

# WATER QUALITY UPDATE

## *September 8, 2022 Boil Water Order*

### *Summary*

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Public Works Director

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Deputy Public Works Director

WILMINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

# Water Quality Testing

- Testing of drinking water is governed by
  - the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)
  - the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP).



The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), enacted in the 1970's, establishes the list of potential contaminants the Wilmington Water Department must test for, as well as the frequency of that testing.

# Microorganisms – One of the Regulated Contaminants

Wilmington collects 33 samples per month from specified locations across Town and analyzes for **Total Coliform bacteria**.

Total Coliform: Naturally occurring in the environment, typically found in soil and plant material. Can be an *indicator* of E.Coli



→ **E.Coli is a Subset of Total Coliform Bacteria and can be potentially harmful**

# General Sampling Timeline from Last Week

Tues 9/6

Routine  
Sample  
Taken at  
Hillside Way  
Tank

# General Sampling Timeline from Last Week

Tues 9/6

Wed 9/7

Routine  
Sample  
Taken at  
Hillside Way  
Tank

Result: TC+ / E -

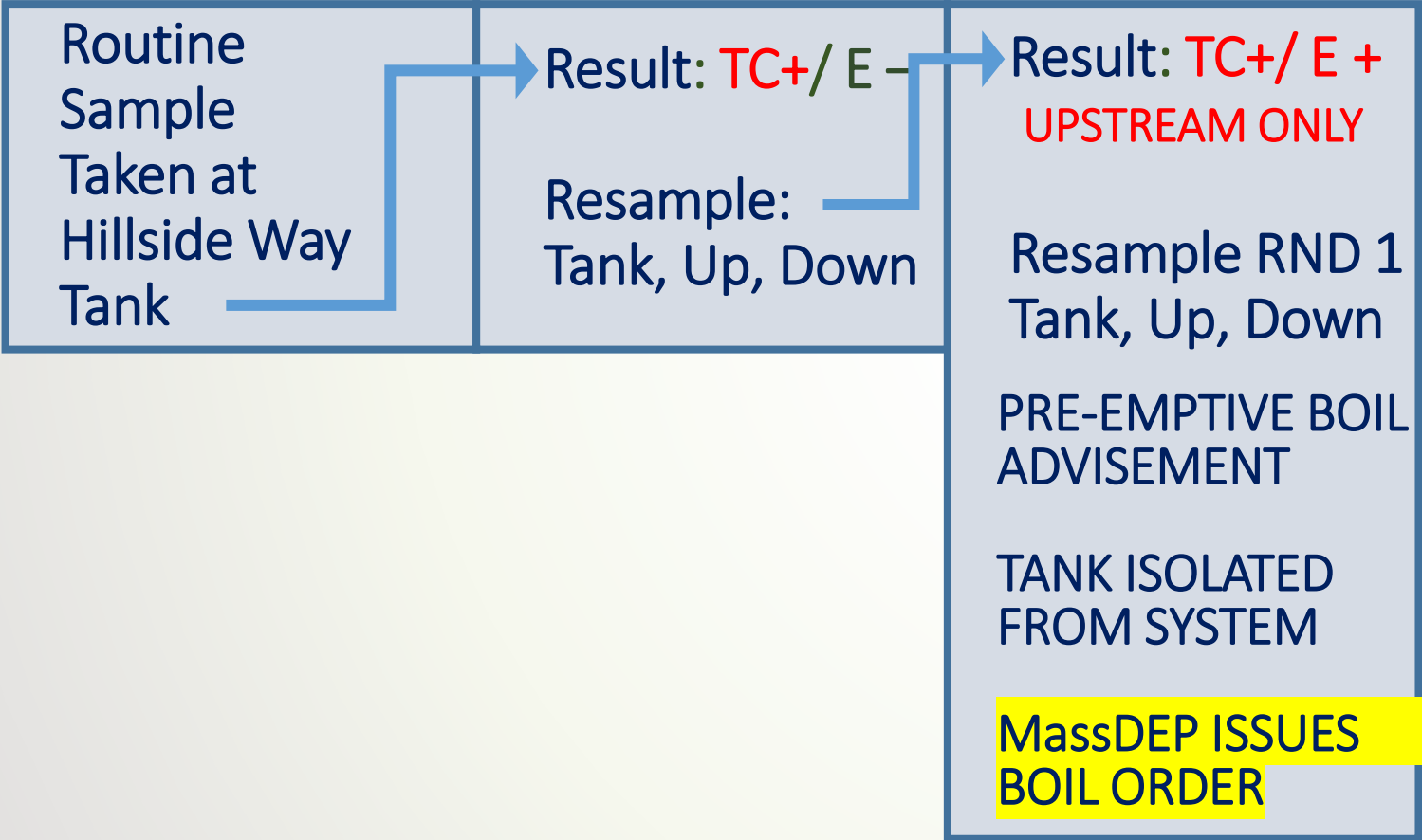
Resample:  
Tank, Up, Down

# General Sampling Timeline from Last Week

Tues 9/6

Wed 9/7

Thurs 9/8



# General Sampling Timeline from Last Week

Tues 9/6

Wed 9/7

Thurs 9/8

Fri 9/9

Routine Sample Taken at Hillside Way Tank

Result: TC+/ E -

Resample: Tank, Up, Down

Result: TC+/ E +  
UPSTREAM ONLY

Resample RND 1 Tank, Up, Down

PRE-EMPTIVE BOIL ADVISEMENT

TANK ISOLATED FROM SYSTEM

MassDEP ISSUES  
BOIL ORDER

Result: SYSTEM TC-/ E -  
TANK TC+ / E--

Resample RND 2

# General Sampling Timeline from Last Week

Tues 9/6

Wed 9/7

Thurs 9/8

Fri 9/9

Sat 9/10

Routine Sample Taken at Hillside Way Tank

