

Massachusetts Water Resources Authority

Presentation to the

New England Intergovernmental Audit Forum Meeting

on

Drinking Water Quality Assurance

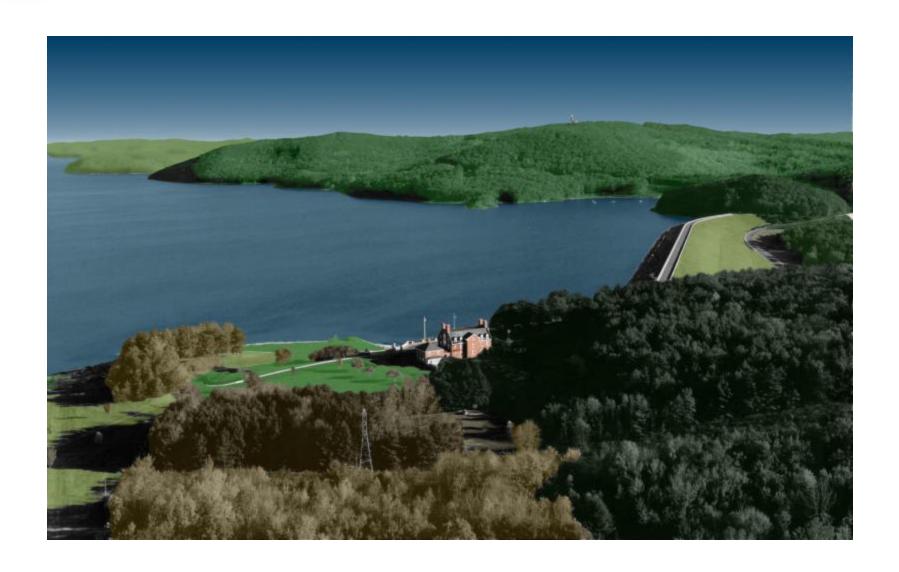
Kennebunkport, Maine November 4, 2016

Stephen Estes-Smargiassi
Director of Planning and Sustainability



Best Known for the "Boston Harbor Cleanup"







And a few years ago for a major pipe break





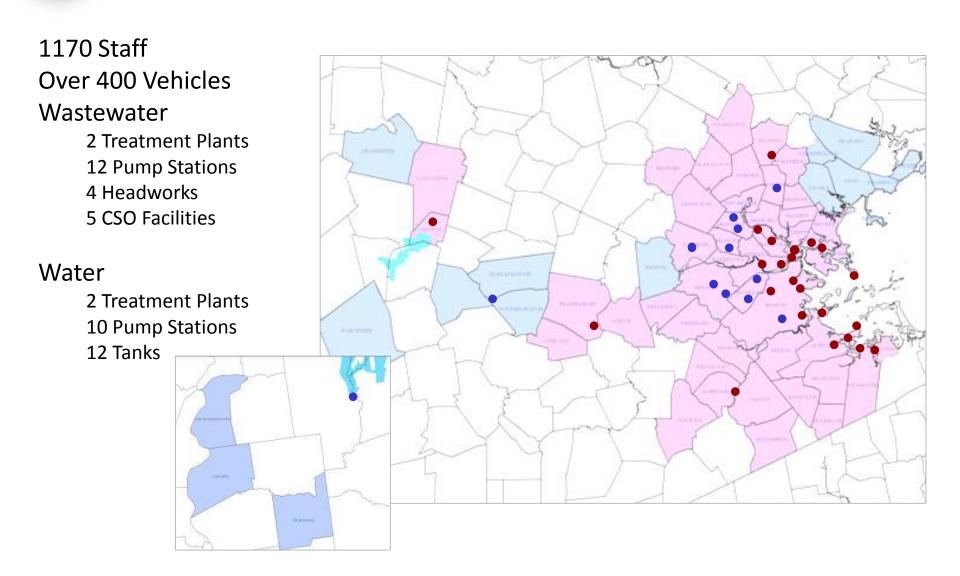
Who Are We?

- MWRA provides wholesale water and wastewater services to over 2.5 million customers in 61 communities
- On average, MWRA delivers about 200 million gallons per day to its water customers
- MWRA collects and treats an average of 350 million gallons of wastewater per day, with a peak capacity of 1.2 billion gallons





Staff and Facilities Across the State



Staff to Management

Daily and event reporting Weekly reports on key indicators and initiatives Monthly "Yellow Notebook" posted to Intranet

Management to Board of Directors

Financial Indicators – Monthly Quarterly "Orange Notebook" with highlights

Agency to Public

Full transparency on web site – "open checkbook"

Full access to Orange Notebook

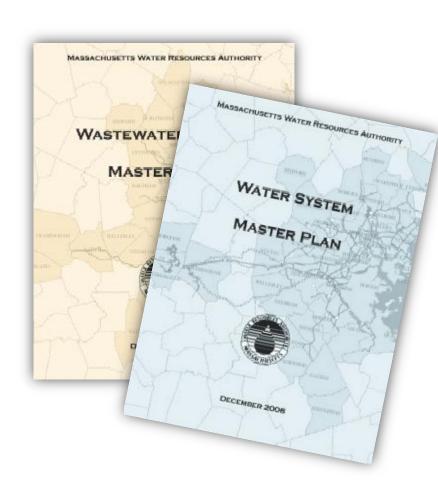
Full access to Board of Directors materials

• **Business Plan** – 5-year horizon, quarterly milestones

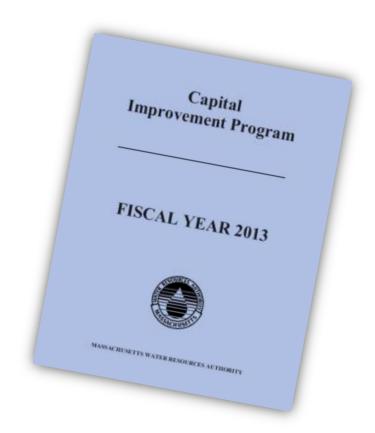


Planning and Performance Measurement Framework

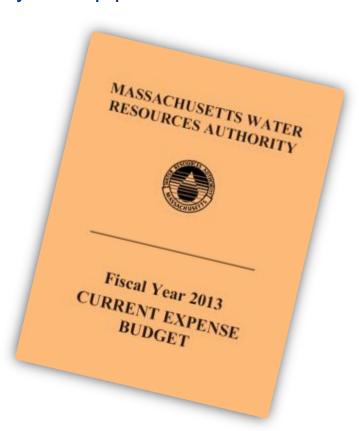
- Business Plan 5-year horizon, quarterly milestones
- Master Plans 20 year horizon



