



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

Maura T. Healey  
Governor

Kimberley Driscoll  
Lieutenant Governor

Rebecca L. Tepper  
Secretary

Gary Moran  
Acting Commissioner

March 8, 2023

Board of Selectmen  
Town of Great Barrington  
334 Main Street  
Great Barrington, MA 01230

RE: Great Barrington  
Housatonic Water Works  
1113003  
Water Quality Concerns

Dear Board members:

Thank you for your letter of February 14, 2023 wherein you inform MassDEP of your and customers of Housatonic Water Works Company's (HWWCO) concerns about the discolored water and their concern about the impact of Haloacetic Acid concentrations in their drinking water. MassDEP also shares the same concerns and has worked and continues to work with HWWCO to address these concerns. As you may be aware, MassDEP's actions, including oversight and enforcement, are carefully reviewed here in MassDEP and have not deviated from the Department's manganese or Disinfection Byproduct responses.

You may be familiar with the current information on MassDEP's website regarding manganese and Haloacetic Acids contaminants in drinking water. However, I wanted to share these links as information has been updated in 2022 for both of these contaminants:

### HAA5

- The new fact sheet on HAA5: [https://www.mass.gov/doc/factsheet-haloacetic-acids-and-total-trihalomethane-in-drinking-water-information-for-consumers/download?\\_ga=2.100017689.624682810.1678128885-578050206.1621544371](https://www.mass.gov/doc/factsheet-haloacetic-acids-and-total-trihalomethane-in-drinking-water-information-for-consumers/download?_ga=2.100017689.624682810.1678128885-578050206.1621544371)
- The new Tier 2 Public Notice template for HAA5 (it is with other Tier 2 templates): <https://www.mass.gov/lists/public-notification-forms-and-templates#tier-2-templates->
- DEP letter to PWS about the new Tier 2 Public Notice: [https://www.mass.gov/doc/notice-to-pws-updated-tier-2-pn-templates-and-fact-sheets-for-tthm-and-haa5/download?\\_ga=2.166145593.624682810.1678128885-578050206.1621544371](https://www.mass.gov/doc/notice-to-pws-updated-tier-2-pn-templates-and-fact-sheets-for-tthm-and-haa5/download?_ga=2.166145593.624682810.1678128885-578050206.1621544371)

Manganese

- The new fact sheet on manganese: [https://www.mass.gov/doc/manganese-in-drinking-water-typical-questions-and-answers-for-consumers-0/download?\\_ga=2.161941307.624682810.1678128885-578050206.1621544371](https://www.mass.gov/doc/manganese-in-drinking-water-typical-questions-and-answers-for-consumers-0/download?_ga=2.161941307.624682810.1678128885-578050206.1621544371)

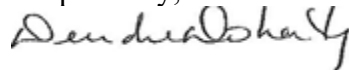
Response to complaints has led MassDEP to require HWWCO to conduct water quality monitoring, specifically routine twice/month distribution system monitoring at three locations for manganese and other parameters (six samples per month), and to conduct sampling of water at residential properties that reported discolored drinking water. MassDEP has also collected samples in the HWWCO distribution system. MassDEP continues to review its oversight options regarding the ongoing concerns at this public water system.

Currently, MassDEP is reviewing HWWCO's corrective action report of alternatives for controlling the formation of Haloacetic Acids and other Disinfection Byproducts. MassDEP has directed HWWCO to implement one of two recommended actions this year. MassDEP is continuing review of the second recommended corrective action. MassDEP has received the interim Manganese pilot treatment report for review as well and will respond accordingly to HWWCO's proposal to address Manganese problems.

Please note that, as with any governmental agency, MassDEP's actions regarding the Commonwealth's drinking water program is informed and controlled by the laws, regulations, established standards and relevant policies. In doing so, MassDEP continues to hold public water suppliers, including HWWCO, accountable in the event of noncompliance with established standards.

Please continue to communicate with this office on your concerns and reach out with questions as well.

Respectfully,



Deirdre Doherty  
Drinking Water Section Chief  
MassDEP-WERO

Ecc: MassDEP-DWP-Boston  
Great Barrington Board of Health  
Stockbridge Board of Health  
West Stockbridge Board of Health  
MassDEP-WERO-M. Gorski, S. Motamedi  
Tri-Town Health District – Jim Wilusz  
Housatonic Water Works