



[Home](#) > [Westford Eagle](#) > [Local News](#) >  [RSS Feed](#)

 [E-mail](#)  [Graphic](#)  [Popular](#)

State to name Cote Well polluter

By [Ariel Z. Burch](#)/ Staff Writer
Thursday, August 10, 2006

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) says it will name who is responsible for perchlorate pollution of the Cote Well.

After MassDEP adopted new regulations for perchlorate on July 28, limiting the contaminant to two parts per billion and making Massachusetts the first state to accept such a policy, state officials began looking for the party responsible for the well's contamination.

"Besides the requirement for regular testing, the new regulations also require parties responsible for perchlorate contamination to notify MassDEP of the contamination and conduct appropriate environmental assessment and cleanup and for all drinking water supplies to contain no more than 2 ppb [parts per billion] of perchlorate," states a press release from MassDEP.

The Cote Well was taken offline in July 2004 after water supply sampling required by MassDEP at the Nutting Road Water Treatment Plant detected perchlorate at a level of 2.4 parts per billion.

MassDEP advises against pregnant women, infants and children up to the age of 12 and people with hypothyroidism against consuming water contaminated with perchlorate, a highly-soluble salt often found in blasting agents.

According to the Westford Water Department, the source of perchlorate contamination was identified in the Snake Meadow Hill area located west of the Cote Well.

The Highway Department garage on North Street is located approximately one-half mile from the Cote Well and the site of contamination can be traced to blasting agents used in construction of the garage, according to MassDEP. The rock quarries surrounding the well have also been the site of blasting for decades, according to MassDEP.

The town has been working to remove perchlorate from the well with a filter system installed early this summer.

The treatment system consists of two high-flow pressure vessels using a perchlorate-selective resin, which will treat the water to below one part per billion perchlorate. The system, designed with engineers from Comprehensive Environmental, Inc. of Milford, is similar to the DEP approved treatment currently used successfully in Millbury.







The system ran for about two days but was then taken offline to replace piping, said Environmental Compliance Manager for the Westford Water Department Jessica Cajigas. She said resin will be shipped this week and the filter system should be functional by next week.

"As soon as it is up and running the water will be sent to the Nutting Road treatment plant and it can be used immediately," Cajigas said.






MassDEP officials have not said when they will name the alleged polluter.

 [E-mail](#)  [Graphic](#)  [Popular](#)

Herald Interactive Tools

-  [Recent articles](#)
-  [E-mail article to a friend](#)
-  [Graphic version](#)
-  [Get RSS feed](#)
-  [Search site](#)
-  [Sign up for home delivery](#)

Recent articles

-  [School workshops discuss drug abuse](#)
-  [Tacconni-Moore named Asst. Supt.: Will be in charge of curriculum](#)
-  [Four teens injured in crash](#)
-  [Bridge too far: Pleasant St. project delayed until mid-winter](#)
-  [Willows knocked out of tourney: Hudson wins best-of-three series](#)

Today's most read Town Online articles Updated 10:32 AM ET

1. [Energy efficiency certified](#)(618)
2. [Sports in Brief](#)(555)
3. [A world apart](#)(534)
4. [Parent demystifies gardening](#)(504)
5. [Sports in Brief](#)(502)

Search the site

Enterprise-level broadband service provided by [Expedient: America's Largest All-Ethernet Network](#)

Wireless broadband ser
[Towerstream](#)

[[contact us](#)] :: [[print advertising](#)] :: [[online advertising](#)] :: [[Browser Upgrade](#)] :: [[Jobs](#)]

Order Home Delivery Online: [Weekly papers](#) [Daily papers](#) or call **1.800.982.4023**

© Copyright of GateHouse Media and Herald Interactive, Inc.

No portion of townonline.com or its content may be reproduced without the owner's written permission. [Privacy Commitment](#)

bh.heraldinteractive.com: 0.153805:Thu, 10 Aug 2006 14:56:23 GMT **Cache_Lite : Unable to write cache file :**