

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ENGINEERING
Drinking Water Regulations
SECTION 16
Public Notification Requirements

(a) Every community water system which fails to comply with an applicable maximum contaminant level, an applicable testing procedure, is granted a variance or an exemption from an applicable maximum contaminant level, fails to comply with the requirements of any schedule prescribed pursuant to a variance or exemption, or fails to perform any monitoring required to these regulations, shall notify persons served by the system of the failure or grant by inclusion of a notice in the first set of water bills of the system issued after the failure or grant and in any event by written notice within three months. Such notice shall be repeated at least once every three months so long as the system's failure continues or the variance or exemption remains in effect. If the system issues water bills less frequently than quarterly, or does not issue water bills, the notice shall be supplemented by or made by another form of direct mail.

(b) If a community water system has failed to comply with an applicable maximum contaminant level, the owner or operator shall notify the public of such failure, in addition to the notification required by paragraph (a) of this section, by all of the following methods:

(1) By publication on not less than three consecutive days in a newspaper or newspapers of general circulation in the area served by the system. Such notice shall be completed within fourteen days after the supplier of water learns of the failure. If the area served by a community water system is not served by a daily newspaper of general circulation, the notification by newspaper required by paragraph (b) of this section shall instead be given by publication on three consecutive weeks in a weekly newspaper of general circulation serving the area. If no weekly or daily newspaper of general circulation serves the area, notice shall be given by posting the notice in post offices within the area served by the system.

(2) By furnishing a copy of the notice to the principal radio and television stations serving the area served by the system. Such notice shall be furnished within seven days after the supplier of water learns of the failure.

(d) Notice given pursuant to this section shall be written in a manner reasonably designed to inform fully the users of the system. The notice shall be conspicuous and shall not use unduly technical language, unduly small print, or other methods which would frustrate the purpose of the notice. The notice shall disclose all material facts regarding the subject including the nature of the problem and, when appropriate, a clear statement that a primary drinking water regulation has been violated, and any preventive measures that should be taken by the public. Where appropriate or where designated by the Department, bilingual notice shall be given. Notice may include a balanced explanation of the significance or seriousness to the public health of the subject of the notice, a fair explanation of steps taken by the system to correct any problem and the results of any additional sampling.



Tel. 617-851-7281

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Department of Environmental Quality Engineering

Metropolitan Boston - Northeast Regional Office

Tewksbury State Hospital

Tewksbury, Massachusetts 01876

December 30, 1977

Board of Water Commissioners
City Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Re: CAMBRIDGE - Public Water Supply
Violation of Maximum Microbiological
Contaminant Level

Gentlemen:

Department records indicate that during the month of November 1977 the drinking water supplied by you to your customers contained a coliform bacterial density' which exceeds the contaminant level in Section 5 of the Drinking Water Regulations of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

More specifically you have failed to meet the Maximum Contaminant Levels as indicated below.

**MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL
Coliform Bacteria
MEMBRANE FILTER METHOD**

One per 100 milliliters as the arithmetic mean of all samples examined per month, and

Four per 100 milliliters in more than five percent of the samples when 20 or more are examined per month.

In conformance with Section 16 of the "Drinking Water Regulations of Massachusetts" you are required to notify persons served by the system of such failure; enclosed is a copy of that portion of Section 16 detailing the required procedures for such notification.

Very truly yours,

For the Commissioner,

Thomas F. McLoughlin
Regional Environmental Engineer
Metropolitan Boston-Northeast Region

TFM/Ejtn/mmr

cc: Board of Health
City Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Mayor's Office
City Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Water Department
250 Fresh Pond Parkway
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02140
Attention: John Seites, Superintendent

Enc. 1

Comm. from Thomas F. McLoughlin, Regional
Environmental Engineer, Metropolitan Boston -
Northeast Region, re: maximum contaminant
level of the public water supply in Cambridge

In City Council,

January 23, 1978

1/23/78

Placed on File.