



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Department of Environmental Protection

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DEVAL L. PATRICK
Governor

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Secretary

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Commissioner

Notice to Building Commissioners and Local Permitting Authorities* August 2014

Dear Building Commissioner and Local Permitting Authorities:

To ensure Massachusetts residents continue to receive safe drinking water, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) is providing you with a list of 'Registered Public Water Systems' in your community (Attachment A). Also enclosed is information on how we can work together to make sure all public water systems are identified and referred to MassDEP to ensure safe drinking water for all users.

Maintaining safe drinking water requires an awareness of the roles we play in protecting public health. While public water suppliers are the primary responsible entities for facilities which meet the definition of a public water system, local inspectors also play an essential role. Building and plumbing inspectors enforce the public safety laws which ensure buildings can safely be occupied, and that occupied buildings have a potable source of water. As defined by the MA Plumbing Code 248 CMR 10.00, a potable water source is '*...water whose bacteriological and chemical quality conforms to MassDEP Regulations 310 CMR 22.00...*' MassDEP regulations govern the creation and operation of public water systems. They define a public water system as '*...a system of water that has at least 15 service connections, or provides water to an average of 25 people per day for at least 60 days per year*' (see Attachment B for the full definition).

For building permit applicants it may not be evident that a water supply source can be both privately owned and a public water system. Some examples of this are hotels, restaurants, apartment complexes, retail centers, daycare facilities and nursing homes which have their own source of water. In all these instances, the facility owner is a 'public water supplier' operating a 'public water system'.

To enable applicants and local authorities to better determine if a proposed project will create a public water system, MassDEP is providing you with a 'Private or Public Water System Chart' (Attachment C) and 'Tips for Addressing Public Water Systems' (Attachment D). We thank you for your attention to this Notice and look forward to joining efforts with you in this important endeavor to ensure that all public water systems are meeting state drinking water standards. If you have any questions please contact me at 617-292-5857 or the program contacts listed on Attachment D.

Sincerely,

Yvette DePeiza, Program Director
MassDEP/Drinking Water Program

encl: Registered PWS List, PWS Definition, Private or Public Water System Chart, Tips

* Planning Boards, Zoning Boards of Appeal, Mayors, Town Managers, Boards of Selectmen

This information is available in alternate format. Call Michelle Waters-Ekanem, Diversity Director, at 617-292-5751. TDD# 1-866-539-7622 or 1-617-574-6868
MassDEP Website: www.mass.gov/dep

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