

Department of Public Works Annual Water Quality Report

2024 report on your Water Quality



Town of North Attleborough
Department of Public Works

The EPA has given drinking water suppliers until 2027 to test their water for PFAS and until 2029 to come into compliance with the new drinking water standard.

North Attleborough's Water Division is now working on designs to upgrade the Hillman Well and the Whiting St. Treatment Facility to meet the EPA's new regulations for the ultra-low limit of 4 parts per trillion. Both locations meet the current DEP standard of below 20ppt. The Hillman Well PFAs Improvement Project design is expected to be completed by November/December of this year and Bid in early 2026. Construction should be completed in 2027. The Whiting St. Treatment Plant will be the final project for PFAS removal, which will begin design in 2026 and construction in 2027 through 2028.

The Town has worked diligently to address PFAS in its water supply throughout the past 4 years, since MassDEP announced its new PFAS public drinking water standard in October 2020 and in anticipation of the EPA releasing its regulations. The Town has spent over \$11.5M in new treatment facilities and \$180,000 in kiosk rental for sensitive subgroups. As of January 2025, all of the Town's well system have come into full compliance with DEP'S PFAS regulations of below 20ppt. There is no longer an advisory for users to find alternative water sources. North Attleborough is one of the first compliant municipalities in the state.

The Town has now brought the Adamsdale Well and McKeon Treatment Facility to compliance with Mass-DEP regulations and subsequently the EPA's new PFAS regulations. PFAS compounds after treatment are not detected in the drinking water.

The Town's private water system, the Kings Grant Water Company, which serves approximately 155 homes, will also be required to comply with the EPA's new regulations, but the implementation of this new regulation will be under EPA/DEP and is not under the purview of the Town.

The Town remains committed to keeping the impact on our ratepayers to a minimum. While the Town acknowledges that PFAS requirements are good for communities and those consuming our water, the companies that put those contaminants in the water should be held accountable and be a part of the financial solution. The Town would also like to see the EPA commit more funding or provide assistance to those working to bring their wells to compliance in the wake of their new regulation.

We would like to thank Congressman Jake Auchincloss for his earmark of approximately \$1 million in funding to assist the Town in addressing PFAS, as well as the commitments the DEP has made to the Town through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program.

North Attleborough's Water System.....

North Attleborough's water supply comes from two large watersheds, the Ten Mile River Basin and the Blackstone Basin. The two basins supply water to eight groundwater wells located throughout the Town and in neighboring Plainville. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) restricts the maximum amount of water that can be withdrawn from these two basins. Raw water from six Town wells is treated at either the McKeon or Whiting Street Treatment Facilities. The remaining two wells, located in the western section of Town are pumped directly from the wells to the distribution system. Water is delivered to three water storage tanks, the Oldwood South, High Street and Elmwood standpipes. The three storage tanks have a combined capacity of more than 3.5 million gallons of water. The tanks serve to provide an adequate supply of potable water to meet peak usage as well as to provide water in the event of emergencies such as fire fighting. North Attleborough has two booster stations designed to increase pressure to homes and businesses. Potable water travels through a system of water mains ranging in size from 4" to 16" to our residential and business customers. North Attleborough's water system contains approximately 146 miles of water main, 1300 fire hydrants and 8,000 water service connections. The water system is maintained by DPW Water Division licensed operators. All components of the water system are closely monitored and controlled through a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) computer system 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

What is PFAS
 Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances are a group of chemical compounds called PFAS. PFAS have been used in a number of industrial processes to make carpets, clothing, fabrics for furniture, paper packaging for food and other materials (e.g., cookware) that are resistant to water, grease and stains.

Drinking Water Standards
 In Massachusetts drinking water suppliers are regulated by MassDEP. Massachusetts began regulating PFAS compounds in October 2021, requiring communities to meet the standard of 20 parts per trillion (ppt) for the sum of the concentrations of PFAS known as PFAS6. In April 2024, the EPA announced PFAS regulations of 4ppt that will have to be met by 2029.

Is the Town Compliant?
 Yes! Since January 2024, all of the Town's well systems (Adamsdale Well, McKeon Treatment Facility, Hillman Well and the Whiting Treatment Facility) have met MassDEP's regulation of below 20ppt. The Adamsdale Well and McKeon Treatment Facility meet the EPA's new regulations for 4ppt. The Water Division is now working on designs to upgrade the Hillman Well and the Whiting Treatment Facility to meet the EPA's new regulations.



