2011 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
For
The Cherry Valley and Rochdale Water District
Leicester, MA
MassDEP PWS ID # 2151001

Serving Cherry Valley, Rochdale and North Oxford with quality drinking water since 1910

This report is a snapshot of drinking water quality that we provided last year. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to state and federal standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM INFORMATION

Address:	148 Henshaw Street, Rochdale, MA 01542		
Mailing Address:	P.O. Box 138, Rochdale, MA 01542		
Telephone #:	(508) 892-9616	Fax #: (508) 892-4371	
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Contact Person:	Michael F. Knox, Superintendent		
Board of Commissioners:	Kevin M. Bergin, Chairman Arthur E. J. Levesque Michael L. DellaCava, Sr.	Treasurer: Clerk:	Stanley L. Zagorski Cynthia A. Garabedian

Water System Improvements
Our water system is periodically inspected by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) for its technical, financial and managerial capacity to provide safe drinking water to you. To ensure that we provide the highest quality of water available, the Cherry Valley and Rochdale Water District (CVRWD) has three Massachusetts-certified operators who oversee the routine operation of the system. As part of our ongoing commitment to you, the District completed the rehabilitation and upgrade of the West Street Tanks #1 & #2. The upgrades included: restoration of both inside and outside of the tank and a new static mixing system. The CVRWD also signed a Consent Order with MassDEP in May 2012 to meet several compliance requirements that are explained later in this report.

Opportunities for Public Participation
If you would like to participate in discussions regarding your water quality, you may attend the Board of Water Commissioners' meetings on the 2nd Monday of every month at 148 Henshaw Street. In accordance with the new Open Meeting Law, please refer to official postings of future meeting agendas at your local Town Hall.

YOUR DRINKING WATER SOURCE

Where Does My Drinking Water Come From?
Your water is supplied by one surface water source and one groundwater source. However, the groundwater source has been offline since April 2011 while improvements were being made:

Source Name	MassDEP Source ID#	Source Type	Location of Source
Henshaw Pond	2151001-01S	Reservoir	148 Henshaw Street, Leicester, MA
Grindstone Well	2151001-01G	Ground Water	148 Henshaw Street, Leicester, MA

Is My Water Treated?
Our water system makes every effort to provide you with safe and pure drinking water. To improve the quality of the water delivered to you, we treat it to remove several contaminants.

- *We add a disinfectant to protect you against microbial contaminants.*
- *We filter the water to remove small particles and organisms such as sediment, algae and bacteria.*
- *We chemically treat the water to reduce lead and copper concentrations.*
- *We aerate the water to reduce radon concentrations.*
- *We filter the water to remove uranium and other naturally occurring radionuclides.*
- *We filter the water to remove arsenic.*

How Are These Sources Protected? MassDEP has prepared a Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) report for the water supply sources serving this water system. The SWAP Report assesses the susceptibility of public water supplies.

What is My System's Ranking? The overall ranking of susceptibility to contamination for the system is **"high,"** based on the presence of at least one high- threat land use within the water supply protection areas. The CVRWD has four high-threat activities and land uses within the protection areas: Aquatic Wildlife, Stormwater Drains/Retention Basins, Electric Transmission Line Rights-of-Way and Transportation Corridors (Route 9 & Henshaw Street).

How is the CVRWD Addressing the SWAP Report? The District regularly submits written comments and participates in all Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals processes relating to land use within the watershed. In November of 1997, the District developed a comprehensive Surface Water Supply Protection Plan for Henshaw Pond that has been used as a model for other communities state-wide. The District further participated in the development of the Town of Leicester's Zoning By-laws called the Water Resources Protection Overlay District. The District regularly conducts on-site inspections of land use within the watershed and communicates such activities with the Town of Leicester Code Enforcement Officer to implement corrective action as warranted.

What Can I Do to Help? Please do not underestimate your impact on your water supply. You can help protect water supplies by supporting local protection plans and initiatives implemented by the Town of Leicester and the CVRWD. Also, practicing good septic system maintenance, taking hazardous household chemicals to designated collection sites and limiting pesticide and fertilizer use will help ensure a clean water supply.

