

Distribution System Expansion & Improvements

System improvements have been focused on the streets that the Town has scheduled for reconstruction. We have attempted to coordinate the necessary upgrades prior to this paving. This past year we performed to West Main, Baxter Neck and Wequaquet Lane.

New Source Construction

The design for construction of the new facility continues.

Billing and Payments

We continue to investigate the best option for our customers to perform on-line payments and ability to view account history.

Service Repairs

If you experience a failure or need repairs, all labor and material costs to perform service repair or replacement are paid for by the homeowner. Payment plans are available. Free estimates are available upon request.

Board of Water Commissioners Monthly Meetings:

You are invited to participate in our public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water. We meet the first Wednesday of every month at 7:00 P.M. at the Centerville Fire Station, Route 28, Centerville, MA.

Meetings are subject to change. Changes will be posted at Town Hall, Centerville Fire Station, the Water Department Office and the website shown below.

Board of Water Commissioners:

Scott E. Crosby, Chairman
Peter Hansen
Kevin Medeiros

Website : www.commwater.com

Important Information From EPA.. Contaminants in Bottled Water and Tap 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 water poses a health risk. More information can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline, 1-800-426-4791.

Drinking Water and People with Weakened Immune Systems: 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 1-800- 426-4791.

Lead In Drinking Water: "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. COMM Water 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>."

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's
Safe Drinking Water
Hotline at
1-800-426-4791**

Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) What Is SWAP?

The Source Water Assessment Protection (SWAP) program assesses the susceptibility of public water supplies to potential contamination by microbiological pathogens and chemicals.

What Is My System's Ranking?

A susceptibility ranking of high, was assigned to this system using the information collected during the assessment by the DEP. A source's susceptibility to contamination does *not* imply poor water quality.

Actual water quality is best reflected by the results of regular water tests. To learn more about your water quality, refer to this report.

Common Potential Sources of Contamination Include: septic systems, household hazardous materials, heating oil storage, stormwater, fertilizers, pesticides and automotive fluids.

Where Can I See The SWAP Report?

The complete SWAP report is available at the Water Department Office and Board of Health. For more information, call Superintendent Craig Crocker 508-428-6691.

Residents Can Help Protect Sources By:

- practicing good septic system maintenance,
- supporting water supply protection initiatives at the next town/district meetings
- taking hazardous household chemicals to hazardous materials collection days,
- limiting pesticide and fertilizer use, etc.

Facts About Your Water Delivery System

- ⇒ Over 250.6 miles of water mains
- ⇒ 11,904 **billed accounts** and 35,022 **customers**
- ⇒ Provides fire protection through 1984 hydrants
- ⇒ Can store 6.8 million gallons of water in 3 storage tanks
- ⇒ Includes 19 Pumping Stations, 13 Treatment Facilities
- ⇒ 662 Acres of watershed property
- ⇒ Discoloration caused by iron is controlled with a sequestering agent (poly phosphate) at 4 wells
- ⇒ The pH of water on Cape Cod tends to be acidic in the range of 5.0 to 6.5 (pH is the measure of acidity or alkalinity of a liquid). On the pH scale, the number 7 is neutral, less than 7 is acidic, and more than 7 is alkaline (basic). Due to the lower pH of our water, we add a harmless alkaline substance (potassium hydroxide) to our water in order to reduce corrosion in the distribution system and in your home or business.

In 2011 the COMM Water Department delivered nearly **one billion** gallons of water. The dry summer overall conditions contributed to higher than normal usage.



**Public Water Supply
ID #4020002**

Established in 1937

2011 WATER QUALITY REPORT

JANUARY 2012

This is an annual report on the quality of the water delivered by the COMM Water Department.

This brochure contains information on the source and contents of our water and related health risks associated with any detected contaminants.

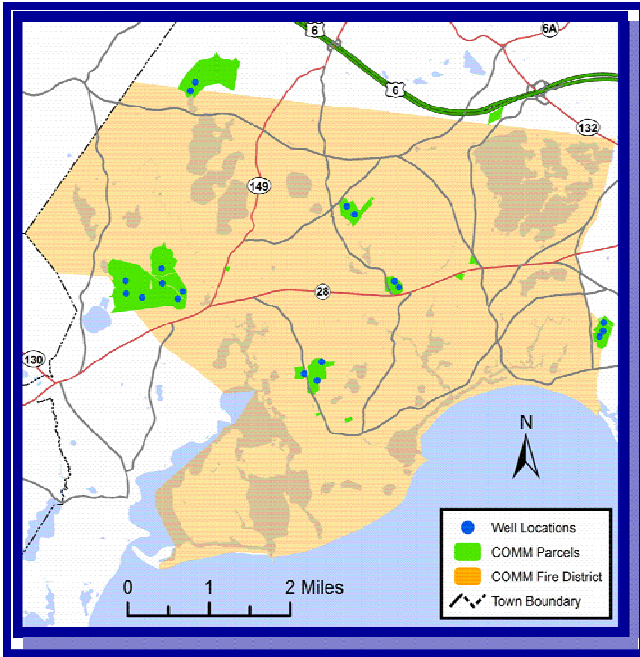
The COMM Water Department is committed to providing our customers with high quality, safe drinking water that exceeds every federal and state standard.