McKeon PFAS Removal Treatment Plant - (4) filter vessels containing Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) removes PFAS compounds



The McKeon PFAS Treatment plant was approved by MA DEP to activate to the water system on November 1, 2024

Massachusetts DEP completed a Source Water Assessment and Protection Program Report (SWAP) for North Attleborough's public water system. The Source Water SWAP Program, established under the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act, requires every State to inventory land uses within the recharge area of all public water supply sources and assess the susceptibility of drinking water sources to contamination from these land uses. A susceptibility ranking of "high" was assigned utilizing the information collected during the assessment. A source susceptible to contamination does not indicate poor water quality. Actual quality is best reflected by results of water analyses. Regular testing is conducted by independent State certified laboratories on our source water for a wide range of contaminants. Water test results continue to show that your drinking water continues to exceed all drinking water standards. North Attleborough has adopted bylaws and health regulations designed to preserve and protect existing and potential sources of drinking water supplies. The Department of Environmental Protection approved the Town's water source protection strategy based on land use and operational restrictions. The Town actively reviews all activities within 400 feet of our water sources and regularly patrols our well sources. The SWAP Report is available online at <http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/drinking.htm>. For more information, please contact the North Attleborough Water Department at (508) 695-7790.

2 0 2 4 Water Quality Summary

Inorganic Contaminants	Sample Date	Highest Results or Average	Range of Detection	MCL or MRCL	MCLG or MRCLG	Violation Y / N	Possible Source
Nitrate (ppm)	Quarter 1 & 2	2.4	0.7 - 2.88	10	10	N	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, erosion of natural deposits
Barium (ppm)	Quarterly	0.033	0.014 - .062	2	2	N	Discharge from metal refineries, erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	Monthly	0.80	.03 - .08	4.0	4.0	N	Water additive for dental health
Perchlorate (ppb)	Quarter 1 & 2	0.36	0.11 - 0.68	2.0	2.0	N	Components of propellants found in fireworks
Sodium (ppm)	Quarter 1 & 2	40.6	31 - 55	None	2	N	Natural sources; byproduct of water treatment

Secondary Contaminants SMCL Health Advisory

Manganese (ppm)	Quarter 2 & 4	0.30	ND - 0.30	50	300	N	Erosion of natural deposits
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Volatile Organic Contaminants MCL MCLG

Monochlorobenzene (ppb)	Quarter 4	0.55	ND - 0.55	100	100	N	Discharge from chemical factories
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Disinfection Contaminants

Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	Quarterly	16.1	9.4 - 21.7	60	-	N	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	Quarterly	24.5	15.6 - 31.2	80	-	N	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine (ppm)	Monthly	0.54	0.47 - 0.60	4 (MRDL)	4 (MRDLG)	N	Water additive to control microbes

Synthetic Organic Contaminants

Picloram (ppb)	Quarter 2	0.16	0.12 - 0.21	500	500	N	Runoff from herbicide use
2,4-D (ppb)	Quarterly	0.22	ND - 0.22	70	70	N	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Dalapon (ppb)	Quarterly	0.31	0.47	200	200	N	Runoff from herbicide used on rights of way

Microbiological	Number of samples collected per month	Number of positive samples and month	Violation Y / N	How it gets in the water
Total Coliform	36	2 - August (see note 1)	N	Naturally present in the environment
Enterococci (see note 2)	N/A	3	Y	Human and animal fecal waste

NOTE 1 - TC positive, E.coli negative at 2 routine sample locations. Repeat sampling conducted at same locations; TC negative, E.coli negative

NOTE 2- Due to TC+ sample results in August, raw well water (before treatment) was sampled at various locations for Enterococci. Results showed Enterococci positive in each of the raw water sources. Out of an abundance of caution, a BOIL WATER ADVISORY was issued i. August 12. Repeat sampling was conducted using an alternate laboratory recommended by Mass DEP. 5 samples per location were collected at each raw water source and analyzed for Enterococci. All samples collected were ABSENT. The boil water advisory was lifted on August 14, 2024..

PFAS 6 - Regulated	Collection Date	Highest Results or Average	Range Detected	MCL	Violation	Possible Sources	Health Effects
Hillman Well (ppt)	Quarterly	14.5	12.4 - 15.6	20	N	Discharge / emissions from industry associated with manufacturing of oil and moisture resistance coatings. Other sources include firefighting foam	Some people who drink water containing PFAS in excess of the MCL may experience adverse effects on the liver, blood, immune system, thyroid and fetal development. It may also increase the risk of certain types of cancers.
McKeon Treatment (ppt)	Quarterly	16.9	15.4 - 18.2	20	N		
Whiting Treatment (ppt)	Quarterly	14.1	11.0 - 15.5	20	N		