Where Can I See The SWAP Report? The complete SWAP report is available by contacting the Cherry Valley and Rochdale Water District at 508-892-9616. It is also available online at **www.mass.gov/dep/water/drinking/2151001.pdf**

SUBSTANCES FOUND IN TAP WATER

Sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals, and in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Microbial contaminants - such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants - such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, and farming.

Pesticides and herbicides - which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

Organic chemical contaminants - including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants - which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, MassDEP and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health. All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and some infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on lowering the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) – The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) –The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) -- The highest level of a disinfectant (chlorine, chloramines, chlorine dioxide) allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) -- The level of a drinking water disinfectant (chlorine, chloramines, chlorine dioxide) below which there is no known of expected risk to health.
MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Treatment Technique (TT) – A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Action Level (AL) – The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

90th Percentile – Out of every 10 homes sampled, 9 were at or below this level.

ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)
ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l)
NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units
pCi/l = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL) – These standards are developed to protect the aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.

Massachusetts Office of Research and Standards Guideline (ORSG) – This is the concentration of a chemical in drinking water, at or below which, adverse health effects are unlikely to occur after chronic (lifetime) exposure. If exceeded, it serves as an indicator of the potential need for further action.

WATER QUALITY TESTING RESULTS

The water quality information presented in the tables is from the most recent round of testing done in accordance with the regulations. All data shown was collected during the last calendar year unless otherwise noted in the tables.

	Date(s) Collected	90TH percentile	Action Level	MCLG	# of sites sampled	# of sites above Action Level	Exceeds AL (Y/N)	Possible Source of Contamination
Lead (ppb)	9-20 to 9-28-11	7*	15	0	20	1	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Copper (ppm)	9-20 to 9-28-11	0.4	1.3	1.3	20	0	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems

* If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with home plumbing. The Leominster Water Division is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing and plumbing components. When your water is unused for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by running your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

	Highest # Positive in a month	MCL	MCLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Source of Contamination
Total Coliform	4	1	0	Y	Naturally present in the environment
E. coli	0	*	0	N	Human and animal fecal waste

* Compliance with the E. coli MCL is determined upon additional repeat testing.

Turbidity	TT	Lowest Monthly % of Samples	Highest Detected Daily Value	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Source of Contamination
Daily Compliance (NTU)	5	-----	2.87	Y	Soil runoff
Monthly Compliance*	At least 95% < 1 NTU	47%	-----	Y	
Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality.					
*Monthly turbidity compliance is related to a specific treatment technique (TT). Our system filters the water so at least 95% of our samples each month must be below the turbidity limits specified in the regulations.					

Regulated Contaminant	Date(s) Collected	Highest Result or Running Annual Average	Range	MCL	MCLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Source(s) of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants							
Arsenic (ppb)	Quarterly	17*	0 – 17	10	-----	N	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards or electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	5-11-11	0.01	-----	2	2	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Radioactive Contaminants							
Gross Alpha (pCi/l) (minus uranium)	3-16 & 7-13-11	2.58	0.4 – 2.58	15	0	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (ppb)	3-16 & 7-13-11	1.3	0 – 1.3	30	0	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products							
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) (ppb)	Quarterly	124	54.8 - 152	80	-----	Y	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	Quarterly	30	0 – 5.1	60	-----	N	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Free Chlorine (ppm)	Monthly	0.46	0 – 0.84	4	4	N	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorite (ppm)	Daily	0.26	< 0.01 – 0.26	1	0.8	N	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine dioxide (ppb)	Daily	680	<100 –680	800	800	N	Water additive used to control microbes

* Highest value was from the Grindstone Well, which was taken off line in April after this result.

