

# Acton Water District

SUMMER 2015

## Water Words Notice

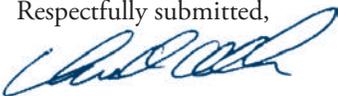
The substantial completion of the South Acton Water Treatment Plant (SAWTP) is our latest improvement for achieving our mission. This state-of-the-art filtration plant employs high tech Pall Corporation, Microza microfiltration membrane filters to remove oxidized minerals from the water prior to entry into the system piping. Together with the startup of the North Acton Treatment Plant in 2009, the District devoted considerable effort, both financial and human resources, to improve the aesthetic qualities of your drinking water while also working to ensure the safest water is delivered to you, our customer. Having highly treated water leaving the treatment plants is not enough if we have ageing water mains and accumulated mineral buildup from many years of pumping unfiltered water. Over the next several months, as sufficient water is available, the District will be flushing water mains to help remove this residual sediment and push the filtered water from South Acton further into our system.

Looking ahead, we anticipate the need for water main improvements to further the benefits of our filtered water. This will likely include a combination of pipe replacements and pipeline cleaning and lining, a process we hope will reduce some of the cost and disruption associated with large scale water main replacements. We appreciate your patience and understanding during this time of positive transition. It is our hope that you are already seeing the benefits of our efforts and as always, your feedback is an important tool in managing our water system.

Having a water system that is both resilient and sustainable is the backbone to our future success. The District has begun planning for our 2016 Water Management Act permit renewal. This permit will guide our future growth potential, drive conservation and efficiency programs, and require the community to look more holistically at our water resources. Our current outdoor water use bylaw provides a balance between essential water use and more discretionary uses, and has been an important component of flattening our water use at a time when water demand had been growing steadily. We believe our program is both flexible and equitable, however, when customers go off schedule, it creates an imbalance to the equity and puts at risk our public health and safety missions. As we prepare for our new permit, strong consideration will be given to greater limits on outdoor water use and we hope that our customers will continue to assist in balancing personal choice with the greater good.

For those of you that have not been to our website, [www.actonwater.com](http://www.actonwater.com), we recently gave it a facelift, and enhanced the offerings to provide more information. It is also a resource for disseminating urgent updates and emergency information. There is an online bill pay option that can be linked through our website. It is managed by a third party vendor, and there are fees for these activities of which you should be aware. We are examining options for online bill presentment and payment, for those that prefer paperless options. If you've not been to the website lately, please check it out.

Respectfully submitted,



Chris Allen, District Manager



**The South Acton Water Treatment Plant, although substantially complete (top), is awaiting final certification from MassDEP. It has been operating into our distribution system since May 12, 2015 (middle). The filtration equipment (bottom) was tested for a month before producing water for our customers.**

## Water Use Restrictions

Our seasonal water use restrictions are in effect from May 1 to October 1 of each year. These restrictions allow customers with even-numbered addresses to use water outdoors on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Odd-numbered addresses may use water outdoors on Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday. No lawn watering is allowed between the hours of 7am and 7pm, and no outdoor water use of any kind is allowed on Mondays. These restrictions apply to both new and established lawns. We encourage homeowners to plant new grass either early in the spring or in October. The outdoor water use restriction applies not only to automatic and manual irrigation, but also, to *any* outdoor water use. Examples include filling or topping off pools, car washing, power washing, and recreation.

## Community Water Fluoridation

The Acton Water District is lowering the amount of fluoride added to the water it supplies in accordance with a new recommendation from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). On April 27, 2015, the CDC released a recommendation that water suppliers reduce their fluoride dosage to 0.7 milligrams per liter (mg/l) from a range between 0.7 mg/l and 1.2 mg/l. According to the CDC, the dose is being lowered because Americans now receive fluoride from a variety of sources, other than just water, and the dental benefits can be achieved with a lower dose in water. Our State regulatory agencies urged us to implement the new recommendations as soon as practicable.

