

Oak Bluffs Water District

Public Water System Information

OAK BLUFFS WATER DISTRICT
PWSID 4221000

96 VINEYARD AVENUE
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OAK BLUFFS, MA 02557
Office: (508) 693-5527
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OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday
8:30AM – 12:00PM
1:00PM – 4:30PM

WATER SYSTEM CONTACTS

Kevin H. Johnson
Superintendent

Joyce Kilmer-Garde
Office Administrator

GOVERNING BOARD

Oak Bluffs
Board of Water Commissioners

Raymond J. Moreis, Jr.
Chairman
Michael S. deBettencourt
Nelson Oliver

MEETING SCHEDULE

First Wednesday
of each month, at 4:30PM
at the Water District Office

All meetings are open to the public;
if you wish to speak at one of our
meetings, please call the Water District
Office in advance to be added to the
meeting agenda.

Please note that the meeting
schedule is subject to change.

2014 Consumer Confidence Report

Volume 17

The Oak Bluffs Water District is pleased to present the 2014 Consumer Confidence Report. This report is a snapshot of drinking water quality that we provided last year. Included are details about where our water comes from, what it contains and how it compares to state and federal standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

As part of our ongoing commitment to you, last year we made the following improvements to our system:

- Completion of the \$980,000 Alpine water tank painting and upgrade project
- Completion of five water main repairs, 99 backflow inspections, 18 new services
- Completion of the Feasibility Study Lagoon Pond Well #1 Restoration
- Installed 850 lf of new water mains

Our Drinking Water Source

The Oak Bluffs Water Supply District obtains water from five sources as listed below.

Source Name	MassDEP Source ID	Location of Source
Well 1: Lagoon Pond Well	4221000-01G	Off Barnes Road
Well 2: Farm Neck Well	4221000-02G	Tradewinds Road
Well 3: State Forest Well	4221000-03G	Alwardt Way
Well 4: Madison Alwardt Sr. Well	4221000-04G	Alwardt Way
Well 5: John H. Randolph, Jr. Well	4221000-05G	Alwardt Way

Additionally, our water system is interconnected with the Edgartown and Tisbury water systems. In the event of an emergency, the Oak Bluffs Water District can be supplied by either system.

Our water system makes every effort to provide you with safe and pure drinking water. To improve the quality of the water delivered to you, we treat it to remove several contaminants.

- We add fluoride to the water to aid in dental health and hygiene per the Board of Health
- We chemically treat the water to reduce levels of lead, copper, iron and manganese.

The water quality of our system is constantly monitored by us and by MassDEP to determine the effectiveness of existing water treatment and to determine if any additional treatment is required.

Protecting Our Water Source

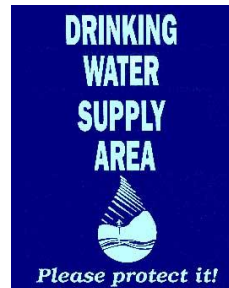
MassDEP has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report for the water supply sources serving this water system. The SWAP Report assesses the susceptibility of public water supplies. A susceptibility rating of *high* was assigned to this system using the information collected during MassDEP's assessment, based on the presence of at least one high threat land use within the water supply protection areas surrounding each of the five wells.

The SWAP Report notes the key issues of hazardous materials use and storage, residential septic system maintenance, heating oil storage and storm water runoff within the water supply protection areas.

Residents can help protect water sources by:

- Practicing good septic system maintenance
- Limiting pesticide and fertilizer use and disposing of hazardous household chemicals at hazardous material collection days
- Supporting water supply protection initiatives at the next town meeting.

With careful use, and by reducing sources of pollution, our groundwater will continue to be an important natural resource for years to come! The complete SWAP Report is available at the Water District Office, and also online at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/water/drinking/swap/sero/4221000.pdf>.



Please Help Us Conserve Water

Household water conservation not only saves water, but it saves energy too; energy needed to heat water and to run appliances.

- Check all faucets for leaks; even a slow drip can waste up to 20 gallons of water in a day!
- Check for toilet leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the toilet's tank. An "invisible" leak in the toilet wastes up to 100 gallons in a day.
- Only run full loads through your washing machine and dishwasher.
- Do your outdoor watering early or late, not in the midday heat, and make sure you aren't watering sidewalks or driveways.

Substances Found in Tap Water

Sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals, and in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, and farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MA DPH) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health. All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the US EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and some infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. US EPA/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on lowering the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Water Quality Testing Results

The water quality information presented in the tables below is from the most recent round of testing performed in accordance with state and federal regulations. All data shown was collected during 2014 unless otherwise noted in the tables. The Oak Bluffs Water District uses laboratories certified to perform water quality tests by the State of Massachusetts.

