



ANTHONY D. CORTESE, Sc.D.
Commissioner
727-5194

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Department of Environmental Quality Engineering

MAR 24 5 00 PM '83
Metropolitan Boston - Northeast Region

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.
323 New Boston Street, Woburn, MA 01801

March 18, 1983

Board of Water Commissioners
City Hall
Cambridge, MA 02139

Re: Cambridge
Public Water Supply
Sodium in Drinking Water

Gentlemen:

Analyses of drinking water samples collected on a quarterly basis from your water supply during 1982 indicates that the sodium level is 33 mg/l.

In accordance with the "Drinking Water Regulations of Massachusetts", if the sodium level in a drinking water supply exceeds 15 mg/l the supply shall be sampled quarterly rather than on an annual basis, and further, if level of sodium exceeds 20 mg/l the consumers of the water must be notified.

Pursuant to Section 16 of the Regulations, the consumer must be notified of the actual and recommended levels of sodium, the probable cause of the presence of sodium, and the possible ways of correcting the situation. Notification must be sent at least annually by inclusion with a water bill by other form of direct mail.

For those water purveyors with supplies which have sodium levels greater than 20 mg/l, a sample public notice is enclosed that may be used by you in complying with these regulations. Section 16(g) of the "Drinking Water Regulations of Massachusetts" requires that, "a copy of all notifications sent, issued or posted by the supplier of water in compliance with the requirements of this section shall be furnished to the Department no later than the time it is given to the user of the system".

General Laws, Chapter 111, Section 160, prescribes a fine of \$500.00 and/or a year in jail for each violation of a drinking water regulation promulgated by this Department.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact John T. Mullins at the above address or at 935-2160.

Very truly yours,

William J. St. Hilaire
William J. St. Hilaire, P.E.
Regional Environmental Engineer

JM/gs

cc: Board of Health
Board of Selectmen
Water Department

Comm. from William J. Hilarie, Reg. Environ-
mental Engineer, Dept. of Environmental Qual-
ity Engineering Re: sodium content in
Cambridge drinking water.

*Copy sent to the City
Manager 3/29/83 m.h.*

In City Council,

March 28, 1983

*3/28/83
Ref: Edward L. Longo
FOR
Report*