The District has been adding fluoride to the water since 1970 to reduce tooth decay and promote community public health. Like other water suppliers that optimize fluoride dose, we follow the recommendations of the CDC, as well as the World Health Organization and the American Dental Association. These are the public health experts and we look to them for guidance on this important issue. We have also worked in consultation with the Acton Board of Health (BOH) to understand and implement these new recommendations. The BOH voted to approve this recommendation locally at their June 8th meeting. The AWD has adopted the new recommendation at its five treatment facilities, which service approximately 95% of Acton.



**The fluoride saturator and associated pumping equipment is checked daily to ensure proper operation. Operators also test the fluoride level and make adjustments as needed during these daily inspections.**

In 1999, CDC published a report, “Ten Great Public Health Achievements—United States 1900–1999,” that listed fluoridation of public water supplies to reduce dental cavities as one of the leading public health achievements of the last century. This recent change in guidance reflects the important public health benefit community water fluoridation has, while factoring in the increased presence of fluoride in other products we use and consume.

More information can be found at:

- <http://www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/pdf/statement-cwvf.pdf>
- <http://www.bhs.gov/news/press/2015pres/04/20150427a.html>

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## Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring

In accordance with provisions in the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), public water suppliers are required to monitor for up to 30 unregulated contaminants on a five-year cycle. Unregulated contaminants are those that don't yet have a drinking water standard set by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The purpose of monitoring for these contaminants is to help EPA decide whether the contaminants should have a standard. During 2013 and early 2014, the Acton Water District (AWD) monitored for 21 contaminants in its distribution system and at its treatment facilities. These included volatile organic compounds, synthetic organic compounds, metals, oxyhalide anions, and perfluorinated compounds.

Results of the 2014 monitoring are presented in the Water Quality Data Table on page 5. It is interesting to note that this round of UCMR (Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule) monitoring was done with a focus on achieving low-level laboratory detection of the contaminants.

Therefore, some of the results are expressed at the parts-per-billion and parts-per-trillion levels. For perspective, that is equivalent to ½ teaspoon of contaminant in the water in an Olympic-size swimming pool, or one drop in the water in 26 Olympic-size swimming pools, respectively! More information on the UCMR program and the specific contaminants can be found at <http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/rulesregs/sdwa/ucmr/data.cfm#ucmr2013>.

### **For more information, additional copies, or comments on this report, contact:**

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# Report on Water Quality

SUMMER 2015 PWS 2002000

## Acton Water District

### Testing for Your Drinking Water

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations that limit the amounts of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. In 2014, as in years past, water supplied by the Acton Water District (AWD) met EPA, state, and our own local drinking water health standards for chemicals regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is a snapshot of water quality in 2014. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, how it is treated and distributed, and how it compares to standards set by the EPA.

The AWD vigilantly safeguards your water supplies by employing multiple barriers for protection, including source water protection, distribution system protection, ongoing monitoring, and treatment. Last year, we collected more than 650 samples and tested them for more than 100 different potential drinking water contaminants.

