OVERVIEW

Our water system faces 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.

The Town is subject to substantial fines for failure to meet water quality 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.

WATER SOURCES

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.

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.

We are committed to conserving our water supplies and complying with Massachusetts water regulatory requirements governing the operation of water systems. Despite recent rainfalls, Voluntary Conservation Measures are necessary and have been implemented to achieve the two goals of regulatory compliance and water conservation. The Town is subject to substantial fines for failure to comply. The Town has therefore implemented the following Voluntary Conservation Measures:

1. Mowing of lawns and shrubs is limited to odd/even days only (based on house address) between the hours of 7:30 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.
2. Washing of sidewalks, patios and driveways is prohibited (excluding businesses for safety/health reasons).
3. Pistol-grip nozzles are required for all hoses used for washing cars and all hoses at dockside facilities.
4. Restaurants may only serve water when requested by patrons.

A conscientious effort on everyone's part is necessary for these conservative measures to have a positive effect. Your efforts are most appreciated, as we must all work together to preserve this most valuable resource for generations to come.

Institutional efforts to conserve water in Falmouth are ongoing. The Town perceived the need to assess our institutional water needs and was able to reduce water use by 15% with no negative impact on customer service. This 15% reduction was achieved by re-engineering practices and behavior.

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WATER SOURCES

SOURCES WITHIN FALMOUTH

Locally, our water comes from a "surface water" source at Long Pond (Source # 4096000-01S) and four "groundwater sources" located at Crooked Pond (Source #4096000-05G), Mares Pond (Source # 4096000-04G), Fresh Pond (Source # 4096000-02G) and Connamessett Pond (Source # 4096000-03G). All sources are treated with either Potassium Hydroxide or Sodium Hydroxide to stabilize the pH as well as either Chlorine or Sodium Hypochlorite for disinfection.

Source #4096000-01S is a surface water source located at Long Pond on the MMR northeastern boundaries near the Sandwich town line. Our connection is located on Sandwich Road near the Falmouth gate of the MMR. It is at this facility that the purchased water is disinfected and the pH adjusted to the standards of the Falmouth sources.

SOURCES OUTSIDE OF FALMOUTH

Falmouth also purchases water from the Upper Cape Regional Water Supply Cooperative (UCRWSC Public Water System # 42B1024). This system presently provides water to Falmouth, Bourne, Mashpee and Sandwich. The system consists of three groundwater wells #1, #2 and #3 located on the MMR northeastern boundaries near the Sandwich town line. Our connection is located on Sandwich Road near the Falmouth gate of the MMR. It is at this facility that the purchased water is disinfected and the pH adjusted to the standards of the Falmouth sources.

EMERGENCY INTERCONNECTIONS

Falmouth has emergency interconnections with both Mashpee and Bourne. These connections were constructed as an alternate, emergency supply in the event of a catastrophic failure in one of the connected systems. There were no interconnection events in 2010.

We constructed a highly advanced water treatment facility in 2005 that can treat 2.5 MGD of water from the Crooked Pond Well and the Connamessett Well. The treatment methods are passive in nature and include air-stripping, activated carbon adsorption and manganese-greensand filtration followed by disinfection and pH adjustment. The resultant water is of exceptional quality and contaminant free. The facility has proven to be a valuable asset to meet the water demands of Falmouth.

As their names imply, all sources are located adjacent to the ponds they are named after.

2010 Annual Water Quality Report

Town of Falmouth Water Department

Town of Falmouth 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 William R. Chapman at (508) 457-2543 or the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection at (508) 946-2766.

Call William R. Chapman at (508) 457-2543.
AN EXPLANATION OF THE WATER QUALITY DATA TABLE

The table shows the results of our year 2010 water-quality analyses. Every regulated contaminant that we detected in the water, even in the most minute traces, is listed here. In total, over 1,780 samples were taken throughout 2010. The table contains the name of each contaminant, the level at which the highest contamination was found, the date in which the sample was collected, the treatment technique (TT) of the sample, and the concentration of the contaminant in the sample.

DEFINITIONS

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)
The highest level of a contaminant that the EPA believes can be safely allowed in drinking water. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)
The highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible by considering the health effects and the costs of controlling the contaminant.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)
The highest level of a disinfectant residual allowed in drinking water to ensure that the water is safe to drink. Violations of MRDLs are not subject to enforcement.

Permissible Contaminant
A contaminant that is not subject to enforcement by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Violation
A contaminant that is subject to enforcement by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Turbidity (TT)
The level of a contaminant in the water. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness or haziness of water and is often caused by the presence of colloidal or suspended matter in water, such as silt, clay, or organic material.

A The level of a contaminant in the water. A is often caused by the addition of a disinfectant to control microbial contaminants.

B Naturally present in the environment. B contaminant is not caused by human activity.

C Produced by industrial processes. C contaminants are produced by human activity, such as industrial processes or sewage treatment.

D Natural occurrence or be the result of oil and gas production and transportation.

E By-product of drinking water chlorination.

F By-product of mining or fuel/oil production.

G Discharge from factories/drycleaners.

H Cross connections.

I Disinfection by-products. I contaminants are formed during the disinfection process.

J Whirlpool systems.

K Natural occurrence or be the result of urban stormwater runoff.

L Natural occurrence or be the result of oil and gas production and transportation.

M Natural occurrence or be the result of oil and gas production and transportation.

N Denotes "unregulated" contaminants for which EPA has not yet established standards. Monitoring is for the purpose of assiting EPA in determining their occurrence in drinking water and whether they may be subject to regulation.

Public Information Bulletin

The proper disposal of hazardous household products is important to keep our water supplies and environment clean. You may call the Falmouth Board of Health at (508) 495-7485 or the Barnstable County Hazardous Materials Hotline at (800) 319-2783 for additional information. DO NOT call the water department.

Required Additional Health Information

A Radioactive contaminants - which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and transportation. All reservoirs and some ground water sources contain numerous microorganisms some of which can cause people to be sick. To eliminate disease carrying organisms it is necessary to disinfect the drinking water. Disinfection does not sterilize the water, but it does destroy harmful organisms. Sterilization kills all microorganisms, even though most are not harmful, and is too costly to use on a routine basis. The addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants. Disinfection with chlorine has been proven to be effective against a wide variety of harmful organisms. Sterilization kills all microorganisms, and may provide a more effective method of disinfection for water distribution systems.

B The Water Department would like you to understand that unproven contaminated drinking water in your home and the municipal water mains. Please call if you have any questions.