

A close-up photograph of a glass of lemonade with ice and a chrome faucet pouring water. The glass is on the left, filled with a yellow liquid, ice cubes, and a slice of lemon. The faucet is on the right, with a stream of clear water falling from it. The background is a blurred kitchen sink. A diagonal grey band runs across the image from the top right to the bottom left.

Presented By
Town of Danvers/Water Division

ANNUAL
**WATER
QUALITY
REPORT**

WATER TESTING PERFORMED IN 2016

We've Come a Long Way

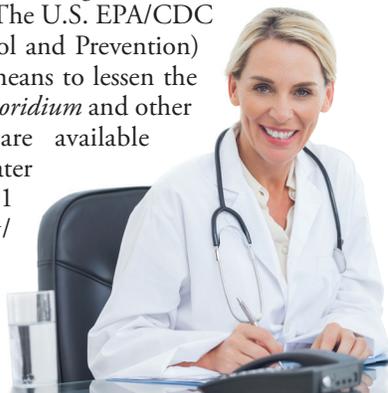
Once again we are proud to present our annual water quality report covering the period between January 1 and December 31, 2016. In a matter of only a few decades, drinking water has become exponentially safer and more reliable than at any other point in human history. Our exceptional staff continues to work hard every day—at any hour—to deliver the highest quality drinking water without interruption. Although the challenges ahead are many, we feel that by relentlessly investing in customer outreach and education, new treatment technologies, system upgrades, and training, the payoff will be reliable, high-quality tap water delivered to you and your family.

Lead in Home Plumbing

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. We are 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 2 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 www.epa.gov/lead.

Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 infants may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.



Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

The 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. Substances 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, or wildlife;

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming;

Pesticides and Herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses;

Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and which may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems;

Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

QUESTIONS?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Jason McCarthy, Water Treatment Plant Manager, at (978) 774-5054.

Where Does My Water Come From?

The Town of Danvers has been operating its drinking water pumping facility at Middleton Pond since 1876. The Vernon C. Russell Water Treatment Plant opened in 1976 and has continuously provided residents and businesses of Danvers and Middleton a safe and dependable source of drinking water. The water system has 12,540 service connections through which an average of 3.32 million gallons are pumped per day: 10,967 in Danvers and 1,573 in Middleton. The Town also has secondary reservoirs at Emerson Brook in Middleton and Swan Pond in North Reading.

In addition to these surface water supplies, the Town of Danvers has two water supply wells. Both of these wells were constructed during 1960-1961. In 2003, a greensand filtration plant was built at Well #2 to remove troublesome iron and manganese. In 2004, Well #1 was rehabilitated with two new replacement wells. If necessary, during an emergency, water may also be purchased from the cities of Beverly and Peabody through interconnections in the distribution system.

The Town of Danvers maintains a state-certified laboratory for bacterial analysis. We are also a member of the American Water Works Association and the New England Water Works Association.

Tap vs. Bottled

Thanks in part to aggressive marketing, the bottled water industry has successfully convinced us all that water purchased in bottles is a healthier alternative to tap water. However, according to a four-year study conducted by the Natural Resources Defense Council, bottled water is not necessarily cleaner or safer than most tap water. In fact, about 25 percent of bottled water is actually just bottled tap water (40 percent according to government estimates).

The Food and Drug Administration is responsible for regulating bottled water, but these rules allow for less rigorous testing and purity standards than those required by the U.S. EPA for community tap water. For instance, the high mineral content of some bottled waters makes them unsuitable for babies and young children. Further, the FDA completely exempts bottled water that's packaged and sold within the same state, which accounts for about 70 percent of all bottled water sold in the United States.

People spend 10,000 times more per gallon for bottled water than they typically do for tap water. If you get your recommended eight glasses a day from bottled water, you could spend up to \$1,400 annually. The same amount of tap water would cost about 49 cents. Even if you installed a filter device on your tap, your annual expenditure would be far less than what you'd pay for bottled water.

For a detailed discussion on the NRDC study results, check out their website at <https://goo.gl/Jxb6xG>.

What's Your Water Footprint?

You may have some understanding about your carbon footprint, but how much do you know about your water footprint? The water footprint of an individual, community, or business is defined as the total volume of freshwater that is used to produce the goods and services that are consumed by the individual or community or produced by the business. For example, 11 gallons of water are needed to irrigate and wash the fruit in one half-gallon container of orange juice. Thirty-seven gallons of water are used to grow, produce, package, and ship the beans in that morning cup of coffee. Two hundred and sixty-four gallons of water are required to produce one quart of milk, and 4,200 gallons of water are required to produce two pounds of beef.