PFAS 6 - Unregulated	Range Detected	Highest Detect	Average	Office of Research and Standards Guidelines (ORS)
PFBS	2.8 - 3.79	3.79	3.20	There are no ORS guidelines Component of propellants found in fireworks for these compounds
PFHXA	2.4 - 5.4	5.4	3.60	

UCMR 5 Unregulated - Semivolatiles	Highest Detect	Range Detected	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) program that requires public water systems to monitor for unregulated contaminants in drinking water. This monitoring helps the EPA decide whether to set drinking water standards for these contaminants in the future. The UCMR is issued every five years, with the current one being UCMR 5, which requires monitoring between 2023 and 2025.
Perfluoropentanoic Acid (PFPeA)	0.006	ND - 0.014	
Perfluorobutanesulfonic Acid (PFBS)	0.003	ND - 0.006	
Perfluorohexanesulfonic Acid (PFHxS)	0.001	ND - 0.004	
Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA)	0.006	ND - 0.009	
Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (PFOS)	0.004	ND - 0.008	
Perfluorohexanoic Acid (PFHxA)	0.003	ND - 0.009	
Perfluorobutanoic Acid (PFBA)	0.002	ND - 0.006	

ACRONYMS **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** - The highest level of a contaminant allowed in water. **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)** - The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety. **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 expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminan **ppm** - parts per million. **ppb** - parts per billion **ppt** - parts per trillion; **Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL)** - These standards are developed to protect the aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.

North Attleborough Lead Service Replacement Program

The Town of North Attleborough Water Division, through the Board of Public Works, is undertaking a 5-year program to eliminate all lead service lines to homes in Town. Through a DEP grant, the Town has developed an inventory of all properties tied into the water system and identified services that either are confirmed to contain lead or the type of material is unknown.

Water from North Attleborough’s well systems and water mains contain no lead. Lead can get into tap water if you have lead pipes in your home. Lead can also enter tap water from if you have lead solder or brass fixtures in your home. Corrosion or wearing away of lead-based materials can add lead to tap water, especially if water sits for a long time in the pipes before use.

Lead can also leach into water if lead is used in privately owned service pipes that connect your home to North Attleboro’s water mains. Most pipes that carry water to your home are made of copper and do not add lead to your water.

Over the next several months, the Town will be working with property owners to definitively determine the type of water service from the curb stop at the property line into the home. Property owners are responsible for this portion of the water service. The Board of Public Works has agreed to offer to replace these services at NO COST to the property owner over the next 5 years.

Property Owners, who have an unknown portion of their service line, have been sent a notification letter and are asked to take a self evaluation and report to our database the type of material their service between the meter and where the pipe enters the building. This will assist us in updating our information, and if necessary, adding the property to the list of future replacement projects. The Lead and Copper Service inventory has been certified and submitted to MA DEP as required.

Please contact the Water Division at 508-695-7790 if you have any questions. For more information on the Town’s Lead Removal Program please visit the Department of Public Works webpage.

Lead Information from EPA.....

There is no safe level of lead in drinking water. Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Some of the health effects to infants and children include decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can also result in new or worsened learning and behavior problems. The children of people who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy may be at increased risk of these harmful health effects. Adults have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems. Contact your health care provider for more information about your risks.

Special Concerns for People With Weakened Immune Systems from EPA

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 individuals and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. Those people should seek advice from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

2024 Lead and Copper Summary

Residential - "At the tap results"									
Lead / Copper (ppm)	Sampling Date	Range	# of sites sampled	90th Percentile	# of sites over Action Level	# of sites over Action Level	Violation	(MCLG) Ideal Goal	How it gets in the water
Lead	Jan. - June	ND - 0.035	45	0.008	2	2	yes (see note 1)	0	Household plumbing corrosion
Copper	Jan. - June	0.015 - 0.40	45	0.24	0	0	yes (see note 1)	0	Household plumbing corrosion
Lead	July - Dec.	ND - 0.041	60	0.010	3	3	no	0	Household plumbing corrosion
Copper	July - Dec.	0.013 - 0.176	60	0.147	0	0	no	0	Household plumbing corrosion

MCLG=Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety. **AL=Action Level** - The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements, which a water system must follow. **90th Percentile** - Out of every 10 homes, 9 were at or below this level. **ppm** - parts per million. **ND** - not detected

Note 1 - Monitoring Requirements Not Met
 During the lead and copper monitoring period of January to June 2024, we failed to collect the minimum required number of 60 samples, 45 samples were collected. DEP issued the Town a Administrative Consent Order with Penalties (ACOP) in November 2024.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. Please share this information with all other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (people in apartments, nursing homes, schools and businesses).