### The Source of Your Drinking Water

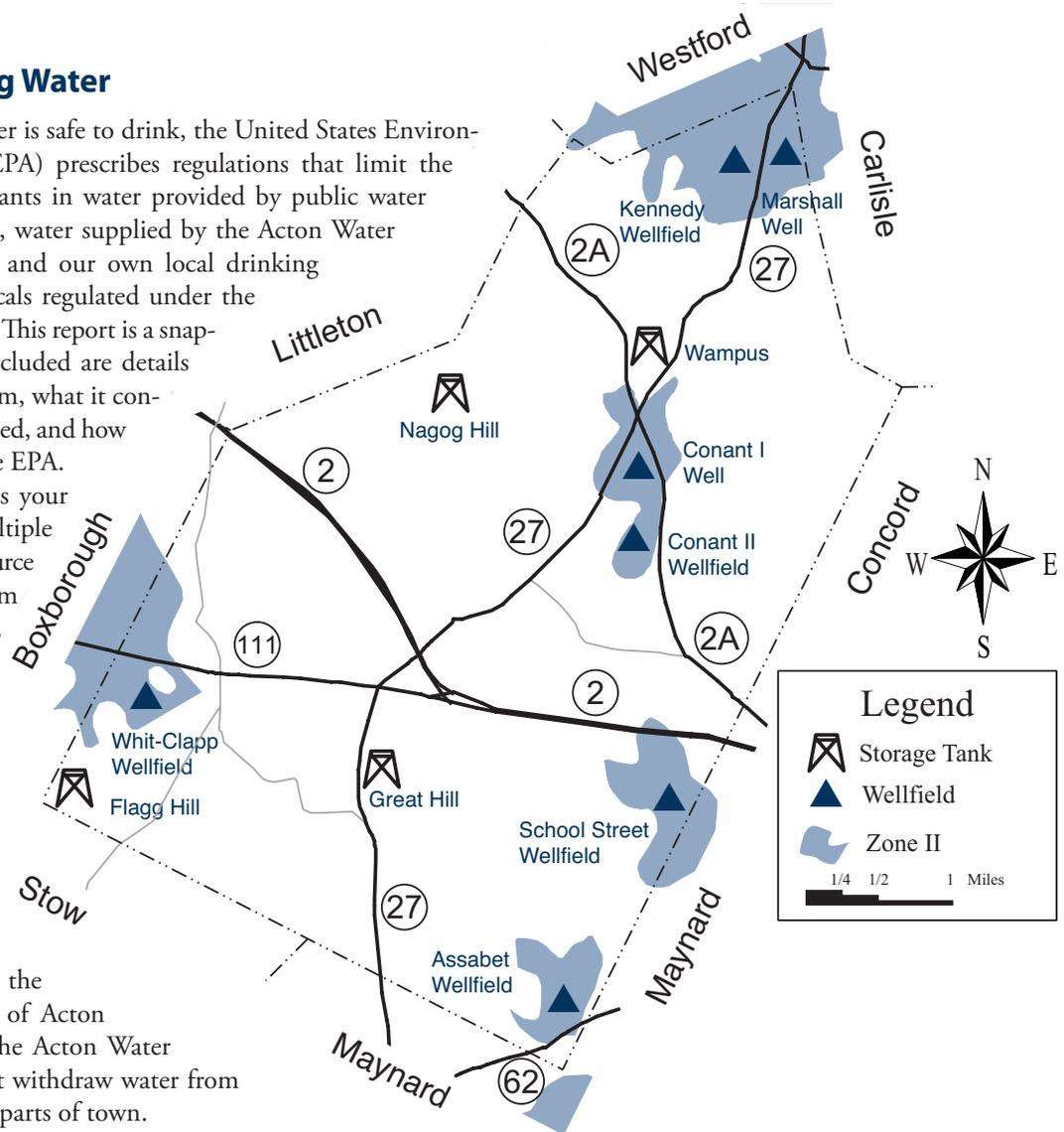
Your water comes from wells that tap the water held in the ground beneath the town of Acton and neighboring communities. The Acton Water District has 22 different wells that withdraw water from seven wellfields located in various parts of town.

Water from each well is pumped to treatment facilities located in each of the various wellfields, and then into the distribution system (a network of approximately 130 miles of water mains, four storage tanks, and more than 1,100 fire hydrants), where it blends together and is delivered to homes, businesses, schools, and other public users. The map on this page shows the various storage tanks, wellfields, and the critical protective radius (called Zone II) around each wellfield.

### Protection for Your Drinking Water

The Acton Water District employs three important “barriers” to maintain the highest possible quality of drinking water:

- A protective area called Zone II surrounds each of Acton’s wells. Land use activities that could adversely affect water quality are restricted within the Zone II area.
- Each of Acton’s wells is treated in order to remove impurities and improve the taste of the water. Water treatment specifics are listed below.
- The system of pipes that delivers water to your home is protected by a program that works to minimize “cross connections” between potable (intended for human consumption) and non-potable water. An example of a cross connection is a point where a drinking water pipe might connect to a fire suppression system or to an outside irrigation system.