Unregulated and Secondary Contaminants	Date(s) Collected	Result or Range Detected	Average Detected	SMCL	ORSG or Health Advisory	Possible Source
Sodium (ppm)	5-11-11	23	----	----	20	Natural sources; runoff from road salt; by-product of treatment process
Sulfate (ppm)	5-11-11	7	--	250	--	Natural sources
Manganese (ppb)	5-11-11	32	---	50	300*	Erosion of natural deposits

* The EPA has established a lifetime health advisory (HA) value of 300 ppb for manganese to protect against concerns of potential neurological effects,

COMPLIANCE WITH DRINKING WATER REGULATIONS

The CVRWD is committed to providing you with the best water quality available. However, some contaminants that were tested last year did not meet all applicable health standards regulated by the state and federal government. Our water system and MassDEP monitor and record the effectiveness of actions taken in response to contaminant violations. The CVRWD received notices of noncompliance for seven violations in 2011. In addition, we have signed a Consent Order that requires the CVRWD to take steps to bring the water system into compliance.

Turbidity – February, March and July 2011

Our water system violated the monthly Turbidity limit for the months of February, March, and July 2011. The District consulted with MassDEP and it was determined that the introduction of additional disinfectant at the Water Treatment Facility would be the best action to prevent the presence of disease-causing microorganisms. Sampling for total coliform bacteria was conducted system wide in February and March, and the results of the sampling concluded that no coliform bacteria were present in the drinking water. The District staff cleaned slow sand filters No. 1 and No. 2 during the month of February. The District staff has continued to monitor daily turbidity levels and introduce additional disinfectant at the Water Treatment Facility. Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches.

Coliform Bacteria – November 2011

In November 2011 total coliform bacteria was found in the water system. Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially harmful bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems. We did not detect any *E. coli* or fecal coliform in any samples taken. The cause of the total coliform bacteria was attributed to the higher water temperatures we experienced. We resolved this issue by increasing the disinfectant residual in the standpipes and distribution system, combined with extensive water main flushing in the areas of Main Street, Pleasant Street and Stafford Street. We conducted repeat sampling and had no further bacteria detections. The public was notified of this violation by newspaper and in their monthly water bill. E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, and people with severely-compromised immune systems.

Total Trihalomethanes – Four Quarters in 2011

In all four quarters of 2011, our system exceeded the standard or Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for TTHMs. The standard for TTHMs is 80 parts per billion and is based upon the Running Annual Average (RAA) results of four consecutive quarters. Trihalomethanes (THMs) are formed when chlorine added to the water for disinfection reacts with natural organic matter commonly found in surface waters. Our MCL violations resulted from the introduction of additional disinfectant at the Water Treatment Facility to manage turbidity levels. The public was notified of this violation by newspaper and in their monthly water bills. Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems and may have increased risk of getting cancer.

Administrative Consent Order Action Plan

The DEP issued the Cherry Valley and Rochdale Water District (the “District”) an Administrative Consent Order (ACO) for violations of the Surface Water Treatment Rule (SWTR), the Disinfectant/Disinfection Byproduct Rule (DBPR) and The Total Coliform Rule (TCR). The DEP ACO directed the District to perform several upgrades and expansion of the existing Water Treatment Facility for the Henshaw Pond and the Grindstone Well water supplies.

The issues to address immediately consist of a partial rebuilding of Slow Sand Filter No. 2 including replacement of gate and control valves and piping; replacement of filter media, valves and controls for the Grindstone Well Treatment System and inspection and cleaning of the water treatment facility Clear Well structure. These actions will bring the Grindstone Well Treatment System into compliance with the Arsenic Rule and will further enable the District time to complete the long term projects that will bring the Henshaw Treatment Facility into compliance with the SWTR, DBPR and the TCR.

The long term projects consist of a pilot treatment study to determine the design parameters, unit sizes and efficiencies for the upgrades to the water treatment facility followed by the design and construction of a Miex™ treatment system; permanent rebuilding of Slow Sand Filters No. 1 and 2 including the replacement and upgrade of the filter under drain system and repair to the concrete Slow Sand Filter structure; design and construction of a Chlorine Contact Chamber and Pump Chamber and several miscellaneous engineering projects consisting of updating the Feasibility Study, constructing and Extended Period Simulation computer model of the water distribution system and revising the existing Watershed Protection Plan. The total cost of the ACO project is $ 3.5 million dollars.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Cross Connections

