



**AQUARION**  
*Water Company*

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**NO PERCHLORATE DETECTED IN AQUARION WATER  
COMPANY'S MILLBURY DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM  
State and Company Officials Say the Water is Safe For Consumption**

MILLBURY, MA - September 1, 2008- Two consecutive sets of test results received on August 30 and August 31 show that perchlorate is not being detected in Aquarion's Millbury distribution system and the water is now safe for drinking and cooking for all individuals, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Aquarion Water Company officials said today.

Aquarion is using its Community Alert Network, commonly known as Reverse 911, to inform all customers with listed telephone numbers of the water's safety. The company also will mail a notice to each customer's home or business.

The water company took its Millbury Avenue Well out of service on August 28 and advised customers to take precautions. In 2006, Massachusetts set a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for perchlorate of 2 parts per billion (ppb) to protect pregnant women, nursing mothers, infants, children up to the age of 12, and individuals with hypothyroidism. The general population is advised not to drink the water if levels exceed 18 ppb.

Perchlorate, an ingredient used in rocket and jet fuels, explosives, and fireworks, was detected at 10.2 ppb in results of a water sample on August 20 and reported on August 28.

The company flushed the distribution system intermittently since August 28. Sampling conducted over the weekend confirms there is no perchlorate present in the water distribution system in Millbury.

Although tests of the Millbury Avenue well show there is no perchlorate in the raw water, the well will remain off line pending further evaluation and consultation with the DEP on next steps. Water is being supplied by the Jacques Wells, which are treated to remove perchlorate, and an interconnection with the City of Worcester.

Massachusetts DEP requires that public water suppliers test annually for perchlorate. The last test results in September 2007 did not show any perchlorate in treated water that is sent into the distribution system.

This incident underscores the need for everyone to be vigilant in protecting public water supplies and to report any suspicious activity or dumping near sources of supply.

**MORE**

## **PERCHLORATE NO LONGER DETECTED 2-2-2-2-2-2**

“Aquarion would like to extend its gratitude to the Massachusetts DEP Central Regional Office for its guidance and support in order to handle this matter as quickly as possible,” said Larry Bingaman, Senior Vice President of Operations. “Additionally, we appreciate the support and assistance given by the Town Manager, Board of Health and the Millbury Public School Department,” Bingaman said.

Water company officials are continuing to ask customers to voluntarily conserve water until further notice by reducing the watering of lawns and gardens. Other conservation measures are listed on the water utility's web page at [www.aquarionwater.com](http://www.aquarionwater.com) <<http://www.aquarionwater.com>>.

More information about perchlorate is available from the DEP website at <http://www.mass.gov/dep/brp/dws/percinfo.htm>, <http://www.mass.gov/dep/brp/dws/percinfo.htm>, the EPA website at [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov), the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791 or Aquarion Water Company at 800-928-3734.

Aquarion Water Company of Massachusetts, an Aquarion subsidiary is the public water supply company for some 18,500 homes and businesses, including about 3,900 customers in Millbury, in the towns of Oxford, Hingham, Hull, and North Cohasset, Massachusetts.

**< AQUARION WATER COMPANY <**



# DRINKING WATER WARNING



**Important information about your drinking water  
Please read or have someone translate it for you**

## **TESTS SHOW PERCHLORATE IN WATER SUPPLIED TO AQUARION WATER CUSTOMERS, MILLBURY, MA**

Water sampling performed on the Millbury water supply on August 20, 2008 and reported to Aquarion officials on August 28, 2008, revealed a level of **10.2** parts per billion (ppb) of perchlorate at the Millbury Avenue Well. The Massachusetts Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for perchlorate is 2.0 ppb (see below #1). The Millbury Avenue Well has been taken out of service and is not currently providing water to the distribution system pending additional tests to confirm the presence of perchlorate. Confirmation samples are in process. No perchlorate was detected in the treated water delivered from the Jacques wells in Millbury; the Oak Pond Well is out of service.

### **Possible Health Effects**

Perchlorate interferes with the normal function of the thyroid gland and thus has the potential to affect growth and development and could cause brain damage and other adverse effects, particularly in fetuses and infants.

### **What should I do?**

1. Pregnant women, nursing mothers, infants, children up to the age of 12, and individuals with hypothyroidism should not consume drinking water containing concentrations of perchlorate that exceed the Maximum Contaminant Level of 2.0 ppb.
2. Ice cubes, juices, baby formula, and other beverages prepared before August 29 should be discarded.
3. The general population is advised not to drink the water if levels exceed 18 ppb.
4. If you are concerned about effects of previous exposure to perchlorate on your thyroid functions, you should contact your primary health care provider.

### **What happened? What is being done?**

Perchlorate is an inorganic chemical widely used as an oxidizer in fireworks, blasting agents and in other industrial products. The last monitoring for perchlorate at the Millbury Avenue Well in September 2007 did not detect perchlorate in the water.

The Millbury Avenue Well was taken out of service at 2:30 PM. on August 28, 2008, and will remain out of service until the safety of the water from this well is confirmed. Aquarion is flushing the water mains to remove any residual perchlorate from the water system. Water for the Town of Millbury is being provided by the Jacques Wells, which are treated to remove perchlorate, and from the City of Worcester.

Aquarion is investigating the source of the contamination and evaluating next steps in cooperation with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. This incident underscores the need for everyone to be vigilant in protecting public water supplies and to report any suspicious activity or dumping near sources of supply.

**For more information and updates on the situation**, please contact Aquarion Water Company at 800-928-3734.

*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:  
Aquarion Water Company, Millbury

PWS ID#:  
2186000

Date distributed:  
August 29, 2008