# Water Quality Data Table

The data presented in the table below are from calendar year 2014 unless otherwise noted. Only compounds that were detected in the water delivered to customers are reported in this table. Because water from all wellfields is blended within the distribution system, these data represent the range of water quality in all wellfields.

Substance (units)	Range of Detects	Level Allowed (MCL)	Goal (MCLG)	Typical Source	Exceeds MCL?
<b>Regulated Substances (MCL has been established)</b>					
Total Coliform	0–8 positive samples	<2 samples positive/month	0	Naturally present in the environment	Yes
Trihalomethanes (ppb)	2.8–65	80	No MCLG	Formed when natural organic material present in the water reacts with chlorine added as a disinfectant	No
Haloacetic Acid (ppb)	0–4.9	60	No MCLG	Formed when natural organic material present in the water reacts with chlorine added as a disinfectant	No
Nitrate (ppm)	0–3.5	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits	No
Fluoride (ppm)	0–1.3	4	4	Water additive which promotes strong teeth	No
Perchlorate (ppb)	0.05–0.58	2	No MCLG	Rocket propellant, fireworks, munitions, flares, blasting agent	No
Turbidity (Nephelometric Turbidity Unit)	0.01–0.25	Maximum Day 1 NTU	95% of samples <0.3 NTU Monthly	A measure of the cloudiness of water. It is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our treatment processes.	No
Chlorine (ppm)	0.01–0.37 0.09: highest running annual average	4 (MRDL)	4 (MRDLG)	Water additive used to control microbes	No
<b>Unregulated Substances (MCL has not been established)</b>					
Iron (ppm)	0–0.55	No MCL	No MCLG	Erosion of natural deposits	Unregulated contaminants have no established MCL
Manganese (ppb)	0–390	No MCL	No MCLG	Erosion of natural deposits	
Sodium (ppm)	29.7–69.5	No MCL	No MCLG	Erosion of natural deposits, road salting	
Chloroform (ppb)	0–11	No MCL	No MCLG	Formed when natural organic material present in the water reacts with chlorine added as a disinfectant	
Chlorodibromomethane (ppb)	0–5.04	No MCL	No MCLG	Formed when natural organic material present in the water reacts with chlorine added as a disinfectant	
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	0–9.3	No MCL	No MCLG	Formed when natural organic material present in the water reacts with chlorine added as a disinfectant	
Bromoform (ppb)	0–2	No MCL	No MCLG	Formed when natural organic material present in the water reacts with chlorine added as a disinfectant	
<b>UCMR3 Results—February 2014 (except for 1,4-dioxane)</b>					
Substance (units)	Range of Detects	Average		Typical Source	
1,4-dioxane (ppb)	0.24–0.275	0.259		Chemical solvent, lab reagent, stabilizer, adhesive, may be found in cosmetics, detergents, and shampoo.	
Chlorate (ppb)	48–84	66		Byproduct of drinking water disinfection	
Chromium (ppb)	0–0.6	0.6		Erosion of natural deposits	
Chromium-6 (ppb)	0.091–0.6	0.23		Erosion of natural deposits. Byproduct of industrial activities.	
Strontium (ppb)	150–250	205		Erosion of natural deposits.	
<b>Lead and Copper (30 sites sampled during August/September, 2013. Next sampling during Summer, 2016)</b>					
Substance (units)	90th percentile	# sites above Action Level	Action Level	Typical Source	Exceeds AL?
Lead (ppb)	0.01	1	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	No
Copper (ppm)	1.1	3	1.3	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching; Corrosion of household plumbing systems; from wood preservatives	No

For terms and abbreviations, see page 5.

