



# Water Supply District of Acton

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## Response to WBZ I-Team Report

The Acton Water District was featured in a CBS Boston news report on January 31st. It noted that we have levels of naturally occurring Arsenic which are approaching Federal drinking water limits. The data was obtained from a database maintained by the Environmental Working Group (EWG) and compared to levels which that organization feels are safe for consumption. The reporting failed to identify what we are doing to minimize the level of Arsenic in Acton's drinking water or making a clear distinction of our water system from the main issue in the news report regarding per- and polyfluoralkyl substances, or PFAS.

The Water District devotes extensive resources towards providing the best water we can to our customers. This includes testing the raw and treated water for regulated and unregulated compounds. The results of that testing help to inform our treatment needs, treatment effectiveness, and compliance with local, State, and Federal drinking water standards and guidelines. These standards and guidelines are designed to protect public health and provide for aesthetically pleasing water.

We provide results of drinking water quality testing to our customers in our Consumer Confidence Report. The latest report can always be found at [www.actonwater.com/ccr](http://www.actonwater.com/ccr) and any questions on substances found in our drinking water can be addressed by our staff. It should be noted that our data reporting represents the compounds tested for and detected in the water being served to customers. Unfortunately, The EWG database does not differentiate between raw water (collected prior to any treatment occurring) and treated water (collected after treatment occurring).

Specifically, as it relates to Arsenic, the EWG database reports that 79 samples were collected between 2012 and 2017, with 61 samples exceeding EWG's own health guideline, and 23 samples exceeding the legal limits established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Reviewing the laboratory reports, we note that treated water being served to our customers account for no exceedances of the legal limit. This would put the total number of samples greater than the EWG health guideline at 23. These results range from non-detect to 7 parts per billion. The current limit is 10 parts per billion.

Additional water quality data collected during 2018 and 2019, have similar results ranging between non-detect and 6 parts per billion. Public notice for having Arsenic in treated water that is at half of the Federal Limit has been provided in our Consumer Confidence Report as required by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

If you have additional questions or concerns regarding this report, Acton's water quality, or how our treatment processes work, please contact our District Manager, Chris Allen, or our Environmental Manager, Matthew Mostoller at 978-263-9107. They may also be reached via email at [chris@actonwater.com](mailto:chris@actonwater.com) or [matt@actonwater.com](mailto:matt@actonwater.com).