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Seekonk Water District
50 Water Lane
P.O. Box 97
Seekonk, MA 02771

2024
CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2023

WATER COMMISSIONERS

Joseph Chauvin, Chairman
Dawn Dyer, Vice Chairman
Guy Larrimer, Secretary

SUPERINTENDENT

Donald L. Cooper

TREASURER

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Seekonk Water District
P.O. Box 97
50 Water Lane
Seekonk, MA 02771
(508) 761-8170
PWS ID# 4265000

The Board of Water Commissioners holds meetings at the Water District Office, 50 Water Lane, normally on the third Tuesday of each month at 4:00 p.m., and as needed. Meeting schedules are posted with the Town Clerk and on our website at SeekonkWaterDistrict.com

WATER QUALITY STANDARDS
IS YOUR WATER SAFE?
YES!

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This is the annual publication of the District's "Consumer Confidence Report". This report is mandated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). It is intended to inform you, the consumer, about the quality of your drinking water.

If you have any questions pertaining to this information, please direct all inquiries to the Water District Superintendent at **508-761-8170**.

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE

The drinking water supplied by the Seekonk Water District meets or exceeds all regulated standards. Seekonk's water is constantly monitored for quality. The system is maintained to the highest industry standards to ensure that a safe and reliable water supply is provided.

SEEKONK'S DRINKING WATER SUPPLY

Seekonk's water system includes the Water Treatment Facility on Water Lane, three water storage tanks totaling over 4 million gallons, 928 fire hydrants, and 117.5 miles of water main. The Seekonk Water District (SWD) also has emergency interconnections with Pawtucket, RI, and Attleboro, MA.

All seven groundwater sources, which include five gravel packed wells in the Newman wellfield, a gravel packed well on Tower Road, and a tubular wellfield on Brown Avenue, are piped to the Water Treatment Facility. The incoming water is injected with potassium permanganate to oxidize iron and manganese, and the pH is raised by the addition of sodium hydroxide for corrosion control. Raw water is also disinfected with sodium hypochlorite and then filtered through a network of submerged membranes. Sodium fluoride is added to the filtered water to promote strong teeth before being distributed to the storage tanks and customers.

The SWD provides drinking water and fire protection to over 14,000 people and more than 200 businesses in town. The SWD draws all of its water from a single underground aquifer through seven wells located on the northwest side of town, within the Ten Mile River Watershed. The entire town depends on this single aquifer therefore source water protection is a very high priority for all.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT AND PROTECTION

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MADEP) completed a Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) Program Report for the Seekonk Water District (SWD) in June 2004. SWAP, which was established under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, requires every state to:

(1) Inventory land uses within the recharge areas of all public water supply sources
(2) Assess the susceptibility of drinking water sources to contamination from these land uses
(3) Publicize the results to provide support for improved protection.

The Seekonk Water District was assigned a susceptibility ranking of high based on MADEP's assessment of potential pollutant sources within our aquifer's recharge area. These threats include a variety of land uses such as:

- Pesticide and herbicide application and storage
- Transportation corridors, including local roads and highways
- Septic systems and cesspools

The SWAP report is available at the Seekonk Water District, 50 Water Lane, Seekonk, MA, and online at www.mass.gov/dep/water/drinking/swapreps.htm

Having clean water is of primary importance for our health and economy. All of us benefit from clean water, and all of us have a role in keeping our drinking water supply clean. It is up to all of us to make it happen.

ANNUAL NOTIFICATION OF THE SWD DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL PROGRAM

Under 310 CMR 22.22 (3) (o), a Public Water Supplier (PWS) is responsible for annually notifying consumers of water and local public officials of the requirements of the distribution system cross connection control program. The SWD's purpose in establishing a comprehensive distribution protection program is to prevent the contamination of drinking water to the last free flowing outlet or consumer's tap. Please visit www.seekonkwaterdistrict.com for more information on the District's cross connection control program.

WATER QUALITY TESTING

Listed below are the contaminants detected in Seekonk's drinking water in 2023. Not listed are numerous other contaminants for which we tested but did not detect. The results of all water analyses are available for review at the Seekonk Water District office. **The word "contaminant" does not necessarily mean the water is contaminated BUT rather it contains this substance.** Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this report is from testing performed from January 1st through December 31st of 2023.