## Why Are Impurities in Your Drinking Water?

As water travels through the ground it dissolves naturally occurring minerals. It can also pick up substances resulting from animal or human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- **microbiological** contaminants (such as viruses and bacteria) that may come from septic systems, agriculture, and wildlife
- **inorganic** contaminants (such as salts and metals) that may be naturally occurring or result from stormwater runoff, wastewater discharge, mining, or farming
- **pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources, such as agriculture, stormwater runoff, and residential uses
- **organic chemical** contaminants, which are byproducts of industrial processes, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems
- **radioactive** contaminants, which can occur naturally or be the result of oil and gas production or mining activities

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some impurities. The presence of an impurity does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The Acton Water District has compiled information on drinking water and health in its drinking water resource center. Please feel free to visit or call us for information, or call the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

## Treatment for Your Water

To meet local, state, and federal requirements, and to improve taste and appearance, the Acton Water District treats all of its water before it is supplied to customers. The table below shows the treatment provided at each wellfield.

Treatment	Conant I Well	Conant II Wellfield	Marshall Wellfield	School Street Wellfield	Assabet Wellfield	Kennedy Wellfield	Clapp/Whitcomb Wellfield
Aeration <i>VOC removal</i>		•	•	•	•	•	•
Chlorination <i>disinfection</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Fluoridation <i>tooth decay prevention</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
pH Adjustment <i>corrosion control</i>	•		•			•	
Carbon Filtration <i>taste/color control</i>							•
Membrane Filtration <i>mineral/color removal</i>			•			•	

### TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

**AL** Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

**MCL** Maximum Contaminant Level: 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.

**MCLG** Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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.

**MRDL** Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level: 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.

**MRDLG** Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal: 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.

**pCi/L:** picoCuries per liter

**ppm:** part per million by volume

**ppb:** part per billion by volume

**90th Percentile:** the concentration of a substance that falls at the top 99 percent of all values for that substance.

## Do You Want to Become More Involved?

The Board of Water Commissioners meetings are typically scheduled on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 7:30 pm; all citizens of Acton are welcome to attend. If you wish to attend, please call us to confirm the next meeting date. The Acton Water District Annual Meeting is held on the third Wednesday of March. All interested persons are welcome to attend.

# Discussion of Data Table Detections

**TOTAL COLIFORM:** Coliform bacteria are naturally present in the environment and are generally not harmful themselves. They are tested as indicators of the presence of other, potentially harmful, bacteria that may cause symptoms, including diarrhea, cramps, and nausea, and associated headaches and fatigue. During the months of July, October, and December 2014, more than one of our distribution samples showed the presence of coliform bacteria. More than one sample positive for total coliform is considered a monthly MCL violation for total coliform. During this time, the Acton Water District (AWD) increased the level of chlorination at the sites involved, inspected facilities, conducted immediate resamples, and notified customers of a temporary violation in a notice printed in the *The Beacon* newspaper and posted around town. Following this time period, resamples showed no coliform present, indicating that the problem had been abated.

**GROUNDWATER UNDER THE INFLUENCE:** The AWD is required by Administrative Consent Order (ACO) to notify our customers of the status of the Christofferson Well. This source was deemed to be groundwater under the direct influence of surface water and therefore requiring additional treatment. With the startup of the South Acton Water Treatment Plant, MassDEP issued a letter on April 22, 2015 indicating the ACO was met, with the partial activation approval granted on April 16th, thereby returning the system to compliance.

**CHLORINE RESIDUAL MONITORING:** On the evening of August 7th into the early morning hours of August 8, 2014, the continuous disinfection monitoring system failed at our North Acton Water Treatment Plant. Due to an operator error, the required manual monitoring of chlorine residual during this time period caused us to violate the Surface Water Treatment Rule requirements. Because we monitor chlorine concentrations at two locations in the facility, we are confident that the water being delivered to our customers remained safe and this is only a monitoring and reporting violation, not a public health violation. Had the issue posed a threat to your health, more immediate notification would have occurred. The analyzer was restored during normal working hours on August 8th, 2014.

