



AQUARION
Water Company

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**PERCHLORATE DETECTED IN AQUARION WATER COMPANY
WELL WATER SAMPLES IN MILLBURY**
Aquarion Officials Take Millbury Avenue Well Off-line

MILLBURY, MA – August 29, 2008 – Perchlorate, an ingredient used in rocket and jet fuels, explosives, and fireworks has been detected in one Aquarion Water Company of Massachusetts well in Millbury, the company announced today.

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. Pregnant women, nursing mothers, infants, children up to the age of 12, and individuals with hypothyroidism are advised not to consume drinking water containing concentrations of perchlorate that exceed the MCL of 2.0 ppb. The general population is advised not to drink the water if levels exceed 18 ppb.

The Millbury Avenue Well was taken out of service at 2:30PM on August 28, 2008, and is not providing water to the distribution system pending additional tests to confirm the presence of perchlorate. Confirmation samples are in process and the well will remain out of service until the safety of the water is confirmed. Aquarion is flushing the water mains to remove any residual perchlorate from the water system.

The Jacques Wells in Millbury did not reveal perchlorate in the treated water that enters the distribution system and the Oak Pond Well is out of service.

The Millbury Avenue Well will remain out of service until the safety of the water is confirmed. At this time it is undetermined when the wells will be reactivated. The company has been in continuous contact with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and local officials to keep them informed on the matter. Aquarion officials are actively working with the DEP on monitoring and how to best keep customers informed. Meanwhile, Aquarion and the DEP plan to investigate the source of the contamination and will evaluate if a treatment system is needed.

In 2006, Massachusetts set a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for perchlorate of 2 ppb. 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.

MORE

PERCHLORATE DETECTED 2-2-2-2-2-2-2

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.

In order to keep customers fully informed, Aquarion is delivering notices door-to-door on August 29. Customers who made ice cubes, juices, baby formula, and other beverages prepared before August 29 should discard those products. Aquarion is also providing bottled water to public and private schools and day care facilities.

In the meantime, Aquarion's Millbury customers are receiving water from the Jacques Wells, which are treated to remove perchlorate, and through water purchased from the City of Worcester.

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. The adverse health effects associated with perchlorate exposure are expected to be similar to those caused by iodine deficiency. If customers are concerned about effects of previous exposure to perchlorate on thyroid functions, they should contact their primary health care provider.

Skin absorption of perchlorate as a result of skin contact during showering and bathing is expected to be low, because perchlorate is dissolved in water. It also doesn't evaporate, so it will not be in the air or inhaled during showering.

In order to manage future demand, water company officials are asking customers to voluntarily conserve water until further notice by reducing the watering of lawns and gardens, repairing leaks, and to take other conservation actions. Additional conservation tips are on Aquarion's web page at www.aquarion.com.

For more information and updates on the situation, please contact Aquarion Water Company at 800-928-3734. Individuals can obtain additional information about perchlorate from the DEP website at <http://www.mass.gov/dep/brp/dws/percinfo.htm>, the EPA website at www.epa.gov, or the EPA safe water hotline at 800-426-4791.

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.

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