According to the U.S. EPA, the average American uses over 180 gallons of water daily. In fact, in the developed world, one flush of a toilet uses as much water as the average person in the developing world allocates for an entire day's cooking, washing, cleaning, and drinking. The annual American per capita water footprint is about 8,000 cubic feet; twice the global per capita average. With water use increasing six-fold in the past century, our demands for freshwater are rapidly outstripping what the planet can replenish.

To check out your own water footprint, go to <http://goo.gl/QMoIXT>.

Water Conservation

You can play a role in conserving water and saving yourself money in the process by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Here are a few tips:

- Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from an invisible toilet leak. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.
- Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water using appliances. Then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.



SWAP

The Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) program, established under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, requires every state to inventory land uses within the recharge areas of all public water supply sources. The State has determined that the risk of contamination is generally low-to-moderate from these land uses. A source's susceptibility to contamination does not imply poor water quality. Source water protection, monitoring, and treatment ensure that safe water is delivered to the tap. Residents can help by taking hazardous household chemicals to the Town's annual Household Hazardous Waste Day collection. You should also limit pesticide and fertilizer use in sensitive areas. The complete SWAP report is available for review at the Public Works office at Town Hall or by calling (978) 777-0001, ext. 3011. The report is also available online at www.mass.gov/dep/water/drinking/3071000.pdf.

LCR Update

In 1991, the EPA published the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR), a United States Federal regulation that limits the concentration of lead and copper allowed in public drinking water at the consumer's tap, as well as limiting the permissible amount of pipe corrosion occurring due to the water itself. <https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/lead-and-copper-rule>

In accordance with the LCR, the Town of Danvers created an initial sample site list of 61 homes. These were tested twice, once in September 1992 and again in May 1993. Upon meeting LCR standards, Danvers PWS was permitted to enter a reduced sample schedule consisting of 30 sites, drawn from the original 61, to be tested every three years. In addition to the primary list of sample sites, Danvers PWS is required to maintain a list of secondary sample sites, to be utilized (with DEP approval) should a primary site become unavailable. For each of the following test rounds, LCR standards were met without issue.

In 2008, Danvers requested approval to use three secondary sample sites. After approval and along with sample results, a revised sample plan was submitted to list these three secondary sites as primary for future testing.

In 2010, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MA-DEP) requested an additional 10 tests (selected from our 30 sampling locations) when the Danvers Public Water System (PWS) switched to Monochloramine disinfectant (also a MA-DEP request).

In 2014, the Flint Michigan water crisis put the LCR in the spotlight.

In 2015, MA-DEP requested an additional full round of tests when the Danvers PWS switched back to free chlorine disinfectant.

In 2016, additional testing was performed at all water fountains and kitchen taps in all Danvers Public Schools (107 samples in all).

In June 2016, MA-DEP issued a Notice of Noncompliance to the Town of Danvers Water Department citing a "Failure to collect lead and copper samples according to the approved sampling plan" for the additional round of samples taken in 2015.

The 2008 revised sample plan never made it to its intended recipient, even though the 2008, 2011, and 2014 samples were submitted and accepted. Because neither the Danvers Water Department nor MA-DEP can produce proof of receipt of this document, the Danvers Water Department is left with an NON.

At no point was there ever a risk to public health as a result of this administrative error.

A revised sample plan was immediately submitted via certified U.S. Mail and all future correspondence will be sent in this manner.

Danvers has no lead service lines. In the 1980s, the Danvers Water Department began a service line update program to remove iron pipe and lead goose necks. With the introduction of the LCR, Danvers went on to remove all known lead goose necks.

We hope our track record shows that Danvers has a continued commitment to public safety and a history of performance above and beyond requirements to provide safe, clean drinking water.

Our next scheduled LCR sampling round will take place in September 2017.

What's a Cross-connection?

Cross-connections that contaminate drinking water distribution lines are a major concern. A cross-connection is formed at any point where a drinking water line connects to equipment (boilers), systems containing chemicals (air conditioning systems, fire sprinkler systems, irrigation systems), or water sources of questionable quality. Cross-connection contamination can occur when the pressure in the equipment or system is greater than the pressure inside the drinking water line (back-pressure). Contamination can also occur when the pressure in the drinking water line drops due to fairly routine occurrences (main breaks, heavy water demand), causing contaminants to be sucked out from the equipment and into the drinking water line (back-siphonage).