**SODIUM:** Although sodium does not have a Maximum Contaminant Level, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts does have a guideline of 20 parts per million (ppm) for sensitive individuals, such as those on very salt-restricted diets. The AWD notifies the Acton Board of Health of all sodium results, and results of the most recent sodium tests are posted at various locations in town. Sodium levels in drinking water vary considerably from well to well and month to month.

**LEAD AND COPPER:** 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 AWD 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 (800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

**MANGANESE:** Manganese is a nutrient that is part of a healthful diet. Drinking water may naturally have manganese and, when concentrations are greater than 50 parts per billion (ppb), the water may be discolored and taste bad. Over a lifetime, EPA recommends that people drink water with manganese levels of less than 300 ppb; over the short term, EPA recommends that people limit their consumption of water with levels of more than 1,000 ppb, primarily due to concerns about possible neurological effects. Children up to one year of age should not be given water with manganese concentrations greater than 300 ppb, nor should formula for infants be made with that water for longer than 10 days.

**1,4-DIOXANE:** During 2014 the AWD collected samples for this compound in the raw and treated waters of the Assabet and School Street wells in addition to one sample of treated water in North Acton. This sampling was conducted due to the presence of this compound at the WR Grace Superfund site in South Acton and as part of the UCMR 3 program. 1,4-dioxane is not a regulated contaminant, and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has not established an MCL or approved a laboratory process for analyzing this compound. The AWD is following the potential regulation of this contaminant and the effect it may have on our water system. MassDEP established a new guideline in June 2011 of 0.3 ppb for this compound. The annual average for the samples collected by the AWD did not exceed this guideline in treated water delivered to our customers. EPA is requiring assessment monitoring nationwide between 2013 and 2015 to determine if an MCL or other regulatory action is appropriate.

**VOLUNTARY MONITORING:** In addition to the monitoring required by the Safe Drinking Water Act, the AWD voluntarily conducts hundreds of additional tests each year to ensure high-quality water. For more information on our voluntary monitoring, please contact us.

**VULNERABILITY:** Some people may be particularly vulnerable to impurities in drinking water. 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, and some elderly people and infants can be particularly at risk for infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

## Source Water Assessment and Protection Report Available

The Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) program requires states to assess the susceptibility of public water supplies to potential contamination. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) has completed its assessment on each of the Zone II areas for the Acton Water District's wells. A susceptibility ranking of "high" was assigned to each Zone II using the information compiled by MassDEP. Copies of the SWAP report are available at the Acton Water District office or on the website: [www.ActonWater.com](http://www.ActonWater.com).

The AWD has long recognized the susceptibility of its sources, and has worked closely with the town and state to maximize the protection of all of its Zone IIs. For more information, please call Matthew Mostoller, AWD Environmental Manager, at 978-263-9107.

## Groundwater Protection—Today's Relevance

The Acton Water District has invested almost \$20 million dollars in advanced filtration systems since 2008. We continue to invest in efforts that protect our groundwater resources as well. Despite the technology being available to treat many contaminants, it remains vitally important to the long term viability of our system to protect our groundwater. This can be done through land preservation, storm water management, zoning controls, enhanced wastewater treatment, and oversight of hazardous materials management and cleanup.

An example of this is the introduction of organic material to our groundwater. Although this is not directly regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act, it has an impact on the safety and aesthetic of your drinking water. These dissolved organic materials can be treated to an extent, but keeping them out of our water supply is both less expensive and less chemically and energy intensive. As Benjamin Franklin said "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

One specific area of concern to the District, is the ongoing cleanup of the W.R. Grace and Nuclear Metals Superfund Sites. To be sure that our wells are being protected as best they can, we have retained GeoSphere Environmental Management, of Exeter, NH, to review some of the hydrogeological models developed in the area of our South Acton well fields. This is the same firm that worked with us to review the Groundwater



**The entrance to one of our properties. The District owns over 400 acres of land in Acton.**

Protection District leading up to the November 2014 Special Town Meeting. Additionally, we continue to be active in the review and oversight of these site cleanups. As part of our comments on the W.R. Grace cleanup, we have asked for a review of the Record of Decision, the guiding document for the cleanup of this site. Although we are diligent in pursuing these efforts, our customers have a role to support the programs, local bylaws, and financial investment required to adequately protect our water resources. The District wishes to thank you and our colleagues working for the Town of Acton, for your assistance in this ongoing effort.

