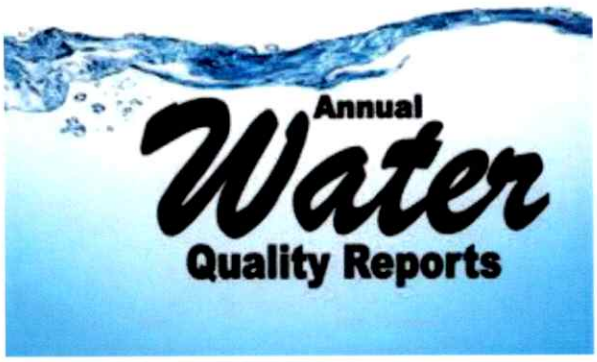


# 2024 Consumer Confidence Report

## Your Annual Drinking Water Quality Information

## GREAT BARRINGTON FIRE DISTRICT WATER DEPARTMENT

17 East Street Great Barrington, Massachusetts 01230

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Public Water Supply ID# 1113000

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This report provides a snapshot of the drinking water quality that was achieved last year. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains and how its quality compares to state and federal standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

### PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM INFORMATION

Our water system is routinely inspected by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MA DEP). MA DEP inspects our system for its technical, financial, and managerial capacity to provide safe drinking water to you. To ensure that we provide the highest quality of water available, your water system is operated by Massachusetts certified operators who oversee the routine operations of our system. Your water is treated by adding a controlled amount of sodium hypochlorite for disinfection and is constantly monitored by us and MA DEP to determine the effectiveness of existing water treatment and to determine if any additional treatment is required.

### YOUR DRINKING WATER SOURCE

#### *Where Does My Drinking Water Come From?*

Great Barrington Fire District's water comes from groundwater out of the Green River infiltration gallery located in western-central Great Barrington. The source is designated by MA DEP Source Name and ID Source Number as: Green River [1113000-01G]. On September 30, 2024, our maximum daily consumption (M.D.C.) was 1,131,600 gallons. Great Barrington's water system supplies approximately 1,728 service connections, 59 sprinkler lines, 324 fire hydrants and services a population of approximately 4,380. A surface water reservoir is available as an emergency supply.

#### *How are These Sources Protected?*

MA DEP prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report that was published in March 2003 to assist in the identification of potential sources of contamination. A susceptibility ranking of "high" was assigned to this system. The shallow sand and gravel aquifer characteristics absence of hydrologic barriers such as clay make it susceptible to ground surface contaminant migration.

#### *How Can I Get a copy of The SWAP Report?*

The complete SWAP report is available at the Great Barrington Fire District's Office, or by contacting the Western Region Office of Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection at (413) 784-1100. You may also view this report on our website at: ***greatbarringtonwater.org***

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*This report is a compilation of best available data sources including: licensed operators' reports, water supply owner's coordination. MA DEP public records and EPA online records. The report represents an accurate account of your water quality to the best of our knowledge.*

## SUBSTANCES FOUND IN TAP WATER

Sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of 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. Contaminants that may be present in source water include.

***Microbial contaminants*** - such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
***Inorganic contaminants*** - such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, and farming.
***Pesticides and herbicides*** - which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
***Organic chemical contaminants*** - Including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
***Radioactive contaminants*** - which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

## COMPLIANCE WITH REGULATIONS

### *Does Drinking Water Meet Current Health Standards?*

We are committed to providing you with the best water quality available, however some contaminants that were tested last year did not meet all applicable health standards regulated by the state and federal government.

## Opportunities for Public Participation

If you would like to participate in discussions regarding your water quality, you may attend the Prudential Committee Meetings held on the first and third Tuesday of each month. Meeting dates and times are duly posted at the Great Barrington Fire District Office and the Great Barrington Town Hall.

## IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)** - The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.
**Action Level (AL)** - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
**90th Percentile** - Out of every 10 homes sampled, 9 were at or below this level.
**Treatment Technique (IT)** - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
**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 or expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
**Method of Detection Limit (MDL)** - The minimum concentration of a substance that can be measured and reported with 99% confidence the analyte concentration is greater than zero and determined from analysis of a sample in a given matrix containing the analyte.
**Turbidity** - A measure of the cloudiness of water. Turbidity is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.
**Massachusetts Office of Research and Standards 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.

## WATER QUALITY TESTING RESULTS

The water quality tables show the most recent water quality testing results where levels were detected and compares those levels to standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency and Massachusetts DEP.

