Buffumville Heights Estates

2010 **PWS ID: #2226008**

REPORT ON WATER QUALITY

This is Buffumville Heights Estates' annual report to you on water quality. The statistics in this report are based on testing done throughout 2010 and prior years. We hope you will find it helpful to know the sources of your water and the process by which safe drinking water is delivered to your home.

Where Does My Water Come From?

Buffumville Heights Estates is located in Oxford, MA and draws its water from two underground bedrock wells, one 590 feet deep, the other 805 feet deep. These wells supply 20 service connections in the system. The water is pumped directly into an atmospheric tank, and then through the distribution system.

Water Treatment

Our water system makes every effort to provide you with safe and pure drinking water. We are pleased to report that your water does not need to be treated at this time to meet these goals. The water quality of our system is constantly monitored by us and the DEP to determine if any future treatment may be required.

Maintaining Water Quality

Buffumville Heights Estates continuously strives to produce the highest quality water possible to meet or surpass every water quality standard. We monitor both our sources and distribution system very closely. The standards we operate under were enacted by the U.S. Congress as the Safe Drinking Water Act in 1974 and were amended in 1986 and 1996.

In order to ensure tap water is safe to drink, the DEP and EPA prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Massachusetts Department of Public Health regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

Opportunities to Participate

Any matters that concern your drinking water supply or issues you would like to see addressed can be presented at the regularly scheduled meeting of the trustees, association or board. If your concerns need immediate attention feel free to contact our current Certified Operator, WhiteWater, Inc., at 1-888-377-7678.

Buffumville Heights Estates Condominium Trust

The water system at Buffumville Heights Estates Condominiums is operated and maintained by WhiteWater, Inc. If you have any questions about this report, please contact Stuart Harkins at 1-888-377-7678.

Additional copies of this report are available upon request.

WHITEWATER INC.

DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM WATER QUALITY

This report summarizes only those items detected during sampling - not all contaminants that are monitored.

Microbial Results	Highest # Positive in a Month	Total # Positive	MCL	MCLG	Violation	Possible Source of Contamination
Total Coliform	0	-	1	0	No	Naturally present in the environment

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. Your water source is tested monthly and has been found to be free of these contaminants.

Lead & Copper	Date(s) Collected	90th Percentile of Sample	Action Level	MCLG	# of Sites sampled	# of Sites Above Action Level	Violation	Possible Source of Contamination
Lead (ppb)	6/10/08-6/19/08	ND	15	0	5	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Copper (ppm)		0.55	1.3	1.3			No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems

Key to Tables

- ppm – Parts per million, corresponds to one penny in $10,000
- ppb – Parts per billion, corresponds to one penny in $10,000,000
- pCi/L – Picocuries per liter
- ND – Non-detect
- n/a - non applicable

TESTING FOR 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. **Buffumville Heights Estates** 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 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 http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

WAIVER-The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has reduced our monitoring requirements for inorganic (IOC) and synthetic organic(SOC) contaminants because the source is not at risk of contamination. The last sample collected for SOCs was taken on 5/7/03 and for IOCs on 4/2/09. All were found to meet all applicable EPA and DEP standards.

SOURCE WATER CHARACTERISTICS

The sources of drinking water in the United States (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 materials, 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, or 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. These contaminants can also come from gasoline storage, 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.

SUMMARY OF FINISHED WATER CHARACTERISTICS

Regulated Contaminants	Date(s) Collected	Highest Detect Value	Range Detected	MCL	MCLG	Violation	Possible Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants							
Fluoride (ppm)	4/2/09	0.4	n/a	4	4	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Aluminum & fertilizer factory discharge
Nitrate (ppm)	4/12/10	0.18	0.17-0.18	10	10	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Perchlorate (ppb)	7/10, 8/10	0.058	0.051-0.058	2	n/a	No	Rocket propellants, fireworks, munitions, flares, blasting agents.
Radioactive Contaminants							
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L)	4/2/09	7.3	4.0-7.3	15	0	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 & 228 combined (pCi/L)		0.91	0.76-0.91	5	0	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Unregulated Contaminants	Date(s) Collected	Result or Range Detected	SMCL	ORSG	Possible Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants					
Sodium (ppm)	4/2/09	4.43-4.52	-	20	Erosion of natural deposits
Sulfate (ppm)	5/8/08	9-11	250	-	Natural Sources
Radiological Contaminants					
Radon (pCi/L)	2010	24,000-54,000	-	10,000	Natural Sources