**P.O. Box 369
1138 Main Street
Osterville, MA 02655
508-428-6691 Fax 508-428-3508
Website : www.commwater.com
Superintendent: **Craig A. Crocker****

WHERE DOES MY WATER COME FROM?

The C-O-MM Water Department serves a year round population of over 35,000 consumers from our groundwater wells. We currently pump from 19 sites as shown below.

As a means of additional water supply, water interconnections exist between COMM Water, Cotuit, Sandwich, Mashpee, Barnstable Fire District and the Hyannis Water System. No water was utilized from those sources in 2011.



<u>Wells located in Centerville</u>		
Wells	5 + 9	Lumbert Mill
Wells	7, 8 + 11	Craigville
<u>Wells located in Osterville</u>		
Wells	1,2 + 2A	McShane
Well	3 + 4	Arena
Well	10	Davis
<u>Wells located in Marstons Mills</u>		
Wells	12 + 13	Murray
Wells	14, 15, 17,	
	18, 20, 21, 22	Hayden
Wells	16 +19	Harrison

WHAT CONTAMINANTS MAY BE PRESENT IN OUR WATER?

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Microbial Contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.

Pesticides and Herbicides, that may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff and residential uses.

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, that can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, that are by-products of industrial process and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.

Radioactive Contaminants, that 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, the DEP and EPA prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in the water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (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.

**For more information about
C-O-MM water system contact:
Craig A. Crocker, Superintendent
508-428-6691**

The table lists all the substances in drinking water that we detected during calendar year 2011. Although the presence of these substances in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk, we feel that it is important that you know exactly what and how much was detected.

			Highest Level	Range of		
Contaminant	MCLG	MCL	Detected	Detection	Violation	Possible Source of Contamination
Regulated						
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	5.4	0 - 5.4	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Alpha emitters (pCi/L) (Data from 1999)	0	15	0.9	0.9	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Unregulated						
	SMCL	ORSG	AVERAGE	Range of Detection		Possible Source of Contamination
Chloroform (ppb)	--	60	0.83	0 - 1.7	NO	In non-chlorinated sources may be naturally Occurring.
Sodium (ppm) (Data from 2009)	--	20	18	5.2 - 31	NO	Erosion of natural deposits, road salt run-off
Sulfate (ppm)	250	--	7.5	4.9 - 10	NO	Naturally present in the environment
MTBE (ppb)	20-40	70	0.04	0 - 0.60	NO	Leaking underground gasoline storage tanks. Ingredient in gasoline.
Lead & Copper						
	Action Level(AL)	MCLG	90th Percentile	Sample sites above the AL		Possible Source of Contamination
Lead (ppb) (Data from 2010)	15	15	0	0 out of 45	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper (ppm) (Data from 2010)	1.3	1.3	0.45	0 out of 45	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing;

DEFINITIONS

Unregulated Contaminants: Unregulated contaminants are substances without MCLs for which EPA requires monitoring. For some of these substances, the Massachusetts Office of Research and Standards (ORS) has developed state guidelines or secondary MCLs.

Massachusetts Office of Research and Standard Guidelines (ORSG): This is the concentration of a chemical in drinking water, at or below which, adverse health effects are unlikely to occur after chronic (lifetime) exposure, with a margin of safety. If exceeded it serves as an indicator of the potential need for further action.

Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible by using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for margin of safety.

90th Percentile: Out of every 10 homes, 9 were at or below this level.

pCi/L: (picocuries per liter): Measure of radioactivity of water.

ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter

ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter

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

SMCL: secondary maximum contaminant level. These standards are developed to protect the aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short period of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.

Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE) is made from blending chemicals such as isobutylene and methanol, and has been used since the 1980's as an additive for unleaded gasoline to achieve more efficient burning. The state guideline is 70 ppb.

Chloroform is a trihalomethane and the maximum (THM) level allowed in drinking water is 100ppb. Levels of chloroform below 60 ppb are generally considered not to be a health risk. All wells are monitored through annual sampling.

Sodium-sensitive individuals, such as those experiencing hypertension, kidney failure, or congestive heart failure, should be aware of the sodium levels in drinking water where exposures are being carefully controlled.