A cross connection is a connection between a drinking water pipe and a polluted or non-potable source. Fluctuation in water pressure can cause water to be siphoned or sucked backwards through pipes and hoses. Hoses are the most common extension of a plumbing system and the item most likely to cause an accidental poisoning of your water. Hoses are often connected to swimming pools, laundry sinks and lawn chemical sprayers. Water flowing backwards into your home will bring contaminants or poisons with it. To prevent this from happening, every hose faucet connection should have a device called a **Hose Bibb Vacuum Breaker**. These are inexpensive and are available from your local plumbing contractor or supplier. As required by Massachusetts Drinking Water Regulations, 310 CMR 22.22 (3) (b), the District has an approved Cross Connection Program Plan. This means that all cross connections in Cherry Valley and Rochdale Water District's businesses that are supplied by public water are surveyed by a certified backflow tester on an annual basis. For additional information on cross connections and the status of CVRWD's cross connection program, please contact us at (508) 892-9616.

Mandatory Water Ban - May 1, 2012 until September 30, 2012

The Board of Water Commissioners voted on June 13, 2011 to create Article X Outdoor Water Use Regulation which mandates water use restrictions effective **May 1, 2012 until September 30, 2012.** The new Regulation is in response to the **ANNUAL** conservation conditions set forth in the District's Water Management Act Permit issued by MassDEP. The purpose of the Regulation is to protect, preserve and maintain public health, safety, welfare and the environment by ensuring an adequate supply of water for drinking and fire protection and to protect the quality and quantity of water in local aquatic habitants such as ponds, rivers and wetlands.

A copy of this notice was distributed to all building occupants, tenants and water users.

Water Use Restrictions

Mandatory conservation which prohibits the following non-essential outdoor activities from occurring between the hours of 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM.

a). irrigation of lawns via automatic lawn sprinkler systems;
b). washing of vehicles except in a commercial car wash; and
c).washing of exterior building surfaces, parking lots, driveways or sidewalks, except as necessary to apply paint, preservatives, stucco, pavement or cement.

Definitions

Automatic sprinkler system shall mean any system for watering vegetation other than a hand-held hose or bucket.

Any person violating this by-law shall be liable to the District in the amounts listed below:

1). First violation: Written warning
2). second violation: $200.00
3). Third violation: $300.00
4). Fourth and subsequent violations: $500.00

Each day of violation shall constitute a separate offense. Fines shall be recovered by complaint before District Court, or by non-criminal disposition in accordance with section 21D of chapter 40 of the general laws. For purposes of non-criminal disposition, the enforcing person shall be any police officer of the town or the water superintendent or the superintendent's designee. If a State of Water Supply Emergency has been declared the water Commissioners may, in accordance with G.L. c 40, s. 41A, shut off water at the meter or the curb stop.

A complete copy of Article X- Water Use Restriction of the Cherry Valley and Rochdale Water District Rules and Regulations can be viewed at the district's web site www.cvrwd.com

Water Conservation Public Outreach Information Tips and Useful Links:

Water conservation is an important way to protect our drinking water by ensuring that we don't diminish our resource. As much as 97% of the world's water is salt water, leaving 3% freshwater, two-thirds of which is stored as icecaps or glaciers. This laves 1% of the world's water for drinking. Needless to say, water conservation will help all us sustain the precious 1%.

Cherry Valley and Rochdale Water District water conservation public outreach information, tips and useful links to other water conservation web sites will be published and updated on www.cvrwd.com

Other Conservation Links:

http://www.wateruseitwisely.com/100-ways-to-conserve/index.php
http://eartheasy.com/live_water_saving.htm
http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/ws/wtrcnsv.html

