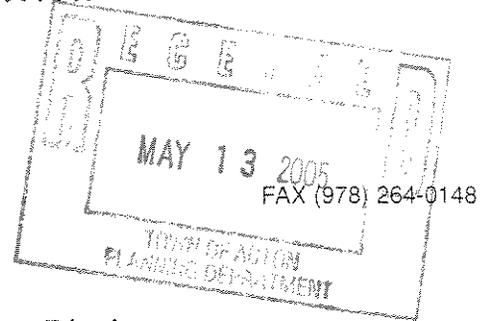


Water Supply District of Acton

693 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
P.O. BOX 953
ACTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01720-0953

TELEPHONE (978) 263-9107



Memo To: Blasting Contractors
From: Jane Ceraso, Environmental Manager, Acton Water District
Jim Deming, District Manager, Acton Water District
Robert Craig, Acton Fire Chief
Date: May 11, 2005

During the past year perchlorate has been detected in several drinking water supplies in Massachusetts, including three public water supply wells where nearby blasting operations appear to be the source of the perchlorate contamination. Fortunately, all tests done to date on Acton's public water supply wells have not detected perchlorate. We are writing this memorandum to ask your assistance in preventing future contamination of Acton's drinking water supplies with perchlorate

Perchlorates are highly water soluble, and can travel significant distances in groundwater. Perchlorate can affect the function of the thyroid gland, which regulates the body's metabolism. Pregnant women and their fetuses, infants, children under the age of 12, and people with hypothyroidism are most susceptible to its potential effects. Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MADEP) has in effect a health advisory of 1 µg/L (1 part per billion) in drinking water for these sensitive populations, and is in the process of adopting clean-up and drinking water standards for perchlorate.

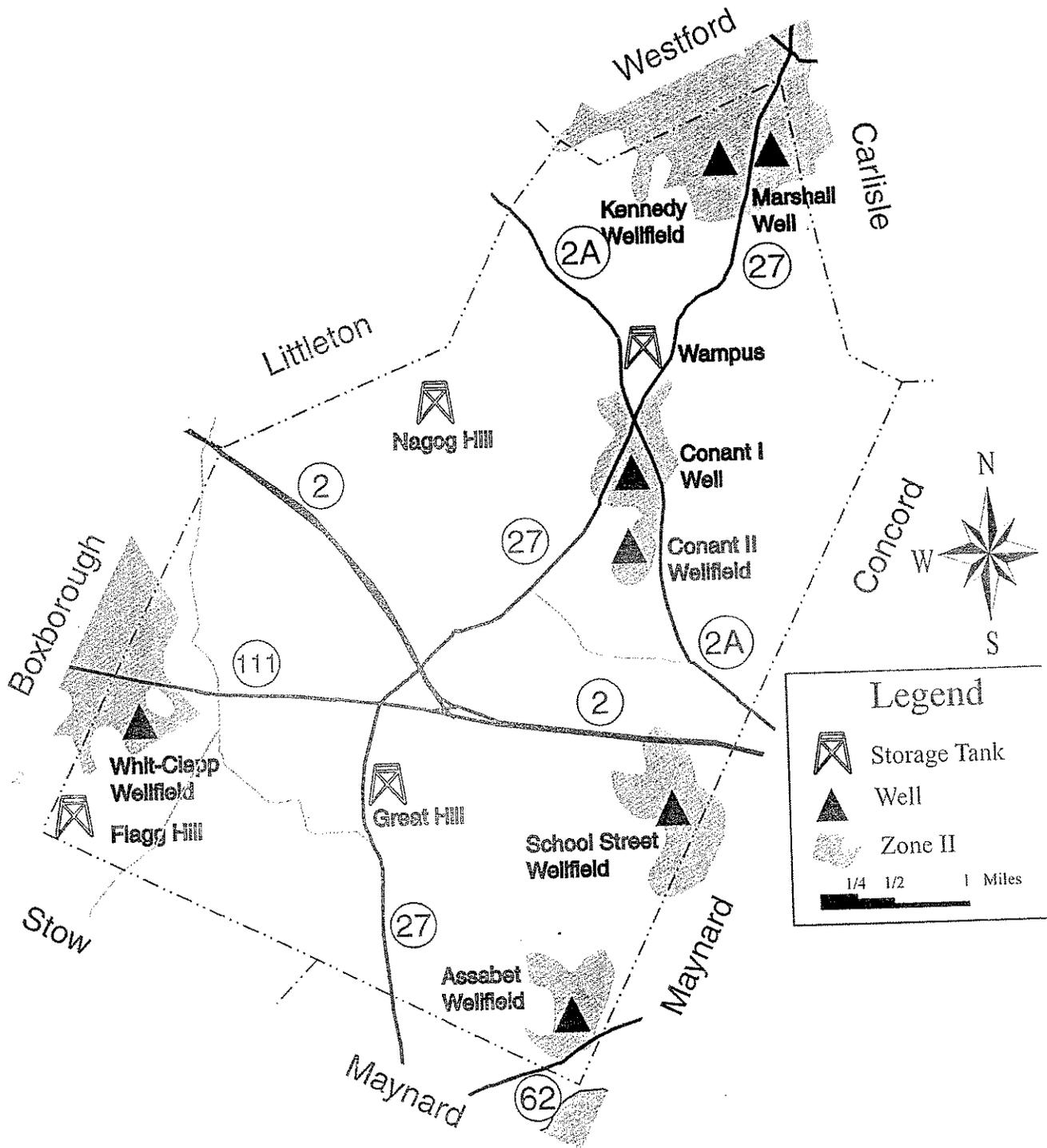
We are requesting that all blasting contractors working in Acton and nearby Zone II areas take the following reasonable steps now to minimize potential problems:

1. **Determine the perchlorate content of blasting agents and explosives to be used.** This may require that you make inquiries with your suppliers and/or manufacturers.
2. **Avoid the use of perchlorate-containing explosive products when groundwater may be affected:**
Within and adjacent to the recharge areas of public drinking water supply wells see attached AWD "Zone II" map
3. When the use of perchlorate-containing products is absolutely necessary:
Institute rigorous "housekeeping" practices. Some sources suggest that explosive products that are properly detonated will result in the nearly complete destruction of perchlorates, and that loss of product via spills or debris are the primary cause of environmental pollution.
Take reasonable steps to prevent and address misfires. In cases where explosives or blasting agents are washed or removed from a borehole following a misfire, reasonable efforts should be made to collect and properly manage or dispose of

perchlorate-containing materials. *In all cases, the safety of workers and the general public is of paramount concern.*

Please contact Jane Ceraso at the Acton Water District (978)-263-9107 with any local questions, or Rose Knox at the MADEP Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup (BWSC) at 617-556-1026 if you would like general perchlorate information, or please refer to the following link on DEP's website: <http://Mass.Gov/dep/brp/dws/percinfo.htm>.

CC: AWD Board of Water Commissioners
Doug Halley and Acton Board of Health
Roland Bartl and Acton Planning Board



Map of Acton Water District Service Area