



Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

## Department of Environmental Protection

Western Regional Office • 436 Dwight Street, Springfield MA 01103 • 413-784-1100

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*SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL*

December 20, 2022

Mr. James Mercer, Treasurer  
Housatonic Water Works  
80 Maple Ave Ste 1  
Great Barrington, MA 01230

Re: Great Barrington-DWP  
Housatonic Water Works  
PWS ID#: 1113003  
ENF # 00013199 Response

Dear Mr. Mercer,

The Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) is in receipt of document titled "Evaluation of Reducing Water Age by Lowering Storage Tank Water Level, as a Short-Term Means to Reducing DBPs for Housatonic Water Works Company". The document was dated November 14, 2022, and it was prepared in response to Condition 8.A presented in ACO 00013199 by Robert F. Ferrari, PE of Northeast Water Solutions Inc. The Condition 8.A states, "Within 45-days of the effective date of this Consent Order, Respondent shall provide the results of an evaluation of reducing water age by lowering the levels within its water storage tank as a short-term means of reducing disinfection byproducts".

The evaluation of the November 14, 2022 document concluded: *"Based on the evaluation, lowering the water level in the 1.1-MG storage tank further than the current practice can decrease water age, however, it will adversely impact the water pressure for certain areas in the distribution system especially during fire flow conditions"*. MassDEP concurs with the above referenced evaluations and the study done by Housatonic Water Works. However, MassDEP requires HWWC to continue to work on an evaluation of the causes of HAA5 MCL violations and the treatment alternatives to prevent future HAA5 MCL violations in the water distribution system.

If you have any questions, please contact Hem Pokharel at 617-455-7957 or email at [Hem.Pokharel@Mass.Gov](mailto:Hem.Pokharel@Mass.Gov).

Respectfully,

Deirdre Doherty  
Drinking Water/Municipal Services Chief  
Western Regional Office

cc:  
DWP, Boston  
Great Barrington Board of Health (eCopy)  
Hem Pokharel (eCopy); Doug Paine (eCopy) Bob Ferrari, Northeast Water Solutions Inc. (eCopy)

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