

# WATER WITHDRAWALS BALANCING QUANTITY AND QUALITY

Watershed Action Alliance of Southeastern Massachusetts  
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# Presentation Outline

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- General Overview of Typical PWS
- Geology in New England and Impacts on Water Quality
- PWS Balancing Act – Quantity and Quality
- Challenges facing Typical PWS

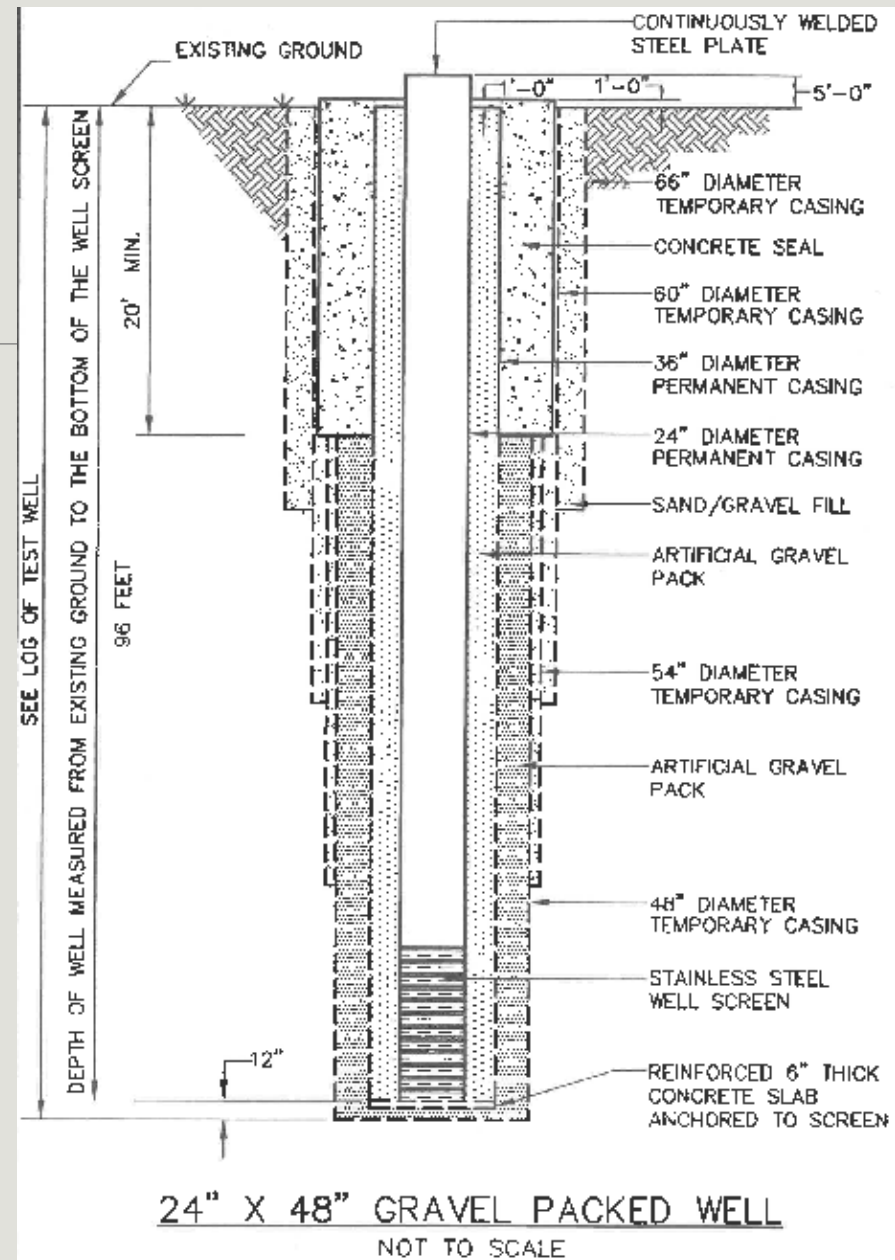


# Overview Typical PWS

Sample Overburden  
Gravel Packed Well

## Variations

- Depth
- Soil Layers and Types
- Size (casing and pack)
- Gravel Pack vs Natural





