



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.

"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>>.

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, 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.