Water Conservation Tips for Residents

Outdoors

- Water your lawn only when it needs it. Step on your grass. If grass springs back, when you lift your foot, it doesn't need water.
- Automatic lawn sprinklers: (includes all above and below ground sprinklers-see definition above) are very popular, and many people have installed underground automatic sprinkler systems. While this can be positive, it can also create serious problems if not installed properly. Any landscaping company will tell you that the best time to water your lawn is in the early morning or during the evening. Watering your lawn during the day wastes water due to the evaporation that occurs. Some experts say that as much as 50% of the water will evaporate before it soaks into the ground on a hot sunny day.
- Maximize the use of natural vegetation and establish smaller lawns. For portions of your lot where a lawn and landscaping are desired, ask your local nursery for tips about plants and grasses with low water demand (such as creeping fescue). Consider planting more trees, shrubs, ground covers, and less grass. Shrubs and ground covers provide greenery for much of the year and usually demand less water. Use native plants in flower beds. Native plants have adapted to rainfall conditions in New England and often provide good wildlife habitat. Cluster plants that require extra care together to minimize time and save water.
- Plant in the fall when conditions are cooler and rainfall is more plentiful.
- When mowing your lawn, set the mower blades to 2-3 inches high. Longer grass shades the soil improving moisture retention, has more leaf surface to take in sunlight, allowing it to grow thicker and develop a deeper root system. This helps grass survive drought, tolerate insect damage and fend off disease.
- Apply mulch around shrubs and flower beds to reduce evaporation, promote plant growth and control weeds.
- Add compost or an organic matter to soil as necessary, to improve soil conditions and water retention.
- Collect rainfall for irrigation in a screened container (to prevent mosquito larvae growth).
- Use a commercial car wash that recycles water.
- Let Mother Nature wash your car when it rains.
- Always use a broom to clean walkways, driveways, decks and porches, rather than hosing off these areas.
- Install covers on pools and spas and check for leaks around your pumps.
- Winterize outdoor spigots when temperatures dip below freezing to prevent pipes from leaking or bursting.

In the Kitchen

- When cooking, peel and clean vegetables in a large bowl of water instead of under running water.
- Collect the water you use for rinsing fruits and vegetables, then reuse it to water houseplants.
- Fill your sink or basin when washing and rinsing dishes.
- Soak pots and pans instead of letting the water run while you scrape them clean.
- Only run the dishwasher when it's full.
- When buying a dishwasher, select one with a "light-wash" option.
- Only use the garbage disposal when necessary (composting is a great alternative).
- Install faucet aerators.

In the Bathroom

- Shorten your shower by a minute or two and you'll save up to 150 gallons per month.
- Turn off the water to brush teeth, shave and soap up in the shower. Fill the sink to shave.
- Repair leaky toilets. Add 12 drops of food coloring into the tank, and if color appears in the bowl one hour later, your toilet is leaking.
- Upgrade older toilets with water efficient models.
- Install a toilet dam, faucet aerators and low-flow showerheads.

Laundry

- Run full loads of laundry.
- When doing laundry, match the water level to the size of the load.
- When purchasing a new washing machine, buy a water saving model that can be adjusted to the load size.
- Washing dark clothes in cold water saves both on water and energy while it helps your clothes to keep their colors.

CHERRY VALLEY AND ROCHDALE WATER DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 138
ROCHDALE, MA 01542

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Important Information about Leaks

Hole Diameter in Inches		Water wasted per month (gallons)	Water wasted per month (cubic feet)	Added cost to homeowner per month *
O	1/4	393,833	52,651	$3,806.18
O	1/8	98,666	13,190	$945.26
o	1/16	24,666	3,297	$228.05
o	1/32	6,166	824	$58.87

** Based on CVRWD current rates.*

Having difficulty paying your bills?
We understand that due to the current economic status, many people are facing difficult decisions and are struggling to make ends meet. We want to inform the CVRWD customers, that if you are having difficulty paying your monthly water bill, we ask that you contact the District office at 508-892-9616 to communicate your situation. We are more than happy to help you to establish a payment plan or provide you with conservation suggestions that could reduce your future water bills. Again, we understand that everyone is experiencing hardships and we want to express our willingness to assist you.

Meter Tampering
In 2010 the Massachusetts Senate and House of Representatives voted to amend the existing Water Company Meter Act. This amendment allows the increase in penalties associated with meter tampering and destruction. The penalty of such act can be triple the amount of damages sustained or $1,000.00, whichever is greater. The $1,000.00 penalty does not include the cost of the meter, water used, labor, equipment repair and replacement.

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider, and employer."