



# Water Quality Information

North Adams Water Treatment Facility  
351 Pattison Road  
North Adams, MA 01247

Issued June 2020

This report  
contains important  
information about  
your drinking  
water.

## City of North Adams Consumer Confidence Report

### Dear Customer:

Once again, we are proud to present our annual water quality report. The statistics in this report are based on testing conducted throughout 2019.

Your water system is operated by the City of North Adams. All the water facilities are owned by, and all rates are set by, the City. Day-to-day operations of the water treatment facility (WTF) are managed by the Commissioner of Public Services. The staff of the WTF work to provide you with water that meets – and often surpasses – all the health and safety standards set by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MA DEP). Water samples are tested regularly to be sure that your water meets these standards. All test results are maintained on file with the MA DEP, the agency responsible for monitoring and regulating drinking water quality in our state.

This Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) contains important information about your drinking water. Please read it carefully and feel free to call us at 413.662.3000 or 413.664.8041 should you have any questions about your water or water service. You may also call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800.426.4791 with water related questions. If you have specific questions about your water as it relates to your health, we suggest that you contact your health care provider.

Sincerely,  
Timothy Lescarbeau, Commissioner of Public Services

## ABOUT YOUR Water Supply

Water supplied to the residents of the City of North Adams is provided from both surface water and ground water sources. Surface water is sourced from the Mount Williams and Notch Reservoirs. The Notch Reservoir, on Reservoir Road, has a storage capacity of approximately 91 million gallons, a watershed of approximately 2.5 square miles and is connected to the Mount Williams Reservoir via a concrete overflow conduit. The Mount Williams Reservoir, on Pattison Road, has a storage capacity of approximately 200 million gallons and a watershed area of square 1.75 miles. The raw surface water from these sources is treated at the North Adams Water Treatment Facility (WTF).

The MA DEP source ID numbers for our facilities are: Notch Reservoir #1209000-01s and Mount Williams Reservoir #1209000-04s.

# SOURCE WATER Protection

In 1996, Congress amended the Safe Drinking Water Act, creating the Source Water Assessment and Protection Program. Each state is required to identify and evaluate all sources of drinking water, assess the susceptibility of these sources to contamination and promote the protection of them.

The MA DEP has completed a Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) report for the North Adams Water Department. A susceptibility ranking of “high” was assigned to the North Adams system using the information collected during the assessment by the DEP. If a system is rated highly susceptible for a contaminant category, it does not mean a customer is, or will be, consuming contaminated drinking water. The rating reflects the potential for contamination of source water, not the existence of contamination. The complete SWAP report is available from the City by contacting Timothy Lescarbeau, Commissioner of Public Services, at 413.662.3000 or from the MA DEP’s Springfield Regional Office by contacting Kim Longridge at 413.755.2215.

## HEALTH Note

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 infections by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800.426.7491.

## ADDITIONAL Information

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. If you would like more detailed information about your water, please contact Timothy Lescarbeau, Commissioner of Public Services, at 413.662.3000. Residents may also inquire about water system issues by attending the North Adams City Council meetings, which are held at City Hall on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. For additional information, contact the City Clerk at 413.662.3000.

**Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs 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 or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**Minimum Reporting Limit (MRL):** Highest level before reporting is required.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that the 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. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

**NA:** Not applicable.

**NTU:** Nephelometric Turbidity Unit.

**Picocuries per liter (pCi/L):** Measure of radioactivity.

**ppb:** One-part substance per billion parts water or micrograms per liter.

**ppm:** One-part substance per million parts water or milligrams per liter.

**Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in the water.

**Turbidity:** A measure of the cloudiness of water. Turbidity is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.

**>:** This means “greater than.”

**<:** This means “less than.”

**90<sup>th</sup> Percentile:** Nine out of every ten homes sampled were below this level.

## CROSS Connection Inspection and Backflow Prevention Program

Cross connections are potentially hazardous situations for a public or private potable water supply and a source of potable water contamination. A cross connection is any potential or actual physical connection between a potable water supply and any source through which it is possible to introduce any substance (such as gasoline, soap, gray water, or an industrial chemical) other than potable water to 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.

The City of North Adams is not currently required to survey residential properties for cross connections. However, residential properties still may have potential or actual cross connections, most commonly involving outdoor faucets, hot tubs and swimming pools. All faucets to which hoses attach must have a hose bib vacuum breaker to prevent back siphonage. To obtain a copy of the Massachusetts regulations regarding cross connections (310 CMR 22.22), or for any further information regarding cross connections, please contact the MA DEP Western Regional Office at 413.784.1100.

