

Stephen C. Bannon, Chair
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TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON MASSACHUSETTS

SELECTBOARD

February 14, 2023

VIA EMAIL: Deirdre.doherty@state.ma.us

Ms. Deirdre Doherty
Drinking Water/Municipal Services Chief
Bureau of Water Resources
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection/ MA DEP
436 Dwight Street
Springfield, MA 01103

RE: Housatonic Water Works (HWW)

Dear Ms. Doherty,

At its meeting of January 23, 2023, the Great Barrington Selectboard once again discussed the topic of water quality provided to the residents in the Village of Housatonic by the Housatonic Water Works Company.

The Selectboard continues to receive complaints from residents on a regular basis, and we remain concerned with how MA DEP is handling enforcement and oversight on several fronts. Repeated enforcement orders from your department for elevated or exceedance levels of HAA5 rarely if ever result in improvements to water quality. Elevated levels of Manganese have continued to result in water clarity levels that vary from the color of tea, to the color of black coffee at times.

While deemed safe for consumption by MA DEP, the water provided by HWW to many of its customers does not meet the water quality standards residents of the Commonwealth expect from a water utility.

The Selectboard formally requests that DEP immediately hold HWW to a higher standard since your current approach does not appear to be effective. By this we mean additional oversight and regulation enforcement, monetary fines for exceedances, additional training of HWW staff, facility and infrastructure upgrades, or any combination of these actions. Our residents and the customers of this privately owned utility deserve more.

Respectfully and on behalf of the entire Selectboard,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Bannon', written in a cursive style.

Stephen Bannon/Chair

Cc: MA DPU

Representative Pignatelli

Senator Mark

GB Board of Health