

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

## Haloacetic Acids (HAA5s) MCL Violation at Longmeadow Water Department

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct this situation.

Where disinfection is used in the treatment of drinking water, disinfectants combine with organic and inorganic matter present in water to form chemicals called disinfection byproducts (DBPs), such as haloacetic acids (HAA5s). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets standards for controlling levels of disinfectants and DBPs in drinking water.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Samples for HAA5s are collected at four locations in the distribution system on a quarterly basis. To determine whether regulatory compliance is achieved, locational running annual average (LRAA) concentrations for HAA5s are calculated by averaging results for four consecutive quarters at each of the four monitoring locations. Each LRAA is compared to the HAA5s drinking water standard, or Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), of 60 micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ). For the Berkshire Bank monitoring site, the LRAA for the four quarters between January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017 was  $64.9\mu\text{g/L}$ . For the same site, the LRAA for the four quarters between April 1, 2017 and March 31, 2018 is  $62.7\mu\text{g/L}$ . This exceeds the MCL for both of those time periods. The LRAAs for the three other sites (Twin Hills Country Club, Longmeadow Police Dept. and Council on Aging) were all below the MCL.

### What should I do?

- At this time, **no** alternative source of water is necessary. However, if you have any specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

### What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been an emergency, you would have been notified immediately. HAA5s are five haloacetic acid compounds which form when disinfectants react with natural organic matter in the water. *People who drink water containing HAA5s in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.* The U.S. EPA has additional information about HAA5s through their toll free Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) and web site <https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/public-water-systems-disinfection-byproducts-and-use-monochloramine>

### What is being done?

We continue to collect quarterly samples for HAA5s. Longmeadow purchases its water from Springfield; we have contacted the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission (SWSC) about its treatment processes in the past and will continue to seek cooperation as we determine the best approach to improve our water quality. We will evaluate all possible modifications to our operations, as well as working with SWSC on its treatment processes. We anticipate resolving the problem within the coming months.

For more information, contact Peter Thurber at (413) 567-3400 or LWD, 31 Pondsides Road, Longmeadow, MA 01106.

*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.*

This notice is being sent to you by:

Longmeadow Water Department

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