increase public awareness of water issues and contains important information about our water system.

Public participation and support are necessary to plan for our long-term needs. Major water issues are usually presented at regular weekly meetings of the Board of Selectmen as well as Town Meeting. We encourage you to get involved.

**Overview**

Municipal water systems face many challenges such as meeting seasonal water demands, finding new supply sources to keep pace with growth, resource protection, water conservation, environmental protection and ever more stringent regulations for improved water quality. Our sustainability, as it relates to water, is dependent upon our ability to stay abreast of these changing conditions and implement plans for the future. Unfortunately, there is no “magic wand” that will make the problems go away; sound planning is therefore crucial. Regardless of our future supply conditions, water conservation and prudent supply management will still be our number one priority to ensure the long-term availability of our water supplies. New regulatory mandates will require that the Town achieve an 80 gallon per capita (per person) per day water consumption. This means we will have to reduce our annual pumping by over 200 million gallons per year. Mandatory restrictions may therefore be the order of the day in our near future. We must work together to reduce the demand on our resources so please observe the following Voluntary Conservation Measures:

1. Water outside only on odd/even days (based on the last digit of house address) and only between the hours of 7:00 pm to 7:00 am.
2. Sweep, don’t wash driveways, patios and sidewalks.
3. Use a pistol-grip type hose nozzle.
4. Restaurants - serve water only when requested (Note: it takes 4 - 5 glasses of water to clean that one glass).

**Water Sources**

**Sources within Falmouth**

Locally, our water comes from a “surface water” source at Long Pond (Source #4096000-01S) and three “groundwater sources” located at Mares Pond (Source #4096000-04G), Fresh Pond (Source #4096000-2G) and Coonamessett Pond (Source #4096000-03S). All sources are treated with Potassium Hydroxide to stabilize the pH as well as Chlorine for disinfection. The Coonamessett well also receives treatment with activated carbon absorption and manganese-greensand filtration followed by disinfection and pH adjustment. The resultant water will be of exceptional quality and contaminant free. The facility may become operational as soon as the end of this year.

**Sources outside of Falmouth**

Falmouth also purchases water from the Upper Cape Regional Water Supply Cooperative (UCRWSC Public Water System #4261024). This system presently provides water to Falmouth and Bourne with connections being completed at the present time for Mashpee and Sandwich. The system consists of three groundwater wells #1, #2 and #3 located on the MMR northeast boundaries near the Sandwich town line. Our connection is located on Sandwich Road near the Falmouth gate of the MMR.

Annually, a sanitary survey is completed for the Long Pond Watershed by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). This comprehensive inspection evaluates existing conditions and identifies deficiencies to preserve the quality of the supply. In 2003, DEP completed a report under the Source Water Assessment & Protection program (SWAP) that assesses the susceptibility of our water sources to potential contamination by microbiological pathogens and chemicals. The report commends the Town for its proactive source protection efforts to reduce risks and promote water resource education. All of our water sources are considered highly susceptible (except Mares Pond Well = medium susceptibility) to contamination from a variety of sources such as: fuel spills, fertilizer use, MMR plume migrations and septic systems. Residents can help protect sources by: supporting water source preservation initiatives, properly disposing of hazardous wastes (see collection dates & times at the end of this brochure), maintaining septic systems and limiting pesticide & fertilizer use. The complete SWAP report is available on-line at www.state.ma.us/dep/bpi/dws/ or at the Utilities Division office. For more information contact Raymond Jack at (508) 548-7611 or Mike Quink (DEP) at (508) 946-2766.

**Water Quality Data for community water systems throughout the United States is available at www.waterdata.com. The Town of Falmouth Public Water System Identification Number is 4096000. We’ll be happy to answer any questions about the Town of Falmouth water system and our water quality. Call Raymond A. Jack at 508-548-7611.**
The table shows the results of our year 2002 water-quality analysis. Every regulated contaminant that we detected in the water, even in the most minute traces, is listed here. The table contains the name of each contaminant, the highest level allowed by regulation (MCL), the potential public health effects, and the action levels. Understanding definitions and MCLs are important. The data presented in this report is from the most recent testing done in accordance with regulations.

**Definitions**

- **Maximum Contamination Level or MCL**: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the level of a contaminant that is no known or expected to cause health problems. MCLs are enforceable standards.
- **Maximum Contamination Level Goal or 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 when, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirement that a water system must follow.
- **Turbidity (TT)**: The cloudiness of water. High turbidity means interference with the Disinfection Reaction. Turbidity measures the cloudiness of water. High turbidity means interference with the Disinfection Reaction.