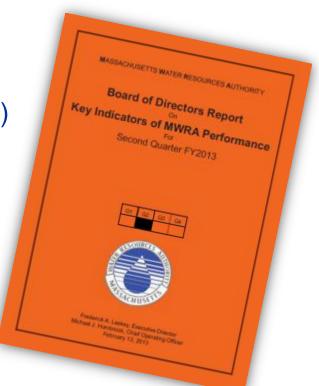
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- Capital Budget Approved Annually, 5-year cap periods



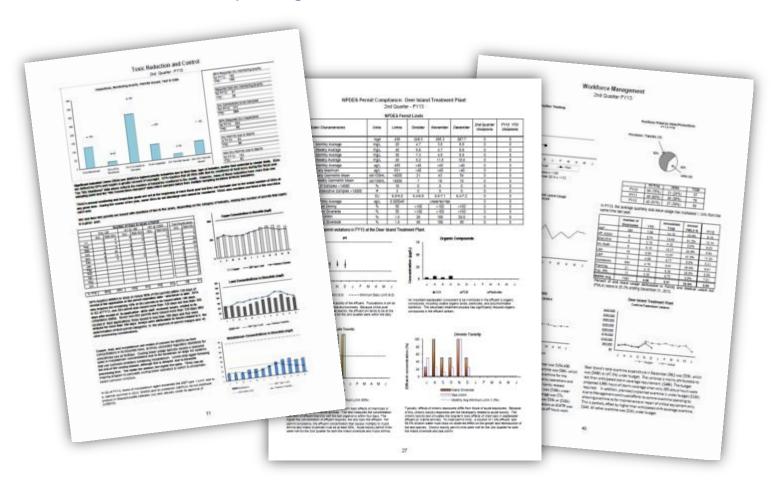
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- Current Expense Budget Annually



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- Current Expense Budget Annually
- Key Indicators of MWRA Performance
 - Monthly Internal (Yellow Notebook)
 - Quarterly External (Orange Notebook)

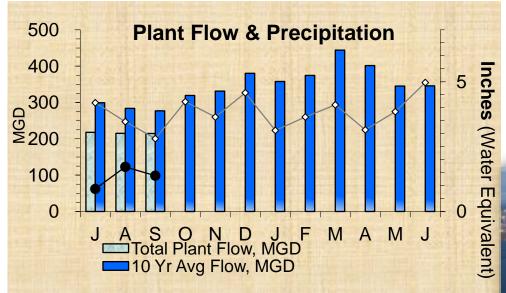


Just about everything!

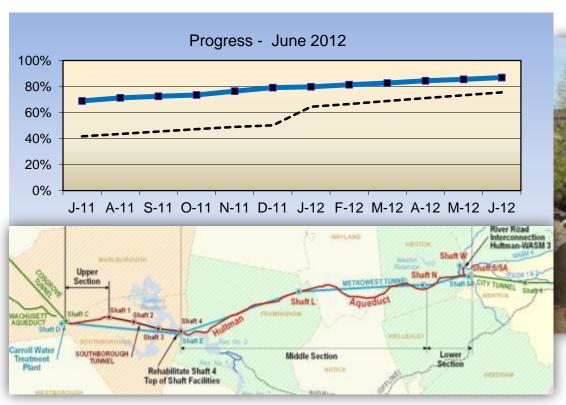




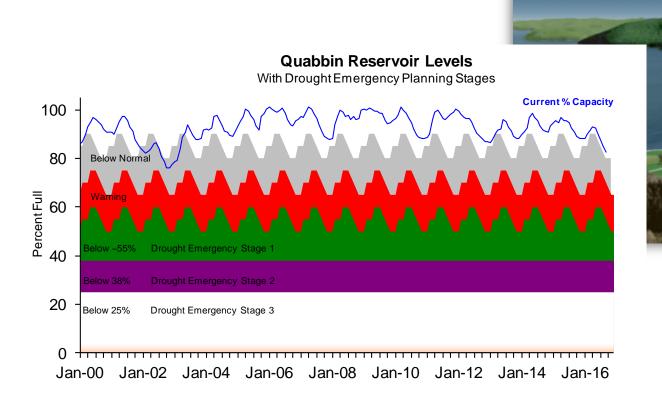
From Flows to Deer Island...

