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Aquarion Wins Top DEP Award For The Fourth Time In Past Five Years

HINGHAM, MA. – The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) announced that Aquarion Water Company has again received a Public Water System Award for outstanding performance for its water system serving Hingham, Hull, and North Cohasset.

Aquarion also received this award for its performance in 2016, 2014 and 2013.

For over two decades, MassDEP has given this award to recognize a select group of dedicated water professionals for their outstanding accomplishments in delivering consistent and safe drinking water to residents. All of the state's 1,735 public water systems were eligible for this award, but only 58 were chosen by MassDEP for this honor.

The MassDEP has announced it will honor Aquarion's achievement at a May 8 ceremony at the State House in Boston, MA. Aquarion is one of only 19 medium (population served > 10,000) and large (population served > 50,000) public water systems receiving a similar award for 2017.

According to MassDEP, the water system award honorees "have excellent compliance with state and federal drinking water regulations. Not only do they have complete compliance with regulations for calendar year 2017, they have had no violations in the past 5 years. They have gone beyond compliance by testing for secondary contaminants and by having adequate capacity. This shows exemplary efforts to attain such an excellent record."

Aquarion maintains an extensive quality testing program each year to ensure that its more than 13,000 customers in Hingham, Hull and North Cohasset have safe and reliable drinking water. The company conducts over 7,500 quality tests annually and

has invested \$14 million in infrastructure improvements since 2012 to ensure that the systems remain safe and reliable. As a result of these and other initiatives, Aquarion has a strong record of meeting - or surpassing - the most stringent federal and state drinking water standards. In addition, Aquarion keeps its customers informed about the results of the extensive, exacting monitoring through the publication of annual water quality reports at www.aquarionwater.com.

“Aquarion takes a disciplined approach to our water infrastructure investments and maintenance activities. This plays a large role in our continued success in delivering award-winning water to our customers,” said Steve Olson, Massachusetts’s Director of Operations for Aquarion.

In announcing the award, MassDEP Program Director Yvette DePeiza told Aquarion officials in an April 10th letter: “Your system has achieved one of the top scores in the large and medium Community System category.”

The letter went on to say, “The MassDEP realizes that it is no easy task to keep up with the ever evolving federal and state drinking water regulations. While most systems strive just to comply with the regulations, the Aquarion system has put forth an extra effort for many years.”

“This award once again highlights the expertise and dedication of our Aquarion team, including our management and operations staff in Hingham and our corporate water quality specialists. They are committed to providing the residents of Hingham, Hull, and North Cohasset with high-quality water and service,” said John Walsh, Aquarion’s Vice President of Operations.

About Aquarion Water Company of Massachusetts:

Aquarion Water Company of Massachusetts is the public water supply company for more than 50,000 people in the towns of Hingham, Hull, North Cohasset, Millbury, and Oxford. 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 Water Company is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Eversource.

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

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