



AQUARION
Water Company

Stewards of the Environment™

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Mandatory Water Restrictions To Begin On May 1

HINGHAM, MA. – State limits on the amount of water Aquarion Water Company is allowed to withdraw from its wells and reservoirs have led the company to impose summertime restrictions on outside watering and irrigation in Hingham, Hull and North Cohasset beginning on May 1.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) regulates and closely monitors the quantity of water that water utilities withdraw from the environment.

In the past year, Aquarion has undertaken substantial investments to maximize water supply within MassDEP permitted limits. While these investments have increased the company's ability to meet anticipated peak day water demands this upcoming summer, regulations require that the company nonetheless abide by the annual limit on the amount of water withdrawn from its wells and reservoirs in the Weir River Watershed, as authorized by the MassDEP. In 2014, water withdrawals approached 99 percent of the annual limit. The company is implementing summertime restrictions this year to ensure that the annual limit is not exceeded in 2015.

"The demand for water increases in the summer with the use of irrigation systems. Like many communities in Massachusetts, we implement these types of conservation measures to ensure that we do not have to withdraw more water from our wells and reservoir than is authorized by the MassDEP," said John Walsh, vice president of operations for Aquarion. "And, despite the record snow fall this past winter, the amount of water that we are authorized to withdraw from the environment remains unchanged."

These mandatory restrictions, which will continue through October 15, 2015, apply only to irrigation systems and hose-end sprinklers. Customers with odd number street addresses may only water on Tuesdays and Saturdays, and those with even number street addresses may only water on Wednesdays and Sundays. On these assigned days, customers are allowed to water before 10 a.m. and after 6 p.m., when evaporation losses will be minimized and more water goes to the plants' roots. Hand-held watering is permitted any time.

"Grass grows the deepest and healthiest roots with infrequent watering," according to Debbie Cook, manager of the Greenscapes program at the North and South Rivers Watershed Association (greenscapes.org). "Watering two days a week is more than adequate to have a beautiful lawn. In fact, research has shown that grass thrives with about an inch of rain a week - some supplied by Mother Nature and the rest by just one watering," added Cook.

Through a diverse mix of educational and community programs, Aquarion seeks to increase customers' knowledge of water resources, its use, and the need to conserve.

It is anticipated that most customers will adhere to the restrictions. For customers who ignore the restrictions, the first violation will consist of a written warning that explains the consequences of a second violation – having the household's water shut off. Customers will then be charged a fee when they request that their water service be turned back on.

For more information about Aquarion's water conservation measures, please contact Ronit Goldstein at rgoldstein@aquarionwater.com or visit www.aquarionwater.com/MA/waterconservation

About Aquarion Water Company of Massachusetts:

Aquarion Water Company of Massachusetts is the public water supply company for nearly 19,000 homes and businesses in the towns of Millbury, Oxford, Hingham, Hull, and North Cohasset. Aquarion Water Company is the largest investor-owned water utility in New England, and it has been in the public water supply business since 1857. Across its operations, Aquarion strives to act as a responsible steward of the environment and to assist the communities it serves in promoting sustainable practices.

Aquarion's water system serving Hingham, Hull, and North Cohasset - as well as its water system serving Millbury - was presented with an award "For Outstanding Performance and Achievement in 2013" by the Massachusetts Department of

Environmental Protection (DEP). Of the 1,733 public water systems in Massachusetts, only nineteen systems received the award.

For more information on Aquarion Water Company and its subsidiaries, please visit www.aquarionwater.com or www.facebook.com/HinghamWaterFacts

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