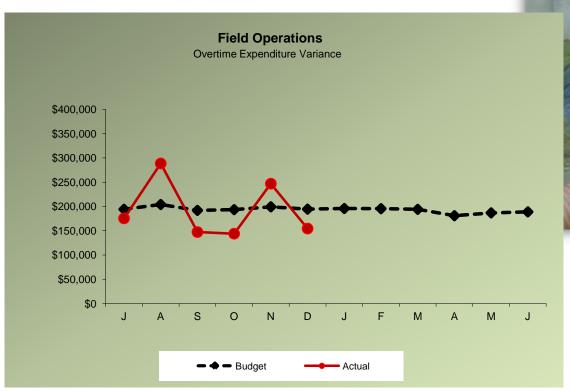








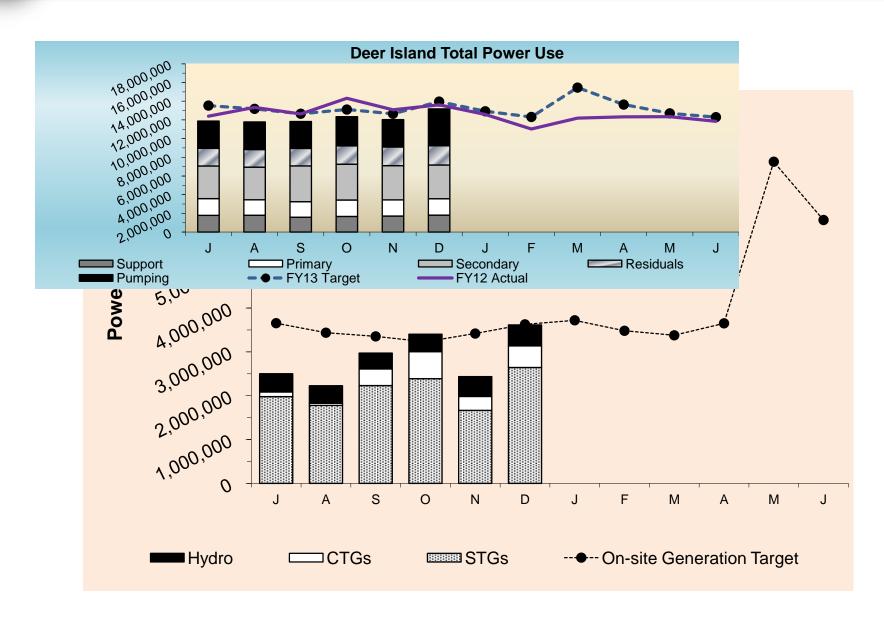






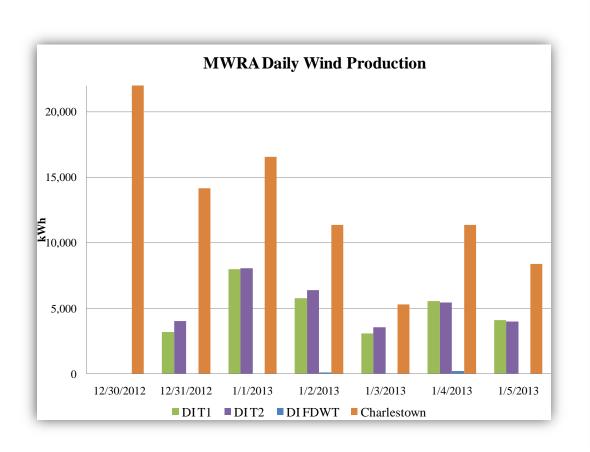


To Making Energy Use a Priority...





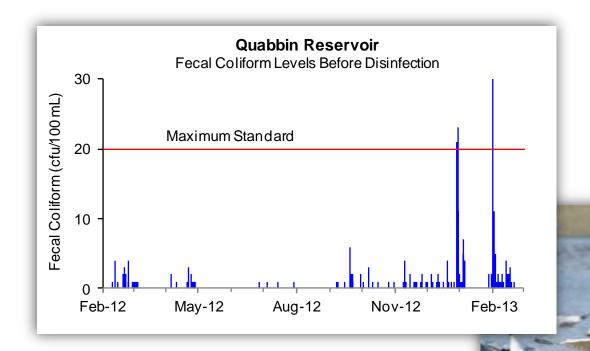
To Making Green Energy Production a Priority...





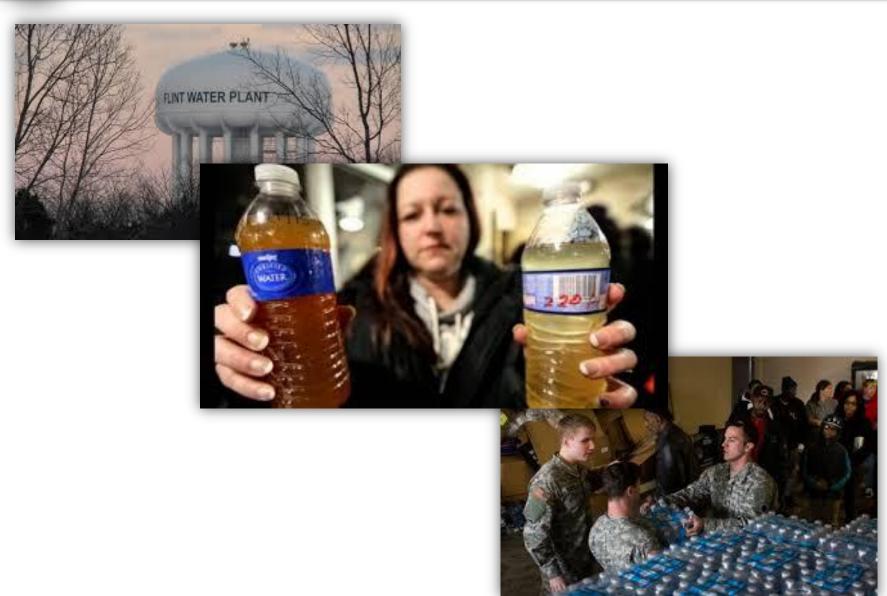


To Tracking Water Quality For Quick Response





What Happened in Flint?!!!





Some Background on the Lead in Water Issue

- Water is the "universal solvent"
- There is no lead in MWRA source water or local water mains.

 Lead can leach from lead service lines, lead solder, brass pipes and fixtures

- Key issues:
 - Lead Service Lines
 - Stagnant Water
- Simple message to public:
 - We treat the water to reduce leaching.
 - You should flush your tap before using.
 - Get the lead out





Indications Of Problems In Flint Went Unheeded



- Public is more sensitive than ever to changes in water quality
- Need to take complaints seriously
 - Respond quickly
 - Provide good customer service
- Maintain customer's confidence in the safety of the water we provide



Children's Blood Lead Levels Rose Measurably



Blood Lead Level Analysis

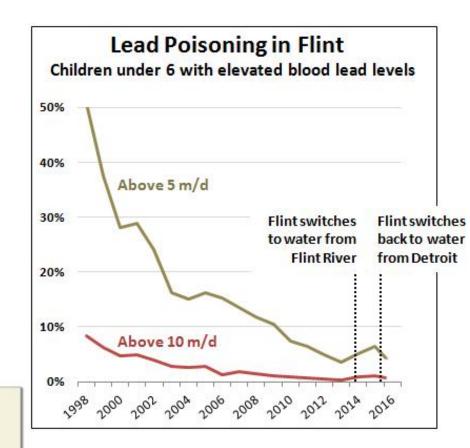
- Large sample size
 - N= 1746 for Flint children (pre n=906, post n=840)
 - N= 1670 for non-Flint children (pre n=943, post n=727)

Flint results for children 5 years and under:

PRE-SWITCH % EBL: 2.1% (consistent with MDHHS data 2.2)

POST-SWITCH % EBL: 4.0%

p < 0.05; STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT CHANGE





It looks bad, what should I do?