## BOTTLED WATER or Tap Water? (Potential Sources of Contamination)

Sources of drinking water, both tap and bottled water, include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over land or underground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals, and in some cases, radioactive materials, 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, wastewater discharges, 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, gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants** which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production from mining activities.

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800.426.4791.

# Drinking Water Quality Table

This drinking water quality table shows how the drinking water provided to you in 2019 compared to the standards set by the US EPA and the MA DEP. Please note that yearly testing on all substances is not required. Therefore, for such substances, we have indicated the most recent year of required testing.

Primary Standards (Directly related to the safety of drinking water)

We tested for many substances in the water and detected only those indicated in the drinking water quality table. Some of the information is technical in nature so we have provided you with definitions to help you better understand the information contained in this report.

| Inorganic Chemicals           | MCLG | MCL   | Highest Result** | Range of Results | Violation | Likely Source               |
|-------------------------------|------|-------|------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| Barium ppm                    |      | 2     | 0.0062           | ND - 0.0062      | No        | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Sodium ppm                    |      | 20    | 4.52             | ND – 4.52        | No        | Erosion of natural deposits |
| <b>Secondary Contaminants</b> |      |       |                  |                  |           |                             |
| Manganese ppm                 |      | 0.030 | 0.0087           |                  | No        | Erosion of natural deposits |

| Lead and Copper results | MCLG | AL  | 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile | Samples >AL | Violation | Likely Source                   |
|-------------------------|------|-----|-----------------------------|-------------|-----------|---------------------------------|
| Lead ppb                | 0    | 15  | 2.9                         | 0           | No        | Corrosion of household plumbing |
| Copper ppm              | 1.3  | 1.3 | 0.214                       | 0           | No        | Corrosion of household plumbing |

Additional information about 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. The City 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>. Lead and Copper will be tested again in 2020.

| Disinfectant Residual                       | MCLG | MCL        | Highest Result** RAA | Range of Results | Violation | Likely Source     |
|---|------|------------|----------------------|------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| Distribution Disinfectant Residual ppm      | NA   | 4          | 0.25                 | 0.05 – 0.91      | No        | Treatment process |
| <b>Volatile Organic Contaminants (VOCs)</b> |      |            |                      |                  |           |                   |
|   |      | MCL        | Level Found          | Range of Results | Violation | Likely Source     |
| Bromodichloromethane ppb                    |      |            | 0.70                 |                  | No        | Soil runoff       |
| Chloroform ppb                              |      |            | 4.86                 |                  | No        | Soil runoff       |
| TT = 95% <0.3 NTU                           | NA   | TT = 1 NTU | 0.29                 | 0.05 - 0.29      | No        | Soil runoff       |

| Disinfection By-products***  | MCLG | MCL | Level Found | Range of Results | Violation | Likely Source           |
|--|------|-----|-------------|------------------|-----------|-------------------------|
| THMs ppb running annual average<br>(THMs: bromoform, bromodichloromethane, chlorodibromomethane, chloroform) | NA   | 80  | 28.2        | 10.3 - 50        | No        | Disinfection by-product |
| HAA <sub>5</sub> , ppb running annual average  | NA   | 60  | 21.7        | 2.2 - 30         | No        | Disinfection by-product |

| Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule | MRL   | Level Found | Range of Results | Violation | Likely Source           |
|---|-------|-------------|------------------|-----------|-------------------------|
| Monochloroacetic acid ppb               | 2.0   | 2.78        | 0 – 2.78         | No        | Disinfection by-product |
| Monobromoacetic acid ppb                | 0.300 | 2.67        | 0 – 2.67         | No        | Disinfection by-product |
| Dichloroacetic acid ppb                 | 0.200 | 15.4        | 3.15 – 15.4      | No        | Disinfection by-product |
| Trichloroacetic acid ppb                | 0.500 | 20.1        | 5.42 – 20.1      | No        | Disinfection by-product |
| Bromochloroacetic acid ppb              | 0.500 | 1.79        | 0 – 1.79         | No        | Disinfection by-product |
| Bromodichloroacetic acid ppb            | 0.500 | 1.95        | 0.584 – 1.95     | No        | Disinfection by-product |

(HAA<sub>5</sub>: dibromoacetic acid, dichloroacetic acid, monobromoacetic acid, monochloroacetic acid, trichloroacetic acid) \*\*Highest results are based upon the highest running annual average.

\*\*\*Compliance based on highest annual average of quarterly samples. Range of results is based on individual samples

## Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule

Unregulated contaminants are those that don't yet have a drinking water standard set by the US Environmental Protection Agency. The purpose of monitoring for these contaminants is to help the US EPA decide whether these contaminants should have a standard