Cross-Connection Control and Backflow Prevention

The North Attleborough Water Dept. makes every effort to ensure that the water delivered to your home and business is clean, safe and free of contamination. Our staff works very hard to protect the quality of the water delivered to our customers from the time the water is extracted via deep wells from underground aquifers throughout the entire treatment and distribution system. But what happens when the water reaches your home or business? Is there still a need to protect the water quality from contamination caused by a cross-connection? If so, how?

What is a cross-connection?

A cross-connection occurs whenever the drinking water supply is or could be in contact with potential sources of pollution or contamination. Cross-connections exist in piping arrangements or equipment that allows the drinking water to come in contact with non-potable liquids, solids, or gases (hazardous to humans) in event of a backflow.

What is a backflow?

Backflow is the undesired reverse of the water flow in the drinking water distribution lines. This backward flow of water can occur when the pressure created by equipment or a system such as a boiler or air-conditioning is higher than the water pressure inside the water distribution line (back pressure), or when the pressure in the distribution line drops due to routine occurrences such as water main breaks or heavy water demand causing the water to flow backward inside the water distribution system (back siphonage). Backflow is a problem that many water consumers are unaware of, a problem that each and every water customer has a responsibility to help prevent.

What can I do to help prevent a cross-connection?

Without the proper protection something as simple as a garden hose has the potential to contaminate or pollute the drinking water lines in your house. In fact over half of the country's cross-connection incidents involve unprotected garden hoses. There are very simple steps that you as a drinking water user can take to prevent such hazards, they are:

- NEVER submerge a hose in soapy water buckets, pet watering containers, pool, tubs, sinks, drains, or chemicals.
- NEVER attached a hose to a garden sprayer without the proper backflow preventer.
- Buy and install a hose bibb vacuum breaker in any threaded water fixture. The installation can be as easy as attaching a garden hose to a spigot. This inexpensive device is available at most hardware stores and home-improvement centers.
- Identify and be aware of potential cross-connections to your water line.
- Install backflow prevention devices or assemblies for all high and moderate hazard connections.

Substances Found in Bottled Water and Tap Water.....

Sources of drinking water, both bottled and tap water, include water that travels over the surface of the land or through the ground. This water comes in contact with soil, rock, plants and other material as it follows nature's path to water sources. While this process helps filter and clean the water, it can also carry small amounts of material into the water. Minerals from soils and rock, including low levels of radioactive materials, do not usually cause problems in the water. Water can also carry contaminants from human and animal activity. These include bacteria, viruses, pesticides and fertilizers, some of which can cause illness. In order to ensure that your tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain substances in water for public water supplies.

Bottled and tap water may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk. The EPA requires all water suppliers to conduct many tests before and after treatment to check the water you are drinking. Your drinking water is routinely monitored for these contaminants and other substances by State certified laboratories in accordance with Federal and State drinking water regulations. North Attleborough goes beyond monitoring requirements to ensure we produce and deliver the highest quality of water to our residents and businesses. We are proud to say that your water meets or exceeds all drinking water standards for quality. For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Water Restriction Notice

As mandated by the Department of Environmental Protection Water Management Permit and to ensure a sustainable water supply through the Town's high water demand season, the North Attleborough Water Department has issued a Mandatory Non-Essential Water Use Restriction beginning May 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025

All non-essential water is based on an **ODD/EVEN time schedule.**

- **ODD numbered addresses** are allowed on **TUESDAY** only before 9 AM and after 5 PM.
- **EVEN numbered addresses** are allowed on **THURSDAY** only before 9 AM and after 5 PM.

Non-essential water use is defined as the following:

- Irrigation of lawns via sprinklers or automatic irrigation systems
- Washing of vehicles, except in a commercial car wash
- Washing of exterior building surfaces, parking lots, driveways, except as necessary to apply surface treatments such as paint, preservatives or cement.

The following uses are **ALLOWED** when mandatory restrictions are in place:

- Irrigation to establish new lawns and new plantings during the months of May and September.
- Irrigation of recreational parks and public fields by automatic sprinklers outside the hours of 9 AM to 5 PM.
- Watering lawns, gardens, flowers and ornamental plants by means of a hand-held hose.

Violation of the restriction may result in the following penalties:

1st Offense - Reminder notice to home (documented).

2nd Offense - Written warning delivered by mail.

3rd Offense - \$100 fine (daily for each additional offense).

Nonessential outdoor water use is allowed **ONE DAY** per week before 9 AM and after 5 PM (Monday) whenever a Drought Warning or higher is declared by the Massachusetts Drought Management Task Force.

Your anticipated cooperation is appreciated.

North Attleborough Department of Public Works
49 Whiting Street
North Attleborough, MA 02760

*What you should know
about your.....*

Drinking Water

Drinking
Water Test
Results

