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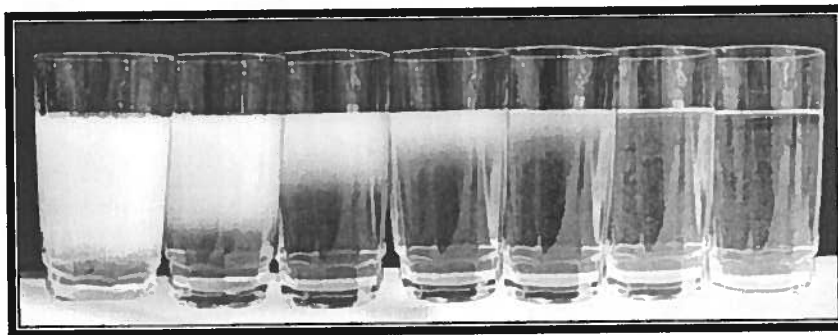
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**Water main break on Massachusetts Avenue**

**January 20, 2011** - The Town of Lexington wishes to advise residents on Massachusetts Avenue from Estabrook to the Nickerson Street area, that due to a water main break, this area of town may experience temporary loss of water or cloudy / rusty water.

**Cloudy Water**

The hot and cold water may come out very cloudy during a main break or when flows suddenly increase. Cloudy water, also known as white water, is caused by air bubbles in the water. It usually happens when it is very cold outside and air gets mixed in with the water supply. It is completely harmless. The best thing to do is let it sit in an open container until the bubbles naturally disappear. Below, you will find a photo of Cloudy water and an example of how it clears up over time.



**Rusty Water**

Red water, (named after the red or black rust specks), sometimes occurs when there is an increase or change in water flow, largely caused by water main breaks, fire hydrant activations, and flow direction changes made during any repairs. These occurrences knock off small particles of rust and stir up sediments in the pipes. It is a temporary condition that usually clears up in a couple of hours. There are not any known adverse health impacts due to rusty water but if possible, you should refrain from using water for such uses as doing laundry (because it may discolor your clothing) until the condition clears up.

Due to the high pressure of the system in that area, there is not any chance of bacteria entering the system. Typically, bacteria would only enter the system if there was a total loss of pressure or if a nearby sewer line was ruptured, or there was another source of contamination. Water

samples are analyzed in laboratories for bacteria counts. Further information will be provided to you should that be necessary.

**Restored Service**

When the service is restored, you are advised to run the cold water into your bath tub (with the drain open) to flush the out the sediment or rusty water. This will help to keep your water heater clean by not adding sediment or rusty water into your boiler or water heater.

The Town of Lexington is currently working at restoring service, but there will be reduced water pressure until the system is fully repaired. For more information, please contact the Water/Sewer Operations Office at 781-274-8300.