



Town of Danvers Department of Public Works

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WATER MAIN BREAK PROMPTS USE OF SUPPLEMENTAL WATER SUPPLY

Danvers, MA – A significant water main leak has been discovered on the Danvers Water Transmission Main located on Route 114 at the Ipswich River Bridge crossing and requires an immediate shutdown of the main until repairs can be completed. To maintain necessary flow rates in the system and meet customer water demands during repairs, Danvers will augment supply through the use of the Buxton Road groundwater well (Well 2), one of two groundwater wells that serve as supplemental sources to the Town's surface water supply.

The operation of Well 2 combined with the shutdown of the transmission main will ultimately change the direction of flow. Customers may occasionally observe rusty-looking or discolored water when they first turn on their taps, after a change in system operations such as this one. This discolored water is completely safe, however if you experience this issue, please flush the water lines in your home by running all **cold**-water taps for a few minutes or until the water runs clear.

The Danvers Department of Public Works (DPW) Water Division along with our general contractor Albanese Brothers, Inc., are working diligently to return the water main to operation, which may take several weeks. The Town and its contractor will make every effort to keep this inconvenience to a minimum. If any changes occur that will affect the completion of the repair, there will be notification to the public via the Town of Danvers DPW website.

As [previously reported](#) Well 2 does contain low levels of PFAS compounds. All lab sampling and testing has confirmed the levels are far below the health advisory set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of 70 part per trillion (PPT) and below the recently proposed Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 20 PPT-which is stricter than the EPA health advisory limit. Danvers will continue to monitor all water quality indicators and PFAS levels as necessary and will sample the blended water (water treatment plant and Well 2) that customers will receive. Lab results will also be provided to MassDEP.

We have worked closely with MassDEP to protect the health and safety of our customers by ensuring compliance with the existing EPA health advisory for PFAS compounds. To date, the highest combined PFAS results from Well 2 have been less than 12 PPT and PFAS compounds have never been detected at the surface water treatment plant.

PFAS are a large group of man-made chemicals that have been used in industry and consumer products worldwide since the 1950s and are now commonly present in the environment. More information on PFAS can be found on Mass.gov and the [EPA website](#).

For more information, or should you have any questions or concerns regarding this work please contact the Danvers Department of Public Works at 978-777-0001 or Jason McCarthy, Water Treatment Plant Manager at 978-774-5054.

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