Regulated Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	MCL (MRDL)	MCLG (MRDLG)	Amount Detected	Range (Low-High)	SDWA Violation	Typical Source
Chlorine (ppm)	(4)	(4)	0.31	0.05 – 0.94	No	Water additive used to control microbes.
Total Coliform Bacteria	TT / No more than 1 positive sample per month	0	2	0 – 2	TT / No	Naturally present in the environment.
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.75	0.48 – 0.75	No	Water additive which promotes strong teeth. Erosion of natural deposits. Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum.
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	1.20	NA	No	Runoff from fertilizer use. Leaching from septic systems.
Total PFAS (ppt) (Per-and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances)	20	NA	11.34Ψ	10.0 – 12.5	No	Discharges and emissions from industrial and manufacturing sources associated with the production or use of these PFAS, including production of moisture and oil resistant coatings on fabrics and other materials. Additional sources include the use and disposal of products containing these PFAS, e.g., fire fighting foam.
Radium 226 & Radium 228 (pCi/L)	5	0	Testing not required in 2023		NA	Erosion of Natural Deposits.
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	15	0	Testing not required in 2023		NA	Erosion of Natural Deposits.
HAA5 [Haloacetic Acids] (ppb)	60	NA	9.7	2.1 – 14.5	No	By-products of drinking water disinfection.
TTHMS [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	80	NA	38.4	20.4 – 43.8	No	By-products of drinking water disinfection.

Ψ High quarterly average.

Contaminant (units)	Action Level	MCLG	Amount Detected (90th percentile)	Homes Above Action Level	Violation	Typical Source
Copper (ppm) ⸸	1.3	1.3	0.205	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems. Erosion of natural deposits. Leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead (ppb) ⸸	15	0	1.7	1	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems. Erosion of natural deposits.

⸸ Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper from 30 homes throughout the service area in 2021.

Unregulated Substances

Contaminant (units)	Reported Level	Range		Year Sampled	OSRG	Typical Source
Sodium** (ppm)	47.1	NA		2022	20	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from road de-icing operations.
Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS) (ppt) Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA) (ppt) N-methylperfluorooctanesulfonamidoacetic acid[NMeFOSAA] (ppt) N-ethylperfluorooctanesulfonamidoacetic acid (NEtFOSSA) (ppt)	2.41 2.45 1.89 0.22	2.22 - 2.54 2.27 - 2.80 1.72 - 2.03 ND - 0.867		2023 2023 2023 2023	♠ ♠ ♠ ♠	Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

**Sodium is a naturally occurring common element found in soil and water. It is necessary for the normal functioning of regulating fluids in human bodies. Some people however have difficulty regulating fluid volume as a result of several diseases, including congestive heart failure and hypertension. The Massachusetts Office of Research and Standard Guideline (ORSG) of 20 mg/l for sodium represents a level in water that physicians and sodium sensitive individuals should be aware of in cases where sodium exposures are being carefully controlled. For additional information, contact your health care provider, your local Board of Health or the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Environmental Health Assessment at 617-624-5757.

♠ There is no OSRG or other health value for these contaminants.

- **TERMS and ABBREVIATIONS:**
- **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. The MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- **Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- **Treatment Techniques (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- **ppm:** A part per million, it is equivalent to 1¢ in $10,000.00 or one inch in 16 miles.
- **ppb:** Parts per billion, it is equivalent to 1¢ in $10,000,000.00 or one inch in 16,000 miles.
- **ppt:** Parts per trillion, it is equivalent to 1¢ in $10,000,000,000.00 or one inch in 16,000,000 miles.
- **pCi/L:** picocuries per Liter, describes the radioactivity emitted per volume of water.
- **NA:** Not applicable
- **ND:** Not detected at testing limit
- **NR:** Not regulated
- **Office of Research and Standard Guideline (OSRG):** This is the concentration of a chemical in drinking water, at or below which adverse, non-cancer health effects are unlikely to occur after chronic (lifetime) exposure. If exceeded, it serves as an indicator or the potential for future action.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- **90th Percentile:** Out of every 10 homes, 9 were at or below this level.
- **Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL):** These standards are developed to protect aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.

WATER QUALITY ISSUES

SUBSTANCES AND TREATMENT

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 collect substances resulting from the presence of animal or human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include the following:

- **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic water discharges, oil and gas production, mining and farming.
- **Pesticides** and **Herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff and residential uses.
- **Organic chemical contaminants**, such as synthetic and volatile organic chemicals that are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, which 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, MADEP and USEPA prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

OTHER SUBSTANCES IN WATER

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 the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects is available from the EPA's "Safe Drinking Water Hotline" by calling toll free: 1-800-426-4791.

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. The Seekonk Water District 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.

POTENTIAL AT-RISK PEOPLE

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 about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/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 (800-426-4791).

Additional information from state and federal water quality regulators may be found at the following web addresses:

MADEP: www.state.ma.us/dep EPA: www.epa.gov/ogwdw

For additional tips on protecting and conserving your drinking water supply, contact any of the following organizations:

Ten-Mile River Watershed Alliance
P.O. Box 823
Attleboro, MA 02703
(617) 624-5757
http://www.tenmileriver.net/

MA Department of Environmental Protection Drinking Water Program S.E. Office
20 Riverside Drive
Lakeville, MA 02347
508-946-2700
http://www.mass.gov/dep

New England Water Works Association
125 Hopping Brook Road
Holliston, MA 01746
508-893-7979
http://www.newwa.org