# Overview

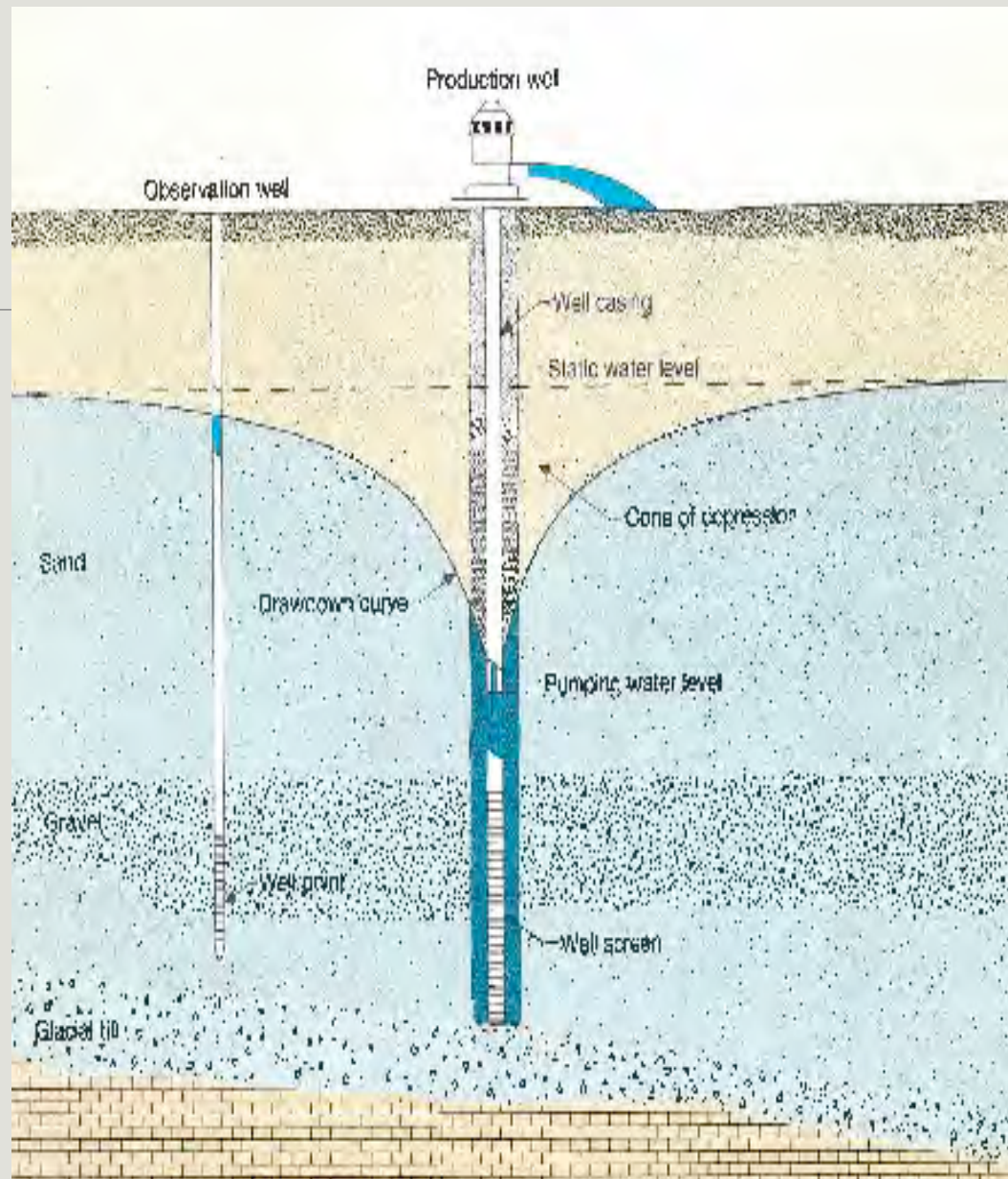
## Sample Drawdown Curve

*Image from "Groundwater and Wells"*

*by Fletcher G. Driscoll*

1986

*Johnson Division, Minnesota*





# Overview - Typical PWS MassDEP Protective Zones

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- Zone 1**      400 foot radius around well (varies if less than 100,000 gpd)  
Must be owned or controlled by PWS
  
- Zone 2**      Modelled extent of drawdown  
180 days of pumping at approved yield, no precipitation
  
- Zone 3**      Extent of watershed in which well is located  
Excludes downgradient portions that do not contribute





