

The SDWA Assessment Advisory Committee

As part of the Assessment Program, the Legislature also formed a SDWA Assessment Advisory Committee to:

- Recommend assessment rates,
- Monitor and audit the Assessment Program,
- Produce an annual report for the Legislature, and
- Conduct public meetings.

The following groups are represented on the Committee:

- Massachusetts Water Works Association
- Western Massachusetts Water Works Association
- New England Water Works Association
- Investor Owned Water Companies
- Rural Water Systems
- Non-Community Water Systems
- Massachusetts Municipal Association
- Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
- Industry
- Water Supply Protection/Watershed Organizations

For more information on public meetings of the Assessment Advisory Committee, you can visit this web site:
www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/news/advisory-committees/safe-drinking-water-act-assessment-advisory-committee.html

Current SDWA Assessment Rates

Rates have only increased once since the inception of the Assessment Program.

- \$8.50/million gallons of water used at metered PWSs
- The minimum bill is \$20.00
- Over half of PWSs pay the minimum bill
- Approximate cost to consumer is \$0.31 annually

Upcoming SDWA Work

- Revised Total Coliform Rule
- Capacity Development
- Energy Improvements
- Climate Change
- Unregulated Contaminants, including cyanobacteria & 1,4 Dioxane
- Registering New PWSs (approximately 40 new PWSs annually)
- Lead Ban

*Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Drinking Water Program
One Winter Street, 5th Floor
Boston, MA 02108
Phone 617.292.5770*

*Email program.director-dwp@state.ma.us
www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep
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Safe Drinking Water Act Assessment Program



*Supporting Drinking Water
Primacy in Massachusetts
for 20 Years*



Massachusetts Department of
Environmental Protection



Safe Drinking Water Act Assessment - Supporting Drinking Water Primacy in Massachusetts for 20 Years

What is the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Assessment?

MGL Chapter 21A, Section 18A

The State Legislature passed the Assessment Program in 1993 to help support the state's SDWA primacy.

Primacy means that the federal SDWA is implemented by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) instead of by the federal government.

The Assessment provides about \$2 million annually to support MassDEP staff that implement SDWA primacy programs.



Benefits to MassDEP Implementation of the SDWA to PWSs

- Regulations and programs are innovative and crafted based on the needs of Massachusetts PWSs.
- PWSs provide input on programs and regulatory development.
- One-on-one assistance such as during emergency response situations.
- Training for PWSs and training contact hours to maintain operator licenses.



PWS Cost Savings

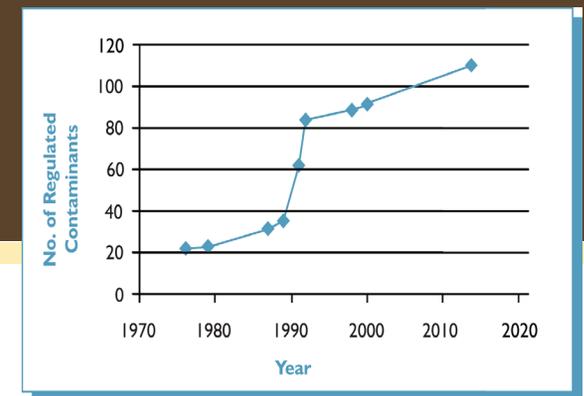
Millions of dollars have been saved by PWSs and their customers because of MassDEP programs, such as:

- Groundwater Under the Influence of Surface Water: \$7.5 million saved at public wells determined not to be under the direct influence of surface water.
- Monitoring Waivers: \$1.9 million saved as a result of water quality monitoring waivers granted between 2011 and 2013.
- Filtration Waivers: \$66.5 million saved as a result of filtration waivers.

Outlook: MassDEP's SDWA Program

Consumer Safety

There are currently 1,735 PWSs in Massachusetts. 90% of PWSs have not had a public health emergency (boil order, do not drink, etc.). There have been no waterborne disease outbreaks.



Increasing SDWA Workload

The requirements of the SDWA have increased substantially over the past 40 years. For example, in 1974, PWSs were required to test for 7 substances. In 2014, 115 tests are required at several locations throughout the water system. Both PWSs and MassDEP continue to meet the challenges related to safeguarding public health and protecting drinking water supplies for future generations; this is possible partially due to funding from the SDWA Assessment.