 Discolored water was an indicator of the problem, but discolored water alone cannot be used to evaluate.



MWRA Takes Customer Concerns Seriously

Water quality hotline: 617-242-LEAD



- Tracks complaints received from community water departments
 - A minimum of weekly calls to each community
- Provides assistance to communities in resolution of complaints
 - Investigation support
 - Sample collection
 - Chemical/biological analysis
- Consults with regulators and public health officials





Flint Changed Source Water And Treatment



Quabbin Reservoir, above, and Wachusett Reservoir, below, have well protected watersheds and provide high quality water to MWRA treatment facilities



- MWRA has high quality source reservoirs
- Treatment has been stable for years
- Thorough review of any treatment changes
 - Bench and pilot testing
 - Expert panel review
- DEP and EPA involvement in review and approval
- Over 85% Naturally Protected
 - Forests and Wetlands

- In Flint, Regulators -- Misinformed and Misleading
- Gave Very Poor Advice, Mislead Investigators

•

- Our Regulators are Active and Involved
- We work well together and trust each other







Flint Did Not Implement Corrosion Control Treatment

- MWRA corrosion control treatment in place since 1996
- Conducted by well-trained licensed treatment plant operators
- Sodium carbonate and carbon dioxide added to reduce corrosivity and improve stability
- State approved 'Optimum Water Quality Parameters' met consistently

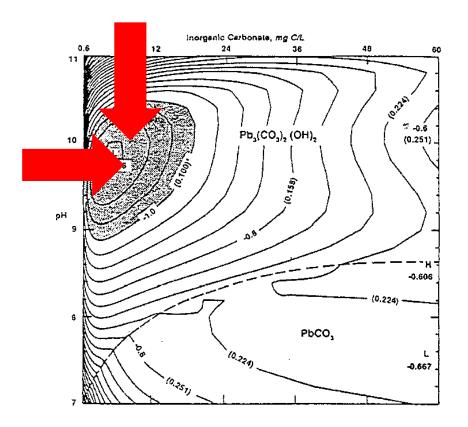




The John J Carroll Water Treatment Plant (center) and Interim Corrosion Control Facility (foreground) provide continuous corrosion control treatment since 1996



MWRA treatment hits the "sweet spot" for solubility



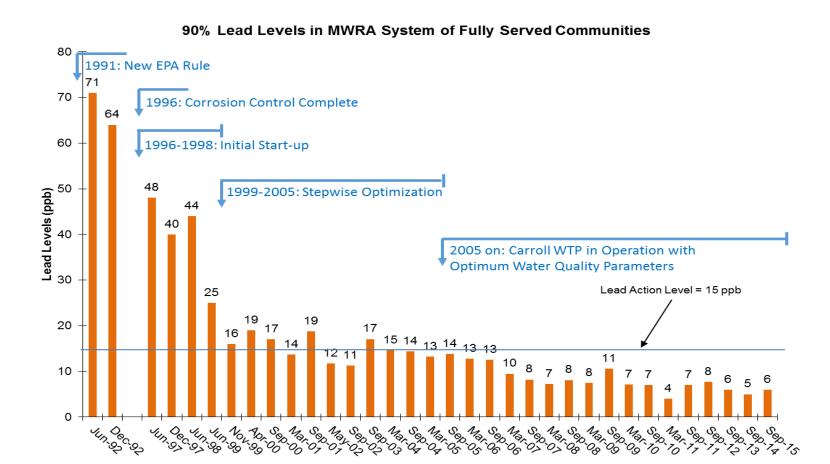
Source: EES 1990

Figure 1.5 Theoretical Pb(II) solubility diagram as a function of pH and DIC in absence of orthophosphate (I=0.005, T=25°C)]



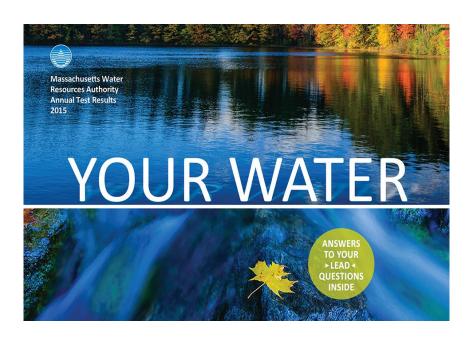
Over 90% Reduction In Lead Levels

 MWRA water system has now been below the lead Action Level of 15 parts per billion 20 straight rounds





Water Quality Data In Flint Was Not Made Public

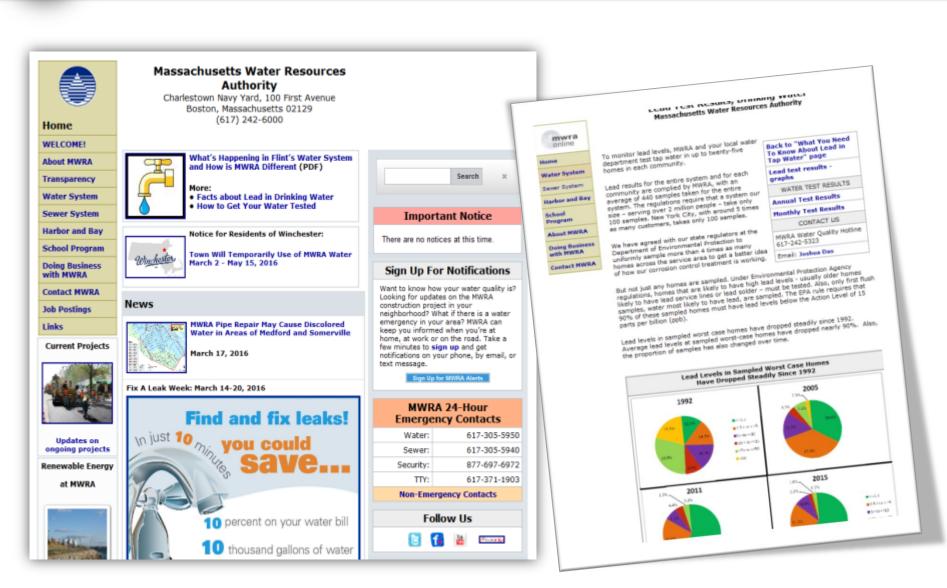


- Lack of information undermined public confidence
- Citizen groups gathered their own data
- In contrast, MWRA publishes water quality data on <u>mwra.com</u>

- Data that can be found on MWRA website:
 - Raw water, treated water, and distribution system data
 - All lead compliance sample results since 1992
 - Easily understood summary charts



EPA Urging More Transparency With Lead Sample Results --- We're Setting an Example





Transparency With Lead Results All Our LCR Sample Data is On-line

mwra online

Home

Water System

Sewer System

Harbor and Bay

School Program

About MWRA

Doing Business with MWRA

Contact MWRA

Lead Test Results, Drinking Water: Historical Household Data

Massachusetts Water Resources Authority

Linked to this page are individual results going back to 1992, when lead levels had already dropped by about 50%.