## Do you know about Cross Connections?

A cross connection is any actual or potential connection between a distribution pipe of potable water supplied by the public water system and any waste pipe, soil pipe, sewer, drain or other unapproved source. If not properly protected or eliminated, a cross connection can cause health problems and spread disease.

There are two methods by which contamination can enter the drinking water, backpressure and backsiphonage. Backpressure occurs when the pressure in the property exceeds the drinking water pressure. This can be caused by air conditioning units, boiler systems, and other pressure-building devices connected to the drinking water system. Backsiphonage occurs when the drinking water pressure drops off and the resulting vacuum sucks the water from the building. This can be caused routinely by a fire department's use of water due to a fire, water main breaks, and other heavy water demand.



**A hose left in a sink or basin is an example of a common cross connection in a home. Fortunately, this faucet has a vacuum breaker air valve installed to prevent a back flow from occurring.**

Most cross connections are prevented by installing backflow devices. A hose bibb vacuum breaker, sold at any hardware store, prevents the typical garden hose cross connection. Backflow devices come in all different types to protect even the most dangerous liquids from being able to contaminate the drinking water. To our knowledge, there has never been a cross connection incident in Acton, but there have been several in the state of Massachusetts and even more nationally.

Everyone should be aware of, and do their part to prevent drinking from becoming contaminated by, cross connections. By surveying all industrial, commercial, and institutional facilities for cross connections, the Acton Water District ensures that the water supplied—down to the last free-flowing tap in every home and office—is of the highest quality. All residential homes with irrigation systems are required to have backflow protection. Learn more about cross connections by contacting Bob Murch, AWD Cross Connection Coordinator, at 978-263-9107.

# Acton Water



## District

P.O. Box 953  
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*Water Words Notice* is published twice a year for all customers of the Acton Water District

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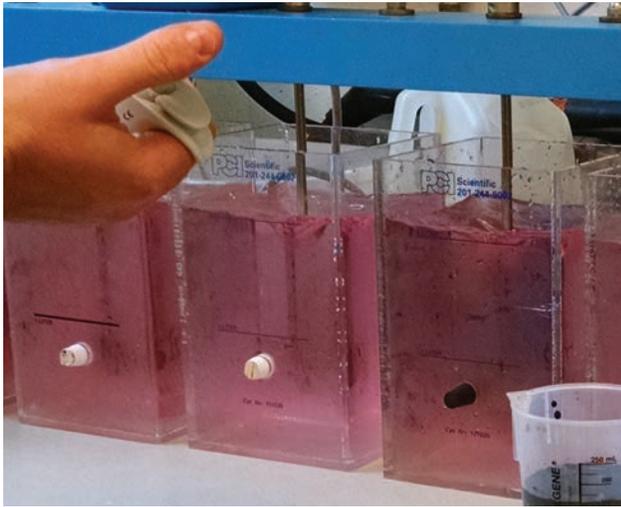
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## What is it?

Please email your answers to [webgeek@ActonWater.com](mailto:webgeek@ActonWater.com). Winners (and the correct answer) will be posted in the next *Water Words Notice*. Customers with a correct answer, as determined by AWD staff, will receive a prize—in addition to the fame of having your name published in this space!

## What was it?

Two customers—David Honn and Mark Freeman—correctly identified the photo as a view inside the casing under the Parker Street rail crossing. Two pipes were installed in this casing to carry raw water to the new South Acton Water treatment plant from our School Street wellfield and to assist with future water main upgrades to our distribution piping. Both customers lived in the project area and were following our progress over the winter months.