Outside water taps and garden hoses tend to be the most common sources of cross-connection contamination at home. The garden hose creates a hazard when submerged in a swimming pool or when attached to a chemical sprayer for weed killing. Garden hoses that are left lying on the ground may be contaminated by fertilizers, cesspools, or garden chemicals. Improperly installed valves in your toilet could also be a source of cross-connection contamination.

Community water supplies are continuously jeopardized by cross-connections unless appropriate valves, known as backflow prevention devices, are installed and maintained. We have surveyed industrial, commercial, and institutional facilities in the service area to make sure that potential cross-connections are identified and eliminated or protected by a backflow preventer. We also inspect and test backflow preventers to make sure that they provide maximum protection.

For more information on backflow prevention, contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Protecting Your Water

Bacteria are a natural and important part of our world. There are around 40 trillion bacteria living in each of us; without them, we would not be able to live healthy lives. Coliform bacteria are common in the environment and are generally not harmful themselves. The presence of this bacterial form in drinking water is a concern, however, because it indicates that the water may be contaminated with other organisms that can cause disease.

In 2016, the U.S. EPA passed a new regulation called the Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR), which requires additional steps that water systems must take in order to ensure the integrity of the drinking water distribution system by monitoring for the presence of bacteria like total coliform and *E. coli*. The rule requires more stringent standards than the previous regulation, and it requires water systems that may be vulnerable to contamination to have in place procedures that will minimize the incidence of contamination. Water systems that exceed a specified frequency of total coliform occurrences are required to conduct an assessment of their system and correct any problems quickly. The U.S. EPA anticipates greater public health protection under the new regulation due to its more preventive approach to identifying and fixing problems that may affect public health.

Though we have been fortunate to have the highest-quality drinking water, our goal is to eliminate all potential pathways of contamination into our distribution system, and this new rule helps us to accomplish that goal.

Manganese Monitoring

Manganese is a naturally occurring mineral found in rocks, soil and groundwater, and surface water. Manganese is necessary for proper nutrition and is part of a healthy diet, but can have undesirable effects on certain sensitive populations at elevated concentrations. The U.S. EPA and MassDEP have set an aesthetics-based Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL) for manganese of 50 µg/L (micrograms per liter), or 50 parts per billion (ppb), and health advisory levels. In addition, U.S. EPA and MassDEP have also established public health advisory levels. Drinking water may naturally have manganese and, when concentrations are greater than 50 ppb, the water may be discolored and taste bad. Over a lifetime, U.S. EPA recommends that people drink water with manganese levels less than 300 ppb and over the short term, U.S. EPA recommends that people limit their consumption of water with levels over 1000 ppb, primarily due to concerns about possible neurological effects. Children up to 1 year of age should not be given water with manganese concentrations over 300 ppb, nor should formula for infants be made with that water for longer than 10 days.

The Benefits of Fluoridation

Fluoride is a naturally occurring element in many water supplies in trace amounts. In our system the fluoride level is adjusted to an optimal level averaging one part per million (ppm) to improve oral health in children. At this level, it is safe, odorless, colorless, and tasteless. Our water system has been providing this treatment since 1951. There are more than 3.9 million people in 140 Massachusetts water systems and 184 million people in the United States who receive the health and economic benefits of fluoridation.



Failure in Flint

The national news coverage of water conditions in Flint, Michigan, has created a great deal of confusion and consternation. The water there has been described as being corrosive; images of corroded batteries and warning labels on bottles of acids come to mind. But is corrosive water necessarily bad?

Corrosive water can be defined as a condition of water quality that will dissolve metals (iron, lead, copper, etc.) from metallic plumbing at an excessive rate. There are a few contributing factors but, generally speaking, corrosive water has a pH of less than 7; the lower the pH, the more acidic, or corrosive, the water becomes. (By this definition, many natural waterways throughout the country can be described as corrosive.) While all plumbing will be somewhat affected over time by the water it carries, corrosive water will damage plumbing much more rapidly than water with low corrosivity.

By itself, corrosive water is not a health concern; your morning glass of orange juice is considerably more corrosive than the typical lake or river. What is of concern is that exposure in drinking water to elevated levels of the dissolved metals increases adverse health risks. And there lies the problem.

Public water systems are required to maintain their water at optimal conditions to prevent it from reaching corrosive levels. Rest assured that we routinely monitor our water to make sure that what happened in Flint never happens here. For more information on how corrosivity impacts water quality, download this informative pamphlet: <http://goo.gl/KpTmXv>.



What type of container is best for storing water?

Consumer Reports has consistently advised that glass or BPA-free plastics such as polyethylene are the safest choices. To be on the safe side, do not use any container with markings on the recycle symbol showing “7 PC” (code for BPA). You could also consider using stainless steel or aluminum with BPA-free liners.