1992-2009 (PDF) | 2010-2015 (PDF)

The results are presented with addresses eliminated to protect the individuals' privacy. Each volunteer who participated in the sampling program received his or her own individual results.

These individual results provide a snapshot of what is happening in a specific house when the water has sat stagnant. Because the sampling protocol is designed to evaluate the effectiveness of corrosion control, the results do not provide real information about the water a typical customer would typically drink.

We sample only the homes most likely to have any lead, and then sample that stagnant water most likely to have leached any lead. Most consumers do not actually consume that stagnant water.

To remove stagnant water from your home's system, and to reduce the potential of lead leaching into your tap water, run the faucet for about one minute, until the water turns noticably colder. Visit our **What You Need to Know about Lead in Drinking Water** page for more information.

If you have questions or would like more information about lead in drinking water, please call our Water Quality Hotline: 617-242-5323, or email Joshua Das, Project Manager, Public Health: joshua.das@mwra.com

Updated December 18, 2015

MORE INFORMATIO

Back to lead test results graphs

Back to lead test results main page

Back to "What You Nee To Know About Lead in Tap Water" page

PRINTER-FRIENDLY DAT

Analysis of Lead Levels from MWRA Communities 1998-2011 (PDF)

Individual Household Results

1992-2009 (PDF)

2010-2014 (PDF)

MORE WATER TEST RESULTS

Annual Test Results

Monthly Test Results

CONTACT US

MWRA Water Quality Hotline 617-242-5323

Email: Joshua Das

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Over Half The Homes In Flint Have Lead Service Lines

- In comparison about 5 percent of services in MWRA communities are lead
- Important to maintain and update community inventories of lead service lines
- Risk of lead in water remains as long as lead service lines exist
- MWRA Adopted \$100 million zero-interest community loan program to fund replacements

Community	September 2015
MWRA System	6.22 Ppb
Arlington	2.59
Bedford	
Belmont	3.81
Boston	7.75
Brookline	3.06
Cambridge	
Canton	
Chelsea	11.6
Dedham/Westwood	
Deer Island TP	0.798
Everett	1
Framingham	2.84
Lexington	1.42
Lynnfield	1.57
Malden	18.5
Marblehead	6.75
Marlborough Medford	6.22
Melrose	15.7
Milton	13.7
Nahant	1.61
Needham	1.01
Newton	3.04
Northborough	0.986
Norwood	7.6
Peabody	
Quincy	5.3
Reading	4.3
Revere	3.2
Saugus	2.6
Somerville	10.3
Southborough	2.52
Stoneham	11.1
Stoughton	
Swampscott	2.06
Wakefield	
Waltham	2.6
Watertown	2.42
Wellesley	
Westboro State Hospital	1.52
Weston	2.29
Wilmington	1
Winchester Winthrop	14.6
	14.6
Woburn	_
Chicopee	3.8*
South Hadley F. D. #1	5.4*
Wilbraham	1.4*
	1.91
TOTAL	

Number of Services Estimated Lead Services 12.585 0 4.613 0 7.745 1 87.638 3.567 10.527 100 15.486 0 7.162 0 5.100 330 13.304 0 8.126 100 18.147 4 14.145 50 1.427 0 11.815 5.205 8.065 0 10.303 1,238 14.706 2,231 8.200 772 8.473 51 1.634 0 10.192 157 25.071 1.161 4.234 0 8.649 36 13.539 5.687 23.750 1.310 7.992 249 12.000 21 9.331 0 14.423 2,298 3.210 0							
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Lead Service Line Program Update

- MWRA Adopted a \$100 Million Zero—Interest Loan Program
- Newton is scheduled to receive \$4 million dollars in November 2016 for their program.
- Quincy is also scheduled to receive \$1.5 to cover full cost of replacement
- Three other communities have sent along applications: Peabody, Winchester, and Woburn. Expected to receive funds in FY2017.

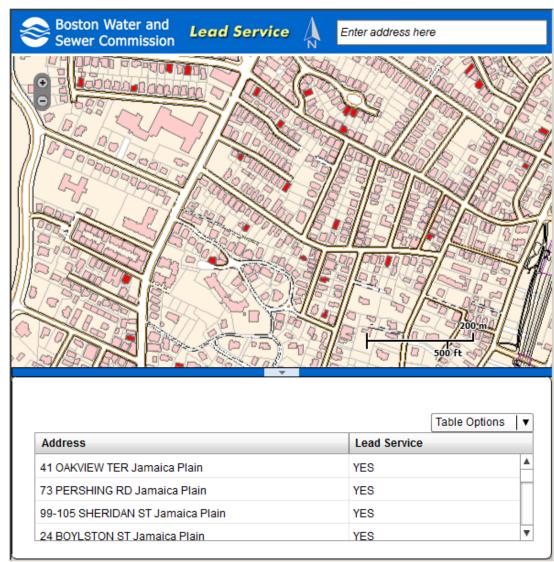






EPA Urging Public Inventory Of Lead Service Lines Boston Already is Doing It







What Is Changing In LCR Implementation?

- EPA Has Been Working on Rule Revisions for Several Years
- National Drinking Water Advisory Council Recommendations in November 2015
- National and International Attention on Lead Issues After Flint
- EPA Letter to every Governor and State Drinking Water Program in February, and to EPA Regions in October
- Stricter attention to existing Rule requirements



Key NDWAC Recommendations

- Improve the public education aspects of the rule
- Help customers identify and respond to the risks of lead in home plumbing – especially lead service lines
- Require the all lead service lines be completely replaced (over the long term)
- Focus sampling efforts on providing customers with information they can use to identify and reduce the risks in their homes
- Strengthen corrosion control, with better process monitoring



Renewed Focus on Schools

- Massachusetts DEP one of few states requiring <u>any</u> school sampling
 - DEP version of LCR required 2 schools each round
- LCCA is voluntary, and sampling has been variable
- Governor Baker announced \$2 million in funds to encourage more systematic sampling
- MWRA working with our communities.