We are committed to providing you with the best water quality available. However, the District did receive an administrative Notice of Non Compliance (NON) for the August 2014 sampling period from DEP for failing to analyze samples for Trihalomethanes. Within 10 days of receiving the NON, the District sampled and analyzed for Trihalomethanes as required. All results were in compliance and **did not** pose any health threat.

IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS	
ppm: parts per million; one penny in \$10,000	pCi/L: picocuries per liter; a measure of radioactivity
ppb: parts per billion; one penny in \$10,000,000	Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must adhere to.
90 TH Percentile: Out of every 10 homes, nine were at or below this level	MCL: maximum contaminant level; the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close as possible to the MCGLs as feasible, using the best available treatment technology.
MCGL: Maximum contaminant level goal; the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there are no known or expected risks to health. MCGLs allow for a margin of safety.	SMCL: Secondary maximum contaminant level; these standards are developed to protect the aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.
ORSG: Massachusetts Office of Research and Standards guideline; this is the concentration of a chemical in drinking water, at or below which, adverse health effects are unlikely to occur after chronic (lifetime) exposure. If exceeded, it serves as an indicator of the potential need for further action.	N/A: Not applicable

MICROBIAL CONTAMINANTS					
	Highest # Positive in a Month	MCL	MCLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Source(s) of Contamination
Total Coliform	0	1	0	No	
About Total Coliform: Coliforms are bacteria that 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.					

LEAD AND COPPER MONITORING							
	Latest Date(s) Collected	90 TH percentile	Action Level	MCLG	# of sites sampled	# of sites above Action Level	Possible Source of Contamination
Lead (ppm)	9/8/2014	0.0017	0.015	0	30	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	9/8/2014	0.23	1.3	1.3	30	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
About Lead: If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Our system is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to two minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead .							

REGULATED CONTAMINANTS

	Latest Date(s) Collected	Highest Detected Amount	Range Detected	MCL	MCLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Source(s) of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants							
Barium (ppm)	3-18-14	0.032	0.022-0.032	2	2	NO	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	12-2014	0.67	0.40-0.80	4	4	NO	Water additive to promote strong teeth
Nitrate (ppm)	8-12-14	2.05	0.08-2.05	10	10	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Radioactive Contaminants (not required until 2021)							
Gross Alpha Emitters (pCi/L)	2-2012	1.04	0.06-1.04	15	0	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 and 228 Combined (pCi/L)	2-2012	1.47	-0.16-1.47	5	0	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Organic Contaminants							
Tetrachloroethylene (ppb)	10-30-14	ND	ND-0.78	5	0	NO	Discharge from industrial processes and dry cleaners
UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS							
Inorganic Contaminants							
Sodium (ppm)	3-18-14	7.6	4.7-7.6	N/A	20	N/A	Natural sources; runoff from use of salt on roadways; byproduct of treatment process
Sulfate (ppm)	5-22-14	9.0	4.1-9.0	250	N/A	N/A	Natural sources
Organic Contaminants							
Chloroform (ppb)	10-30-14	2.93	0.75-2.93	N/A	N/A	N/A	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination

District News

Please check out our new and improved website and stay current with District happenings.

In 2014, the District produced over 371 million gallons of potable drinking water (a 26 million gallon increase over 2013) with the highest day demand of 2.982 million gallons on June 6, 2013.

Unidirectional flushing of the distribution system and is now a part of the regular operating procedures semiannually.

2014 brought the retirement of longtime employee John (Randy) Randolph III. Following in his fathers' footsteps, Randy devoted 41 years to admirably serving the District and is truly missed by all.

What is a Cross Connection?

A cross connection is a connection between a drinking water pipe and a polluted source. The pollution can come from your own home. For instance, you're going to spray fertilizer on your lawn. You hook up your hose to the sprayer that contains the fertilizer. If the water pressure drops (say because of fire hydrant use in the town) when the hose is connected to the fertilizer, the fertilizer may be sucked back into the drinking water pipes through the hose. Using an attachment on your hose called a backflow-prevention device can prevent this problem.

The Oak Bluffs Water District recommends the installation of backflow prevention devices, such as a low cost hose bib vacuum breaker, for all inside and outside hose connections. You can purchase these at a hardware store or a plumbing supply store. This is a great way for you to help protect the water in your home as well as the drinking water system in your town! For additional information on cross connections and on the status of your water systems cross connection program, please contact the Water District Office.

Este relatório contém informações importantes sobre a qualidade de sua água. Por favor, traduzir este relatório, ou ter um amigo ajudá-lo a compreender o seu conteúdo.