

ANTHONY D. CORTESE, Sc.D.

Commissioner

727-5194

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Department of Environmental Quality Engineering

Metropolitan Boston - Northeast Region

323 New Boston Street, Woburn, MA 01801

January 30, 1981

Board of Water Commissioners

Cambridge, MA

Re: CAMBRIDGE - Public Water Supply
Sodium in Drinking Water-1980 Analyses

Gentlemen:

Analyses of drinking water samples collected from your water supply during 1980 show that the sodium level is 39 mg/l.

The sodium level was developed from the average of quarterly samples collected from a point on your water supply distribution system during 1980, and analyzed at the Lawrence Experiment Station.

<u>First Quarter</u>	<u>Second Quarter</u>	<u>Third Quarter</u>	<u>Fourth Quarter</u>
50 mg/l	30 mg/l	34 mg/l	43 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, and further, if the 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 or by other form of direct mail.

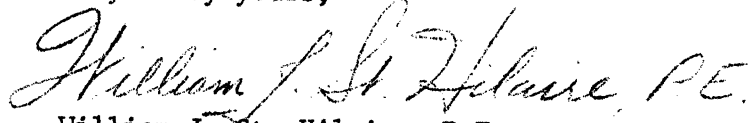
For those purveyors with supplies which have sodium levels greater than 20 mg/l, a sample public notice is enclosed that may be used in complying with these Regulations. Section 16(g) of the "Drinking Water Regulations of Massachusetts" requires that, "A copy of all notifications sent, issued or posted 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".

NOTE: Notices sent to consumers by suppliers must be dated and include the year of violation.

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

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Mr. John T. Mullins at the above address or telephone number.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William J. St. Hilaire, P.E.".

William J. St. Hilaire, P.E.
Regional Environmental Engineer
Metropolitan Boston-Northeast Region

S/Ejtm/ko

C- Board of Health
C- Board of Selectmen
C- Water Department

Enc.

PROPOSED LETTER TO BE SENT BY LOCAL WATER SUPPLIERS TO THEIR CUSTOMERS
REGARDING SODIUM LEVELS IN DRINKING WATER

DATE

Dear Customer:

The (name of Water Department) has been notified by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Quality Engineering that the drinking water supplied by us has a sodium content of _____ mg/l as shown by (Choose appropriate statement).

- a) a sample collected during (year).
- b) the average of quarterly samples collected during (year).

The "Drinking Water Regulations of Massachusetts", (Section 6, Table C) require that analyses shall be repeated quarterly if the level of sodium exceeds the Maximum Contaminant Level of 20 mg/l. The following information is submitted in conformance with the "Drinking Water Regulations of Massachusetts".

Since many person suffer from diseases which are, or may be influenced by dietary sodium intake, and since others may wish to restrict sodium intake for other reasons, it is desirable that the sodium content of drinking water be known to the consumer. Those affected can, by knowing the sodium concentration in their drinking water, make suitable adjustments to their diets. In extreme cases some may even wish to use alternative sources of water for drinking and food preparation; if you are on a restrictive sodium diet, you should consult with your physician about this matter.

Sodium may occur naturally in a water supply or be introduced from a number of sources such as:

- a) Salt used by cities, towns, business, industry and private parties, for snow and ice control on roads, walks and parking areas.
- b) Unprotected salt storage areas.
- c) Certain chemicals used in the water treatment process.
- d) Improper disposal of waste products.
- e) Salt spray from the ocean in coastal communities.

We feel that our problem is caused by (Note: Here give the known or probable cause(s) for the excessive level of sodium in your water supply.)

Removal of sodium from water by methods currently available is expensive and inefficient, therefore, the most practical ways of keeping sodium levels within acceptable limits seem to be:

- a) Preventing, insofar as possible, the sodium from being introduced into the water.
- b) Diluting, insofar as possible, water containing large amounts of sodium with water containing lesser amounts of sodium.
- c) Locating new sources of water in areas remote from contamination, and exercising control to prevent contamination of the watershed.
- d) Encourage programs and practices by Public Works Departments, business, industry, and private citizens, to ensure sensible salting of pavement, proper storage and protection of salt stockpiles and proper disposal of waste products.



CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

(617) 498-9094

February 6, 1981

The Honorable, The City Council:

Enclosed please find a letter from D.E.Q.E. concerning the sodium content in the Cambridge water supply.

Very truly yours,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, likely belonging to Richard McKinnon, is written over the typed name and title.

Richard McKinnon
Administrative Assistant to the
City Council

RM/smc

Enclosure

4.

5-91

Comm. from Richard McKinnon transmitting a letter from the Dept. of Environmental Quality Engineering regarding the sodium content in the Cambridge water supply.

In City Council,

February 9, 1981

*Placed
on
File -*