**Key to Table**

- MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level
- MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal
- AL: Action Level
- NTU: Neptunium/Turbidity Units

**Water-Quality Data Table**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTAMINANT</th>
<th>UNIT</th>
<th>MCL</th>
<th>MCLG</th>
<th>DETECTED LEVEL</th>
<th>RANGE</th>
<th>MAJOR SOURCES</th>
<th>VIOLATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nitrate</td>
<td>ppm</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0 - 14</td>
<td>Bacterial from fertilizer use, Leaching from Septic tanks, sewage</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lead</td>
<td>ppb</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.005</td>
<td>Corrosion of household plumbing systems, Emission of natural deposits</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copper</td>
<td>ppm</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.004</td>
<td>Corrosion of household plumbing systems, Emission of natural deposits</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silicon</td>
<td>ppm</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.025</td>
<td>Naturally present in the environment</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turbidity (TT)</td>
<td>NTU</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5.74</td>
<td>Naturally present in the environment</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Coliforms (percentages of monthly samples)</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>&lt;50</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5.74</td>
<td>Naturally present in the environment</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volatile Organic Contaminants</td>
<td>ppb</td>
<td>&lt;10</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>19.3</td>
<td>By-product of drinking water chlorination; By-product of drinking water chlorination; Nitrates from industrial discharge</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vinyl Chloride</td>
<td>ppm</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>By-product of drinking water chlorination</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benzene</td>
<td>ppm</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>By-product of drinking water chlorination</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chloroform</td>
<td>ppm</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.50</td>
<td>By-product of drinking water chlorination</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trihalomethanes</td>
<td>ppm</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.50</td>
<td>By-product of drinking water chlorination</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radiological Contaminants</td>
<td>ppb</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Error of natural deposits</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Unregulated Contaminants</td>
<td>ppm</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>0.067</td>
<td>Fuel additive</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**AN EXPLANATION OF THE WATER-Quality DATA TABLE**

The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirement that a water system must follow.

- **Inorganics**
  - **Chloroform**: By-product of drinking water chlorination.
  - **Benzene**: By-product of drinking water chlorination.
  - **Chloroform**: By-product of drinking water chlorination.
  - **Trihalomethanes**: By-product of drinking water chlorination.
  - **Nitrates**: Bacterial from fertilizer use, Leaching from Septic tanks, sewage. Emission of natural deposits.
  - **Lead**: Corrosion of household plumbing systems, Emission of natural deposits.
  - **Silicon**: Naturally present in the environment.
  - **Turbidity (TT)**: Naturally present in the environment. Turbidity measures the cloudiness of water. High turbidity means interference with the Disinfection Reaction. The presence of turbidity does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about turbidity and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline.

- **Microbiological Contaminants**
  - **Total Coliforms**: Naturally present in the environment. The presence of coliforms does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about coliforms and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline.

- **Volatile Organic Contaminants**
  - **Vinyl Chloride**: By-product of drinking water chlorination.
  - **Benzene**: By-product of drinking water chlorination.
  - **Chloroform**: By-product of drinking water chlorination.
  - **Trihalomethanes**: By-product of drinking water chlorination.

- **Radiological Contaminants**
  - **Combustion products (gpm)**: Error of natural deposits.

**EXPLANATION OF VIOLATIONS**

- **Lead**: 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 radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:
  - (A) **Microbial Contaminants**: such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and veterinary hospitals, hospitals, nursing homes, and swimming pools. The action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. 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 abilities. 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 abilities. Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development.
  - (B) **Inorganic Contaminants**: such as those resulting from urban storm runoff, industrial discharges from factories and dry cleaners. The action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development.
  - (C) **Pesticides and Herbicides**: which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
  - (D) **Radioactive Contaminants**: which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

- **Cross Connections**: A Cross-Connection occurs whenever a potentially hazardous (drinking water) line is directly or indirectly connected to a non-potable piece of equipment or piping. Examples of non-potable equipment may include fire protection systems, lawn irrigation systems, air conditioning or cooling systems as well as high pressure boilers. The Falmouth Water Department would like you to know that unprotected cross connections can contaminate drinking water in your home and the municipal water mains. Please call if you have any questions.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION BULLETIN - HAZARDOUS HOUSEHOLD WASTE DISPOSAL**

The proper disposal of hazardous household waste is important to keep our water supplies and environment contaminant free. Many items may be disposed of for FREE on the following dates: Bourne High School, July 17th, Mashpee High School, August 21st, Sandwich High School, September 18th, Falmouth High School, June 19th & October 16th. The centers are open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Please call the Falmouth Board of Health at (508) 546-7661 ext. 254 or the Barnstable County Hazardous Materials Hotline at (800) 319-2783 for additional information. DO NOT call the water department.