

# Flushing/Hydrant Flow Testing Advisory

## October 24-28, October 31-November 4 2022

Additional information on our website.

Roily water occasioned by legacy manganese (manganese sediment) continues to affect residents in certain areas of town.

**Hydrant Flushing:** From October 24-28 and October 31-November 4 2022 we will be flushing our distribution system according to the schedule accompanying this notice. Every effort will be made to isolate disturbances to the sections being flushed; however, we want to remind customers that other areas may be affected as an unintended consequence.

The Company follows a hydrant flushing sequence for hydrants and blow-offs throughout its system. This protocol has been followed for many years. The flushing is broken into three sections to effectively flush those sections of the system and minimize disruption to other parts of the system. The main trunk line from the source intersecting North Plain Road, Van Deusenville Road to Park Street on the southern part of the distribution system bring water from the source which is then drawn sequentially through areas that are divided into sections as described below. Flushing in each of the three sections is conducted to minimize disturbances; however, flushing in general can cause occasional disturbances in other sections of the distribution system.

Section I consists of the transmission main running from the reservoir to the Division Street/North Plain Road, extending to the West Stockbridge Williamsville area. Section II consists of the Van Deusenville Road/downtown core, and extends to the Stockbridge Furnace area, whereas Section III consists primarily of Park Street from Ramsdell Road on the south to the Park Street bridge in the north. When Section I is being flushed, the transmission line to Section II at the intersection of North Plain Road and Main Street is shut off to provide unidirectional flushing. Likewise, when Section II is flushed, the North Plain Road and Main Street valve is closed, and the valve line at the Park Street Bridge is closed. Similarly, Section III is isolated from Sections I and II. Blow offs on secondary streets in each section are conducted upon completion of the primary lines in each section. Our hydrant flushing schedule is at the end of this notice.

**What to expect:** During this phase, customers in our service area may experience lower water pressure and/or roily water. While we apologize for this inconvenience, we also stress that the water is safe, meeting rigorous federal and state regulatory standards.

**Hydrant Flow Testing:** Once the flushing is completed we will be flowing several hydrants to collect data for our engineers to use in developing a plan for water main upgrades. These hydrants are located in the North Plain Road section in West Stockbridge.

**What to expect:** During this phase five hydrants in various part of town will be flowed for a short amount of time . And while we anticipate the majority of the legacy manganese will have been remove during the flushing phase there may be bouts of system-wide roily water.

# Roily Water

## **What is it?**

Cloudy water.

## **Is it safe to drink?**

Yes. Water is processed through a slow sand filter and disinfected with Chlorine before entering the distribution system. Water is tested for bacteria and Chlorine levels are continuously monitored.

## **What causes it?**

An unusual or sudden acceleration of the flow of water through the pipes such as when a hydrant is opened is the usual culprit. Water main breaks and excessive demand during hot spells can also occasion roily water.

## **Why is it yellow - reddish brown?**

Most mains in our system are 100 year old iron. As they age, fine rust sediment accumulates. Normally it stays on the bottom of the main. However, when water disturbances occur and stir up the sediment discoloration occurs. Significant disturbances create more discoloration.

Corrosion of galvanized service lines and household plumbing systems can also discolor water.

## **Can these pipes be cleaned?**

Our annual hydrant flushing program which occurs in the spring when water temperatures are colder purges much of the sediment out of our 17 miles of mains.

Warmer water accelerates corrosion and keeps the sediment suspended in the water longer so flushing the system during the summer may exacerbate the situation .

## **How long will it last?**

It is difficult to estimate how long bouts of roily water will last or determine what parts of town will be affected. Variables such as location, duration and volume of water disturbed affect how long it will last.

Please follow our Facebook page for future updates or visit our website [housatonicwater.com](http://housatonicwater.com)

**Thank you for being a valued customer.**

# Hydrant Flushing Schedule

Our hydrant flushing program will be conducted October 24-28 / October 31-November 4 2022 between the hours of 9:00-4:00PM.

To help you plan, the following represents our **anticipated** flushing schedule:

## **DAY 1-2**

Christian Hill Road

North Plain Road

Crimson Lane

Brookside

Linda Lane

Wyantenuck Street

Water Street

Great Barrington Road

Division Street

## **Day 3-4**

Park Street

Maple Street

Walnut Street blow off

Spruce Street

Grove Street

Ramsdell Road

## **DAY 5-8**

Mountain Street

Park Street

Great Barrington Housing

Cone Avenue

Van Deusenville Road

Front Street

Front Street

Oak Street

South Street

Main Street

Forrest Street

Highland Street

Highland Street

Pleasant Street

Meadow Street

## **DAY 9**

Fire Station

Depot & Main Street

Main Street

Route 183 at Town Line

Blow off in woods

Furnace District

Apple Street

Housatonic Court

Furnace District at Route 183

## **DAY 10**

High Street

Hart Street

Kirk & North Street

Kirk Street

Fairview Road

Prospect Street