# Overview - Typical PWS MassDEP Protective Zones II

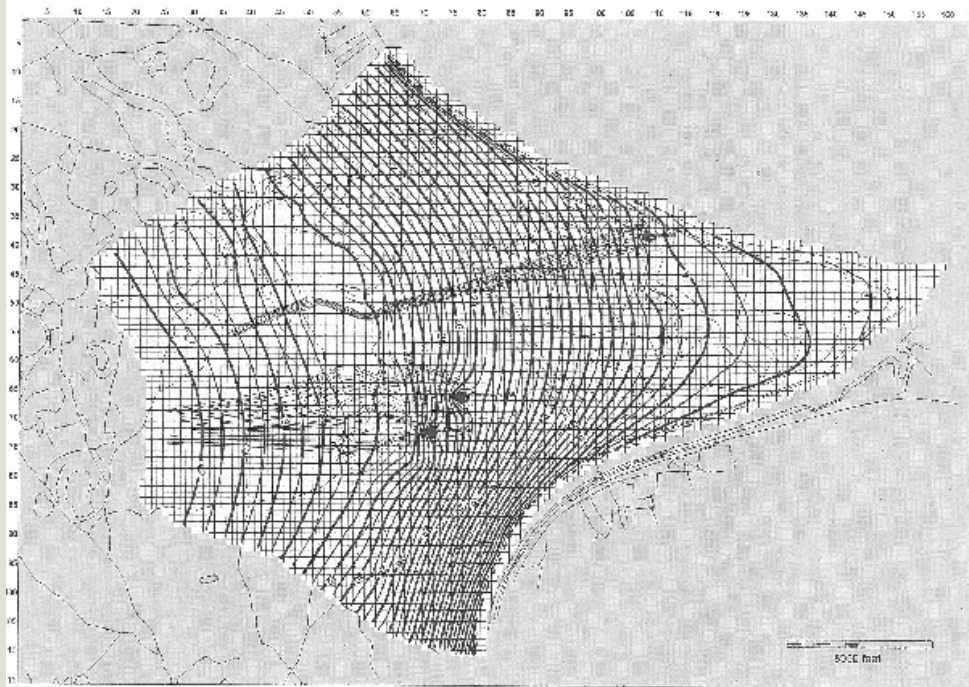
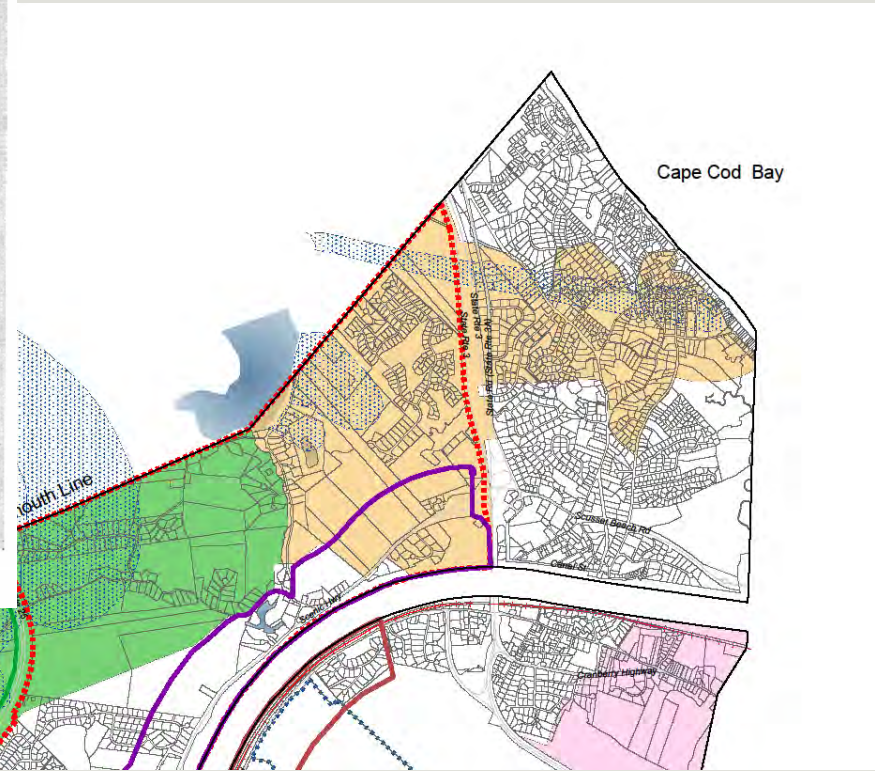