How much emergency water should I keep?

Typically, 1 gallon per person per day is recommended. For a family of four, that would be 12 gallons for 3 days. Humans can survive without food for 1 month, but can survive only 1 week without water.

How long can I store drinking water?

The disinfectant in drinking water will eventually dissipate, even in a closed container. If that container housed bacteria before it was filled with tap water, the bacteria may continue to grow once the disinfectant has dissipated. Some experts believe that water could be stored up to six months before needing to be replaced. Refrigeration will help slow the bacterial growth.

How long does it take a water supplier to produce one glass of drinking water?

It could take up to 45 minutes to produce a single glass of drinking water.

How many community water systems are there in the U.S.?

About 53,000 public water systems across the United States process 34 billion gallons of water per day for home and commercial use. Eighty-five percent of the population is served by these systems.

Which household activity wastes the most water?

Most people would say the majority of water use comes from showering or washing dishes; however, toilet flushing is by far the largest single use of water in a home (accounting for 40% of total water use). Toilets use about 4 to 6 gallons per flush, so consider an ultra-low-flow (ULF) toilet, which requires only 1.5 gallons.

Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of contaminants on a very strict sampling schedule. The information below represents only those substances that were detected; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels. The State recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

We participated in the 3rd stage of the EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR3) program by performing additional tests on our drinking water. UCMR3 benefits the environment and public health by providing the EPA with data on the occurrence of contaminants suspected to be in drinking water, in order to determine if EPA needs to introduce new regulatory standards to improve drinking water quality. Contact us for more information on this program.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Barium (ppm)	2016	2	2	0.044	0.011–0.069	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Bromate (ppb)	2016	10	0	2	0–2	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine (ppm)	2016	[4]	[4]	1.17	0.27–2.27	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Di(2-ethylhexyl) Phthalate (ppb)	2016	6	0	3.9 ¹	NA	No	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories
Fluoride (ppm)	2016	4	4	0.5	0–1.3	No	Water additive which promotes strong teeth
Haloacetic Acids [HAA] (ppb)	2016	60	NA	15.89	1.95–29.72	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (ppm)	2016	10	10	0.90	0.03–2.43	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2016	80	NA	48.89	18.85–74.51	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Coliform Bacteria [RTCR–after April 2016] (Positive samples)	2016	TT	NA	1	NA	No	Naturally present in the environment
Total Coliform Bacteria [before April 2016] (% positive samples)	2016	5% positive monthly samples	0	0	NA	No	Naturally present in the environment
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	2016	TT	NA	2.50	1.84–2.96	No	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity ² (NTU)	2016	TT	NA	0.22	0.06–0.22	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (Lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2016	TT = 95% of samples meet the limit	NA	100	NA	No	Soil runoff

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH% TILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2015	1.3	1.3	0.21	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2015	15	0	7.7	1/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

SECONDARY SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Iron (ppb)	2016	300	NA	70	0–210	No	Leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes
Manganese (ppb)	2016	50	NA	120	0–410	No	Leaching from natural deposits

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES ³

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Sodium (ppm)	2016	71	41–110	Erosion of natural deposits; Road de-icing agents; Water treatment process

¹ Upon retesting, the sample was found to be 0 ppb.

² Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.

³ Unregulated contaminants are those for which the U.S. EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist U.S. EPA in determining their occurrence in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANT MONITORING RULE PART 3 (UCMR3)

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH
1,4 Dioxane (ppm)	2013-2014	0.078	0.070–0.086
Chlorate (ppb)	2013-2014	2,057.5	220–11,000
Chromium (ppb)	2013-2014	1.52	0.37–4.50
Chromium–6 (ppb)	2013-2014	0.569	0.038–4.400
Perfluoroheptanoic acid–PFHpA (ppb)	2013-2014	0.015	0.014–0.016
Perfluorooctanoic acid–PFOA (ppb)	2013-2014	0.024	0.022–0.025
Strontium (ppb)	2013-2014	85	32–230
Vanadium (ppb)	2013-2014	0.40	0.22–0.55

Definitions

90th Percentile: Out of every 10 homes sampled, 9 were at or below this level.

AL (Action Level): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

LRAA (Locational Running Annual Average): The average of sample analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters. Amount Detected values for TTHMs and HAAs are reported as LRAAs.

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal): The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

NA: Not applicable

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units): Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

RTCR: Revised Total Coliform Rule

SMCL (Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level): SMCLs are established to regulate the aesthetics of drinking water like appearance, taste and odor.

TT (Treatment Technique): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.