Sodium is a naturally-occurring common element found in soil and water. It is necessary for the normal functioning of regulating fluids in human systems. Some people, however, have difficulty regulating fluid volume as a result of several diseases, including congestive heart failure and hypertension. The guideline of 20 mg/L for sodium represents a level in water that physicians and sodium sensitive individuals should be aware of in cases where sodium exposures are being carefully controlled. For additional information, contact your health care provider, your local board of health or the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Environmental Health Assessment at 617-624-5757.

Radon is a radioactive gas that you cannot see, taste, or smell. It is found throughout the U.S. Radon can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in the foundation. Radon can build up to high levels in all types of homes. Radon can also get into indoor air when released from tap water from showering, washing dishes, and other household activities. Compared to radon entering the home through soil, radon entering the home from tap water will in most cases be a small source of radon in indoor air. Radon is a known human carcinogen. Breathing air containing radon can lead to lung cancer. Drinking water containing radon can lead to lung cancer. Drinking water containing radon may also cause increase risk of stomach cancer. If you are concerned about radon in your home, test the air in your home. Testing is inexpensive and easy. Fix your home if the level of radon in your air is 4 picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L) or higher. There are simple ways to fix a radon problem that aren't too costly. For additional information, call the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Radon Program at 413-586-7525 or call EPA's Radon Hotline (800-SOS-RADON).

SOME TERMS DEFINED

Action Level: *The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers a treatment or other requirement which a water system must follow.*

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

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

Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL): *These standards are developed to protect the aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.*

Massachusetts Office of Research and Standards Guideline (ORSG): *This is the concentration of a chemical in drinking water, at or below which, adverse, non-cancer health effects are likely to occur after chronic (lifetime) exposure. If exceeded, it serves as an indicator of the potential need for further action.*

Total Coliform: *A bacteria that indicates other potentially harmful bacteria may be present.*

90^{th} Percentile: *Out of every 10 homes, 9 were at or below this level.*

SWAP (Source Water Assessment and Protection)

The DEP has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report for Buffumville Heights Estates. The report assesses the susceptibility of public water supplies to contamination and makes recommendations.

This report is available from WhiteWater, Inc., located at 253B Worcester Road in Charlton, MA, and also at the DEP website: http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/drinking/sourcewa.htm#reports. If you have any questions, please contact WhiteWater, Inc., at 1-888 377-7678.

Our well water is not treated. A susceptibility ranking of **moderate** was assigned to our two wells which have Zone I areas (perimeter of well) of 167 ft. (Well #1) and 172 ft. (Well #2). The DEP recommends the following in protecting the Buffumville Heights Estates wells:

- Remove all non-water supply activities from Zone I.
- If facility continues to use structures and parking areas in Zone I, restrict activities that pose a threat
- Do not use or store pesticides, fertilizers or road salt within the Zone I.

Our Public Water Supply plans to address the protection recommendations by:

- Developing a Wellhead Protection Plan in concert with our certified operator, WhiteWater, Inc.
- Communicate with staff about proper disposal of spent household chemicals.
- Insure septic facilities near wells are inspected and maintained
- Continue to educate residents on protecting water supplies by making this report available at the manager's office.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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 Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Where to go for more information ….

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) 617-292-5885.
www.state.ma.us/dep

Massachusetts drinking water education partnership
www.madwep.org

SHOULD SOME PEOPLE TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-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 infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA / CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Buffumville Heights Estates
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