MWRA School Lead Testing Program Results

- Sampled 200 schools in 27 communities 57 had one or more locations above the Action Level.
- Analyzed 11,314 samples -- 5.8% were above the lead Action Level.

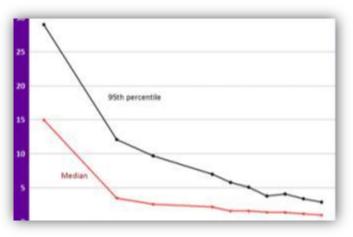






So What's the Key Message on Lead?

- Lead is found from a variety of sources: Gasoline Paint Dust -- Soil
- Levels have declined significantly over time



- MWRA water quality is stable, as is treatment
- Being responsive and transparent builds confidence in the water
- MWRA staff take a science-based approach to assessing water quality, treatment, and compliance.
- Shared Responsibility Between Water System and Public
- So long as there is lead in contact with water, risk remains so just "get it out"



Massachusetts Water Resources Authority

What Systems Do we Have In Place to Ensure Delivery of High Quality Water



Watershed Protection Program



4 overarching concepts guiding DWSP watershed management:

- Protect the most sensitive areas of the watershed through ownership or agreements with land owners.
- 2. Manage DWSP-owned properties to protect water quality and provide stewardship of natural resources.
- 3. Work with watershed communities to protect water resources while accommodating community needs.
- 4. Monitor to identify potential or existing water quality problems.

Land Procurement and Land Preservation Programs are major control program for 8 out of the 12 identified sources of pollutants to the watershed system.

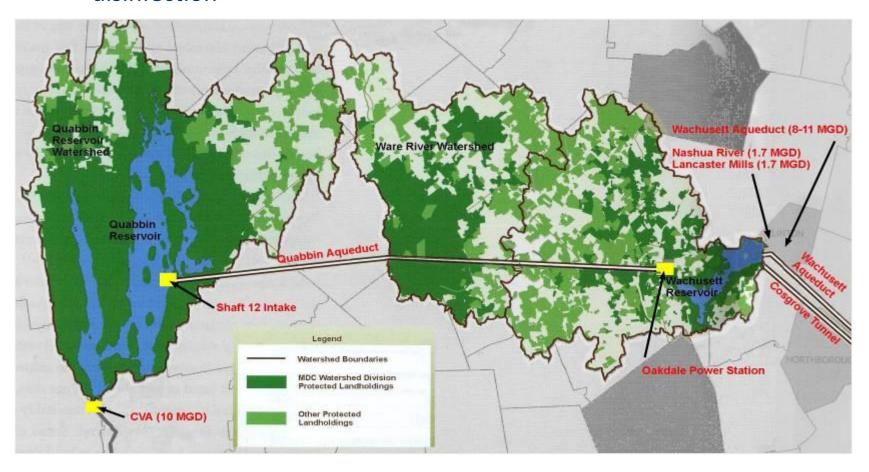
Source	Land Procurement	Land Preservation	Land Management	Wildlife Management	Public Access Management	Watershed Security	Infrastructure	Watershed Protection Act	Technical Assistance & Community Outreach	Interpretive Services	Water Quality Monitoring	Environmental Quality Assessment	Emergency Response
Wildlife			•	•	•						•	•	
Public Access/			•	•	•	•	•			•	•	•	
Recreation													
Timber Harvesting			•				•				•	•	•
Wastewater	•	•						•		•	•	•	
Roadways/											•	•	•
Railways/													
ROWs													
Agriculture	•	•						•	•		•	•	
Construction	•	•						•	•	•	•	•	
Commercial,	•	•						•	•	•	•	•	•
Industrial, and													
Governmental Sites													
Residential Sites	•	•						•	•	•	•	•	
Solid Waste Facilities	•	•						•		•	•	•	
Future Growth	•	•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	•	
Climate Change	•	•									•	•	•

Control Program or Measure



The Watersheds – 400 square miles of protected lands

- \$131 Million invested in land preservation
- So well protected, the Safe Drinking Water Act requires only disinfection





Protected Watersheds = High Quality Water





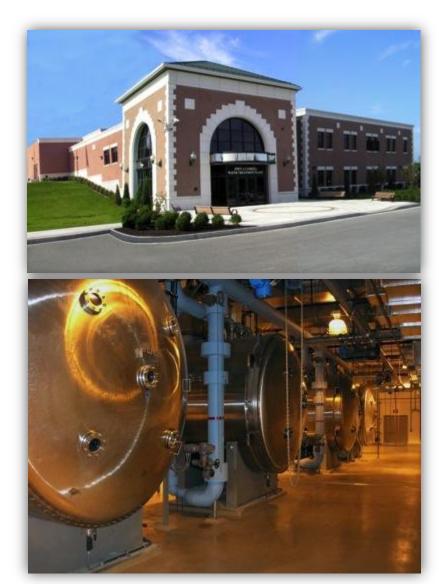
High Quality Source Water Means...

- Less Intensive Treatment Required
- Fewer Chemicals Added to the Water
- Less Risk from Treatment Failure
- Lower Costs for Better Water
- Better to Keep Out, Than Take Out



John J. Carroll Water Treatment Plant

- Completed in July 2005
- Treatment Processes:
 - Ozonation for primary disinfection
 - Corrosion control
 - Chloramination for secondary disinfection
 - Fluoridation

