

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**

### **Test showed Coliform Bacteria in Wannacomet Water Company System**

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for drinking water contaminants. We took 26 samples to test for the presence of coliform bacteria on September 7, 2011. Six (6) of our samples showed the presence of total coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than one (1) may do so.

#### **What should I do?**

- You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1 (800) 426-4791.

#### **What does this mean?**

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves. *Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.*

Usually, coliforms are a sign that there could be a problem with the system's treatment or distribution system (pipes). Whenever we detect coliform bacteria in any sample we do follow-up testing to see if other bacteria of other concern, such as fecal coliform or E. coli, are present. **We did not find any of these bacteria in our subsequent testing, and further testing shows that this problem has been resolved.**

#### **What happened? What was done?**

The six samples that indicated the presence of coliform bacteria were taken at 20 South Water Street, Salem Street, 50 Cliff Road, Steamboat Wharf, Bathing Beach Road, and 188 Madaket Road. Follow up samples were taken at these locations as well as an additional sample upstream and downstream of these locations. The follow-up samples and the upstream and downstream samples indicated no presence of coliform bacteria. **All of the six locations were included in routine sampling done on September 19th and all sample results were coliform absent and this testing shows the problem to be resolved.**

For more information, please contact Robert Gardner or Mark Willett at 508-228-0022 at the Wannacomet Water Company, 1 Milestone Road, Nantucket, MA 02554.

*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.*

This notice is being sent to you by Wannacomet Water Company, PWS ID #4197000  
Distributed: September 29, 2011