



# HOUSATONIC WATER WORKS COMPANY

SINCE 1897

November 3, 2020

VIA EMAIL: [deirdre.doherty@state.ma.us](mailto:deirdre.doherty@state.ma.us)

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

RE: Housatonic Water Works Company  
PWSID #1113003  
Cornwell Report

Dear Ms. Doherty:

Attached is the report that Cornwell Engineering Group prepared.

It appears that there are two separate causes of the colored water issues:

- Suspended particles from hydraulic disturbances: Roily water observations originate during water main flushing, hydrant testing, and when water is used to battle fires. At these times there are high volumes of water moving through the distribution system. During these events sediment (iron rust) in the pipes gets stirred up. These disturbances often result in a turbid, darker colored water with suspended particles.
- Clear yellow color from manganese: In both summer 2018 and summer 2020, some parts of the distribution system experienced a clear (transparent) water with a light yellow color. Based on Cornwell's recent data analysis, we now believe that yellow water was caused by manganese in the treated water. At all times, the low level of manganese was of no health risk.

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The report identifies manganese as the primary source of the colored water and the company is developing a plan to remediate the situation in a timely manner.

Sincerely,



James J. Mercer

*Enclosure*

cc:

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