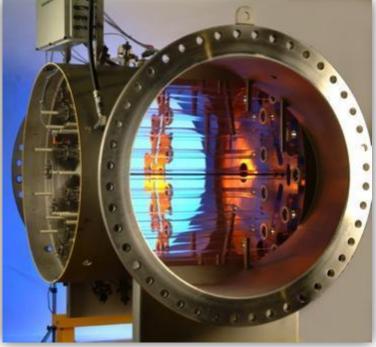


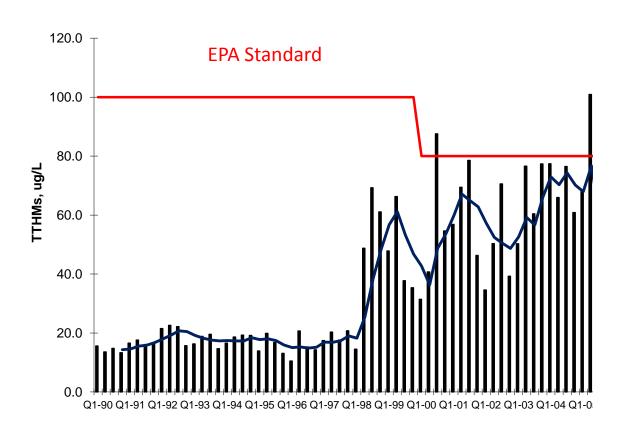


Addition Of Ultraviolet Light Disinfection – April 2014

• New regulations required that unfiltered systems must have two primary disinfectants, one of which must achieve *Cryptosporidium* inactivation

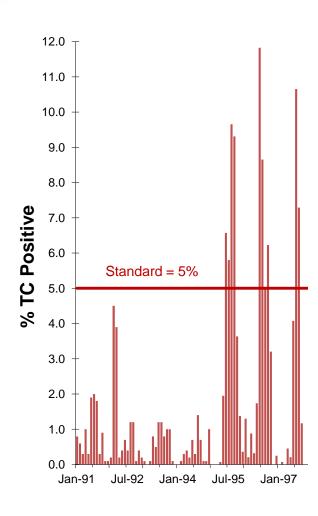








Community Total Coliform Rule Compliance





Chemical Delivery Security and Quality Assurance









No more wooden pipe, but...



- More than half of community pipes were unlined
- \$250 Million Zero-Interest loan program for community pipes



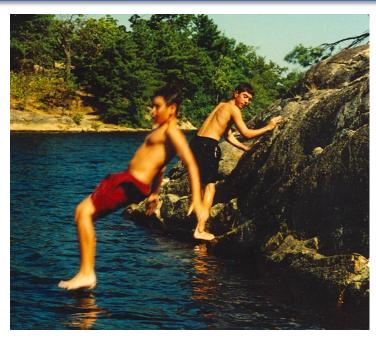




Open Reservoirs Offer Opportunities for Degradation

- Classic Unfiltered System Design
- Modern Water Quality and Security Concerns
- People, Animals, Pathogens and Chemicals
- Just Plain Changed Chemistry









Covered Storage Replaces Open Reservoirs

- From 10 days of open storage to 1 day of covered storage
- Water is Not Exposed to Light From Reservoir to the Tap









Buried Tanks Become Meadows





MWRA and Our Communities Have Robust Sampling and Analysis Program





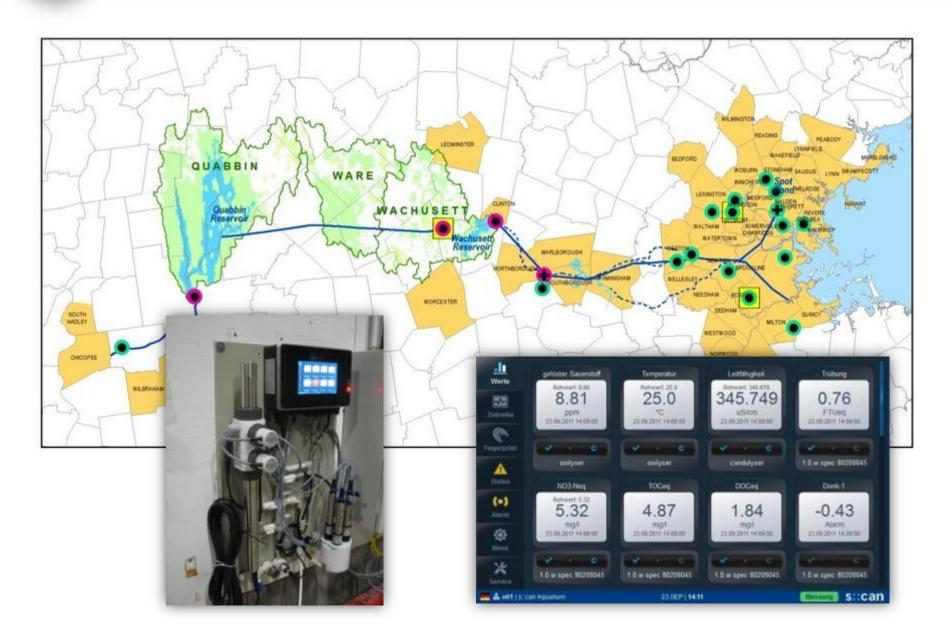
State-Of-The-Art Real Time Monitoring System

- Post 9/11 security of water system a priority
- Implemented second generation of "contaminant monitoring system"
- Sophisticated UV light probes at key locations monitor multiple parameters





Security Monitoring Does Double Duty





On-line Monitoring Detects Change, Before Problems

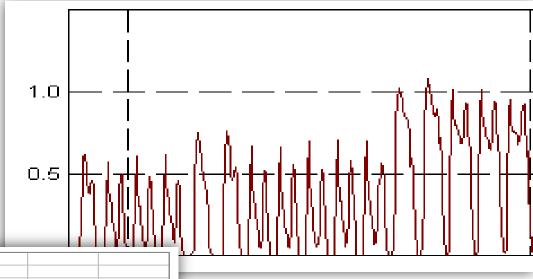
- Allows preemptory action to preserve water quality
- Avoids problems for our customers
- Without monitoring, first notice would be unacceptable water

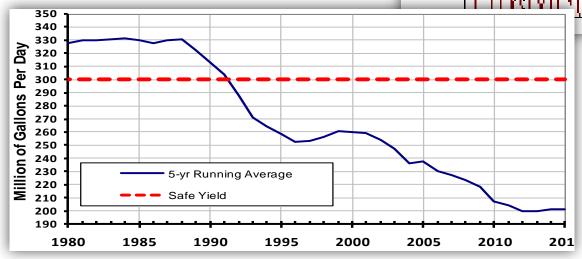




Continuous Monitoring – Not Just for Water Quality

 Regular review of community metering data can detect leaks even before they surface