MA DEP may reduce the monitoring requirements for volatile organic contaminants (VOC), inorganic contaminant (IOC), or synthetic organic contaminants (SOC) because the source is not at risk of contamination. Great Barrington Fire District currently has not applied for and holds no waivers.

With the exception of those compounds noted on the tables below, all other compounds in the panels reported undetectable levels.

| | Date(s) Collected | 90th (%) | Action Level | MCLG | Sites Sampled |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lead (ppb) | *Quarter 3 2024* | *0.0022* | *0.015* | *0* | *20* |

*Possible LEAD Contamination sources include Corrosion of household plumbing and erosion of natural deposits.

| | Date(s) Collected | 90th (%) | Action Level | MCLG | Sites Sampled |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Copper (ppm) | *Quarter 3 2024* | *0.17* | *1.3* | *1.3* | *20* |

**Possible COPPER Contamination sources include Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits and leaching from wood preservatives.*

| | Highest # of Positive (month) | MCL | MCLG | Violation |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Coliform | *0* | *1* | *0* | *No* |

*Possible sources of contamination, naturally present in the environment.

| | Highest # of Positive (month) | MCL | MCLG | Violation |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fecal Coliform (or E. coli) | 0 | * | 0 | No |

**Possible sources of contamination, human and fecal waste.*
**MCL compliance is determined upon additional repeat testing.*

## Inorganic Contaminants

| Regulated Contaminant | Date (s) Collected | Result | Detection Limit | *MCl* (MG/L) | Violation (Y/N) | Possible Source(s) of Contamination |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nitrate (ppm) | 7/10/2024 | 0.358 | 0.0500 | 10 | N | Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits. |
| Manganese (ppm) | 4/11/2024 | 0.00891 | 0.0020 | 0.05 | N | Erosion of natural deposits. |

*EPA has established a lifetime Health Advisory (HA) for manganese at 0.3 mg/L and an acute HA at 1.0 mg/L*

| Contaminant | Date (s) Collected | Result | Detection Limit | MCl MG/L | Violation (Y/N) | Possible Source(s) of Contamination |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bromodichloromethane (ppb) | 10/8/2024 | 0.60 | 0.0900 | N/A | N | Byproducts of drinking water chlorination. |
| Chlorodibromethane (ppb) | 12/8/2024 | 0.50 | 0.1400 | N/A | N | Byproducts of drinking water chlorination. |

| Radioactive Contaminants | Date (s) Collected | Range Detected | MCL or MRDL | Violation (Y/N) | Possible Source(s) of Contamination |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gross Alpha (pCi/L) **(minus uranium)** | 7/25/2024 | 2.45 | 15 | N | Erosion of natural deposits. |
| Radium 226 & 228 (pCi/.L) (combined values) | 9/10/2024 | <0.480 | 5 | N | Erosion of natural deposits. |

### UNITS OF MEASURE

ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)
ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l)
ND = Not Detected
N/A = Not Applicable
NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Unit

For a full copy of the water quality testing results please visit our website at ***www.greatbarringtonwater.org***

## HEALTH NOTES

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Department of Environmental Protection (MA DEP) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health. All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 some infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on lowering the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800)-426-4791.

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. Great Barrington Fire District 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 hrtp://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Cross connections are potentially hazardous situations for public or private potable water supply and a source of potable water contamination. A cross connection is any potential or actual physical connection between potable water supply and any source through which it is possible to introduce any substance other than potable water into the water supply. Common cross connection scenarios are a garden hose whose spout is submerged in a bucket of soapy water or connected to a spray bottle of weed killer.

Cross connections between a potable water line and a non-potable water system or equipment have long been a concern of the Department of Environmental Protection (MA DEP). MA DEP established regulations to protect the public health of water consumers from contaminants due to back-flow events. The installation of back-flow prevention devices, such as a low-cost hose bib vacuum breaker, for all inside and outside hose connections is recommended. You can purchase this at a hardware store or plumbing supply store. This is a great way for you to help protect the water in your home as well as the drinking water system in your community. For additional information on cross connections and on the status of your water system's cross connection program, please contact:

**Peter H. Marks, Superintendent / Senior Water Operator**
**Great Barrington Fire District Water Department**
**17 East Street / Great Barrington, Massachusetts 01230**
**Phone: (413) 528-0133 / Fax: (413) 528-6061 gbwater@verizon.net**

For more information regarding our system, you may also visit the EPA website at:
*http://www.epa.gov/enviro/facts/sdwis/search.htm*