

## Jeffrey Cyr

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**From:** Joshua.Das@mwra.state.ma.us  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 23, 2013 4:55 PM  
**To:** pgb@framinghamma.gov; mbarrett@somervillema.gov; Jbatchelder@stoughton-ma.gov; ablazejowski@cityofwoburn.com; bcarlisle@townofmilton.org; gcresta@town.swampscott.ma.us; crossenj@ci.boston.ma.us; jacyr@shdistrict1.org; jchaet@revere.org; glen.doherty@ci.everett.ma.us; stevef@wakefield.ma.us; mframarin@wilbraham-ma.gov; rgelinas@chelseama.gov; egitschier@lexingtonma.gov; mhickey@cityofmelrose.org; lwd@lwdma.us; tjerdee@newtonma.gov; dlavallee@marlborough-ma.gov; dpw@town.northborough.ma.us; jlobao@townofwilmingtonma.com; tlowe@nahant.org; mchugha@marblehead.org; millette.d@westonmass.org; dproctor@medford.org; wputnam@city.waltham.ma.us; rradigan@ci.stoneham.ma.us; vroy@needhamma.gov; engineering@cityofmalden.org; gschorer@norwoodma.gov; astarzyk@chicopeema.gov; sullivanjp@bwsc.org; sswymer@winchester.us; ptassi@ci.reading.ma.us; ptrainor@brooklinema.gov; dwarren@town.arlington.ma.us; jwaugh@saugus-ma.gov; kwelch@town.canton.ma.us; Joshua.Das@mwra.com  
**Subject:** New Manganese Advisory from MA DEP

DEP recently introduced a health advisory of 300 ppb for manganese in drinking water. EPA and DEP have an aesthetic secondary standard for manganese of 50 ppb. At levels greater than 50 ppb, water may appear discolored, taste unpleasant, or leave black stains. While manganese is naturally occurring and also an essential nutrient, DEP has released a health advisory that infants not be fed formula with water containing levels higher than 300 ppb of manganese. As discussed below, MWRA levels are well below both the standard and the advisory.

DEP has mailed a notification to health care providers about the new manganese advisory. The notification provides background on manganese and links to the DEP fact sheet. You may receive questions from health care providers or customers with infants.

DEP also is requiring that water systems conduct baseline manganese monitoring and you may have received a mailing from DEP on this topic. MWRA already conducts regular monitoring for manganese, so fully supplied communities do not need to take any additional samples. MWRA finds very low levels of manganese in the water, usually around 5-10 ppb, which is 5 to 10 times lower than the aesthetic standard and 30 to 60 times lower than the DEP advisory level. MWRA has never exceeded either the secondary standard of 50 ppb or the health advisory of 300 ppb.

For more information on water quality and to see current manganese levels in MWRA water, please go to our monthly report at [www.mwra.com/monthly/wqupdate/qual3wq.htm](http://www.mwra.com/monthly/wqupdate/qual3wq.htm).

For more information on manganese from DEP including the letter sent to water suppliers, and fact sheets for consumers, please go to [www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/manganese-in-drinking-water.html](http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/manganese-in-drinking-water.html).

If you have any questions please contact Steve Estes-Smargiassi (617-788-4303 or [smargias@mwra.com](mailto:smargias@mwra.com)) or Joshua Das (617-788-4822 or [Joshua.Das@mwra.com](mailto:Joshua.Das@mwra.com)).