Result: TC+/E-  
Resample: Tank, Up, Down

Result: TC+/E+  
UPSTREAM ONLY

Resample RND 1 Tank, Up, Down

PRE-EMPTIVE BOIL ADVISEMENT

TANK ISOLATED FROM SYSTEM

MassDEP ISSUES BOIL ORDER

Result: SYSTEM TC-/E-  
TANK TC+/E--  
Resample RND 2

Result: SYSTEM TC-/E-  
TANK TC-/E--  
ORDER LIFTED

TANK STILL ISOLATED, RESAMPLE TANK AGAIN

SUNDAY: TANK STILL TC+



# Thursday September 8<sup>th</sup> – A Closer Look

- DPW Notified by MWRA of E.Coli
  - Fact gathering / confirmation of results
- Conference call between DPW and MWRA and MassDEP
  - Advised to have a team meeting with Town Stakeholders.  
MassDEP states a boil order would be forthcoming, but it's not official until we receive it in writing
- Meeting with Town Officials and MWRA
  - Discussed logistics of preparing for boil order
  - Schools proactively pulled cold foods prepared with cold water
  - Town issues Pre-emptive “Water Boil Advisory” while waiting for MassDEP


# Thursday September 8<sup>th</sup> – A Closer Look

- “Boil Advisory” Notifications Sent Out - *Unofficial Boil Order*
  - Everbridge “Reverse 911”
  - DPW Website, Town Twitter, Town Website, Town Twitter, Facebook
  - WCTV and Wilmington Apple sent message
- Hillside Way Tank Isolated
- MWRA Sends Out Drone Inspection of Tank Exterior
- Schools Canceled Friday Sept. 9, 2022 and Bottled Water Ordered

# Thursday September 8<sup>th</sup> – A Closer Look

- Health Dept started notifying Restaurants, Health Care Facilities, and Nursing Homes
- 2pm – **MassDEP Issues “Official” Boil Water Order**
- Town Displays “Boil Water Order” on Electronic Sign at Rotary Park
- CBS News and Fox25 News Copy Town’s Website Press Release to Television Newscasts

# What's Next?

- As Discussed, the Boil Water Order Was Lifted Saturday Morning September 10, 2022 
- Plan In Place To Clean and Monitor Tank Water in Hillside Way Tank
- MassDEP and MWRA Will Be Involved To Ensure Regulatory Compliance
- Tank Water Will Be Reintroduced When All Parties Agree It's Safe To Do So