



**SPRINGFIELD WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION  
P.O. BOX 995, SPRINGFIELD, MA 01101**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Environmental Working Group (EWG) Report on Drinking Water**

Customers of Springfield Water and Sewer Commission (SWSC) may be aware of a new database issued by an environmental advocacy organization, the Environmental Working Group (EWG), regarding the quality of drinking water across the country. The EWG's report compares data reported by SWSC and other water utilities to "health guidelines" set by EWG itself. These health guidelines in many cases are more restrictive than the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Act requirements. The SWSC is in compliance with all Safe Drinking Water Requirements.

SWSC is dedicated to protecting public health and complying with all state and federal drinking water standards. This is demonstrated through rigorous and regular sampling of the water flowing from reservoirs at Cobble Mountain and Borden Brook, through the treatment process at West Parish Water Treatment Plant, and throughout the distribution system in Springfield and Ludlow. More than 51,000 water quality tests are conducted annually in the Commission's state-certified laboratory and at private certified laboratories. SWSC meets and most often well exceeds EPA and DEP drinking water standards, and continues to evaluate ways to further reduce the constituents that can be found in drinking water. In that regard, the Commission is undertaking a comprehensive water quality study and master plan involving national water quality experts in proactive anticipation of changes to water quality regulations.

EWG's guidelines are based in part on the 2020 public health goals established by the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, which reduces contaminants to tens to hundreds of times lower than levels set under the Safe Water Drinking Act. The criteria do not take into account whether a technology exists to remove the contaminants or whether there are industry or regulatory standards and methods to do so. While EWG's work is valuable in illustrating the high level of attention and investment the nation's water supplies deserve, SWSC customers can be confident that their drinking water is safe to consume. Customers with any questions on their water quality should consult SWSC's Consumer Confidence Report (also known as a Water Quality Report) that lists both regulated and unregulated



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contaminants detected in sampling. This report is posted to <http://waterandsewer.org> and customers are repeatedly notified of its availability in their bills in the spring. Customers with any questions about water quality should also feel free to contact the Commission at 413-452-1300.

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