



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

MASSACHUSETTS

WATER DEPARTMENT
250 FRESH POND PARKWAY
CAMBRIDGE, MASS. 02138

617-498-9070

TO: Robert W. Healy, City Manager
FROM: *JJC* John J. Cusack, Jr., Superintendent
DATE: *JJC* December 16, 1988
SUBJECT: COUNCIL ORDER #12 - (12-12-88): YELLOW COLOR OF WATER & TRAYMORE RD.

In response to the 12-12-88 Council Order on the subject referenced above, please be advised that the Water Department has reviewed this item and is submitting this progress report.

During early December, the Water Department received approximately twenty-five (25) complaints on discolored water throughout the City. The specific complaint was a yellow or brownish background color in the water. Water Department personnel collected samples of the discolored water and determined that the source of the color was higher than normal manganese concentrations in the Fresh Pond Reservoir and the Stony Brook Reservoir.

The increased manganese levels are the result of the annual reservoir turnover that occurs in late November, early December. The reservoir turnover happens when the colder air temperature lowers the water temperature at the surface of the reservoirs. This water actually sinks to the bottom of the reservoirs because the density of the water increases as the water temperature decreases. When the denser water sinks, the less dense water at the bottom of the reservoirs rises to the top and brings with it manganese precipitates from the bottom because of the increased turbulence.

The manganese color in the water distribution system is an aesthetic problem, and it does not represent a health hazard.

JJC/mp



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL. 498-9011

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

ROBERT W. HEALY

City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI

Deputy City Manager

December 19, 1988

To the Honorable, the City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report No. 33 regarding the yellow color of the water in the Traymore Road area, I submit the attached report from the Water Department.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Healy", is written over the typed name and title.

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

Agenda # 16 S-780

Awaiting Report Item Number 33 response re:
to the yellow color of the water in the
Traymore Road area.

In City Council,

December 19, 1988

Placed on file