Massachusetts Water Resources Authority

But Our Customers Worry More and More about Smaller and Smaller Risks

Pharmaceuticals found in US drinking water Trace quantities could endanger wildlife, humans

By Jeff Donn, Associated Press | March 10, 2008

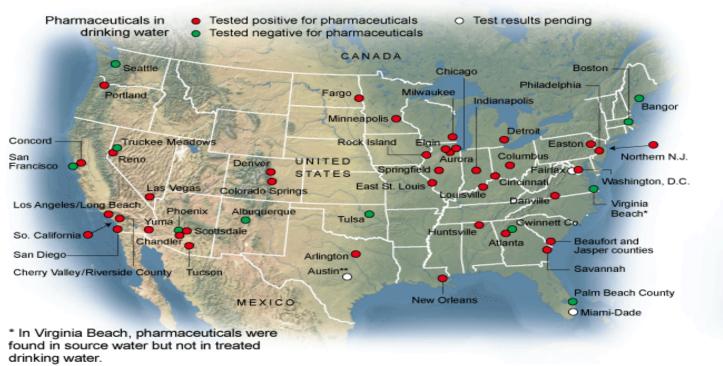
NEW YORK - An array of pharmaceuticals - including antibiotics, anticonvulsants, mood stabilizers, and sex hormones - have been found in the drinking water supplies of at least 41 million Americans, an Associated Press investigation found.

The concentrations of these pharmaceuticals are tiny, measured in quantities of parts per billion or trillion, far below the levels of a medical dose. And utilities insist that their water is safe.

But the presence of so many prescription drugs - and over-the-counter medicines like acetaminophen and ibuprofen - in so much of our drinking water is heightening worries among scientists of long-term consequences to human health.

New tests detect pharmaceuticals in more water

At least 46 million Americans are supplied water that has tested positive for trace concentrations of pharmaceuticals, up from 41 million in March. The original Associated Press reports prompted many more communities to test their water.



** Drinking water in Austin, Texas, was tested for only one prescription drug, a synthetic birth

control chemical.

NOTE: All places include some surrounding areas except: Albuquerque, N.M.; Arlington, Texas; Long Beach, Calif.; Los Angeles; New Orleans.

SOURCES: Drinking water providers' responses to Associated Press questions; AP review of scientific literature.



No Pharmaceuticals In MWRA Water Supply

 After AP story broke last March, MWRA tested for 31 pharmaceutical compounds

No traces were found!



'Erin Brockovich chemical' or hexavalent chromium, a likely carcinogen, is found in tap water

A chemical called chromium-6 or hexavalent chromium has been found in the tap water in 31 out of the 35 American cities tested, reports the Environmental Working Group.

Norman, Okla., Honolulu and Riverside, Calif., had the highest levels of the substance, dubbed the "Erin Brockovich" chemical."

New York, while far down on the list of cities, still had more chromium-6 in the tap water than what California is proposing as a "public health goal" for safe levels: 0.06 parts per billion. "The New York finding is .18, so it is on the high side," said Leeann Brown, spokesperson for the EWG.

Copyright 2011 NY Daily News.com

EWG reports MWRA lowest in country MWRA conducting quarterly testing

Results just over detection limit 20 to 27 parts per trillion



The New Hork Times

Radiation Is Everywhere, but How to Rate Harm?

Since the first reports last month of damage to nuclear reactors at the Fukushima Daiichi power plant, the lingering question has been whether drifting plumes of radioactive elements from the plant will harm people in Japan or other parts of the world. For many people, the biggest fear is cancer.

Certain levels of radiation exposure are known to increase the risk of cancer, but scientists disagree about the effects of very low doses of the sort that may have occurred so far in Japan.

Some researchers say it is reasonable to use data from high doses to calculate the risk of smaller and smaller doses. They argue that any exposure to radiation raises the risk of cancer, though probably by only a small amount in the case of small doses.

But others say that estimating risk for doses near zero is nonsensical, and some believe there is a threshold dose, or limit below which there is no risk from exposure.

Published: April 4, 2011



Massachusetts Water Resources Authority

Paying Attention to the Future:

Can't Let the Day-to-Day Drive All Planning



Impact of Global Warming: 100 Year Storm and Sea Level Rise In Year 2100.

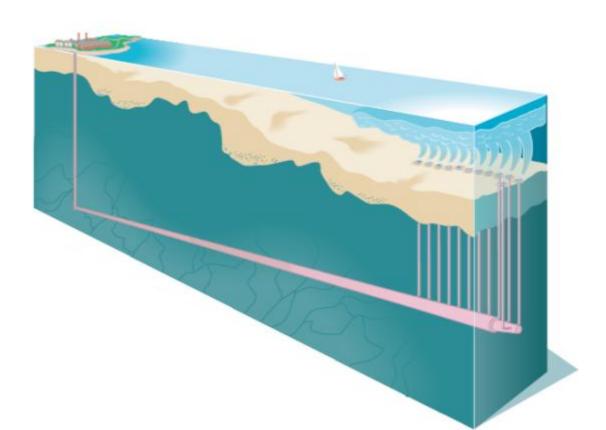


Data sources: Flooded area IPCC, ground elevations determined by LIDAR.



A Rising Sea Impacts The Hydraulics Of The Outfall Tunnel

- The effluent from the sewage treatment plant is discharged by gravity to the 9.5 mile
- To maintain hydraulic capacity, process tank elevation raised 1.9 feet and tunnel diameter was up-sized from 24 feet to 24.25 feet





Sea Level Rise Vulnerability of Every Facility Examined

- Be Pragmatic Don't Miss Any Opportunities to Adapt
- Long Term Use Periodic Facility Rehab Process for Major Upgrades
- Meanwhile Use Maintenance Crews to Improve Flood Proofing







Created SOPs To Redeploy Staff And Equipment

- Staff and equipment redeployed to pre-determined locations in advance of storms.
- Back-up water and wastewater operations control center created at Carroll Treatment Plant in Marlborough.







And We Love Being Green!

 Of our \$40 million annual energy budget, \$22 million comes from renewable sources





Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency at MWRA



Our Mission in Short

- Adequate, Reliable Supply of High Quality Drinking Water
- Environmentally Responsible Collection, Treatment and Disposal of Wastewater
- Drink with Confidence
- Flush with Pride
- All Accomplished Affordably
- Under All Circumstances