Figure 3-12  
Results of Sensitivity Simulation on Basecase





# Geology in New England Impact on Water Quality

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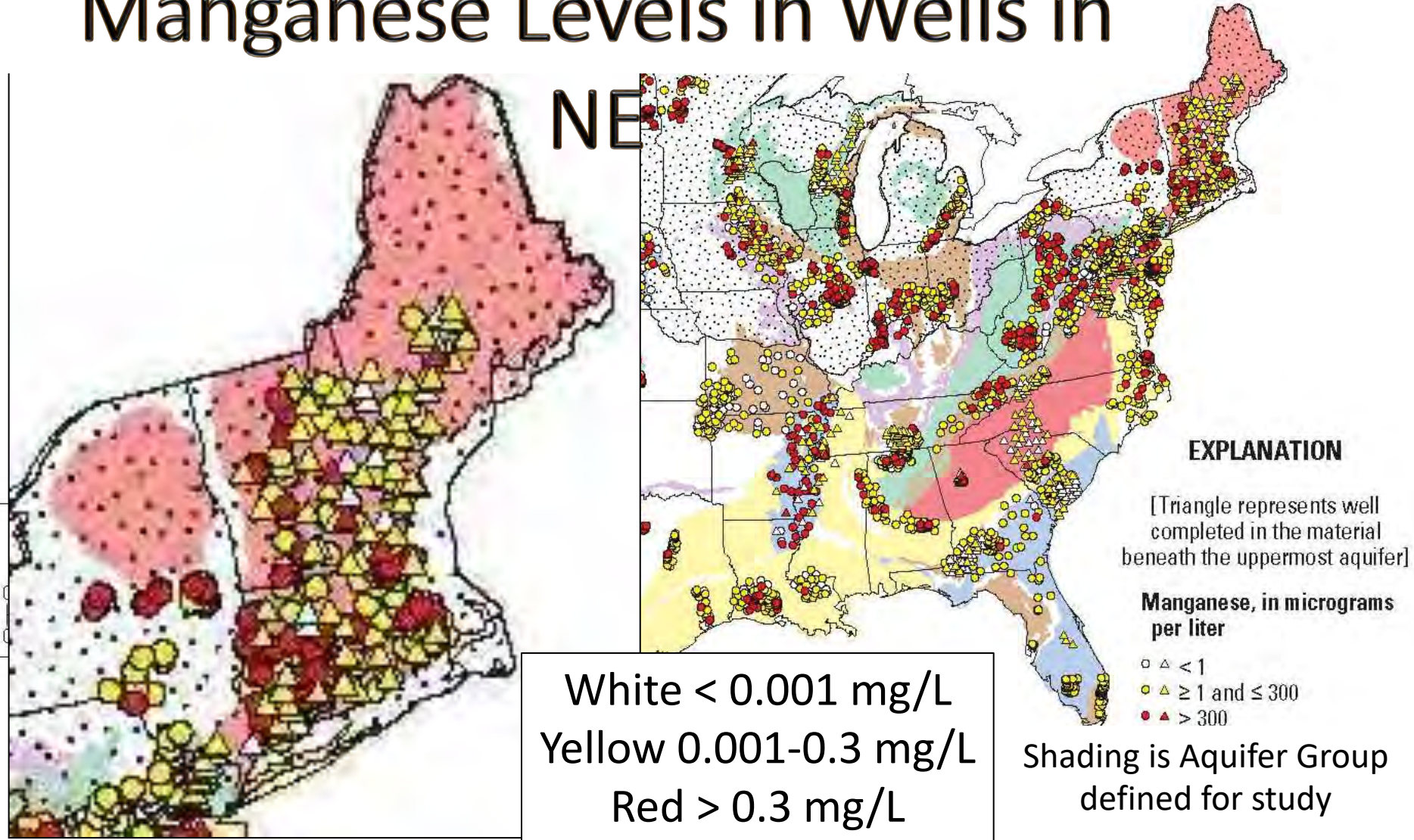
## Overburden Materials (aka Surficial Geology)

### Elements typically impacting Massachusetts PWS

- Iron (discoloration and potential buildup/clogging)
- Manganese (discoloration and health impacts)
- Arsenic (health impacts)



# Manganese Levels in Wells in



Source: USGS, Trace Elements and Radon in Groundwater Across the United States, 1992–2003, Scientific Investigations Report 2011–5059, 2011



## Intellectual Impairment in School-Age Children Exposed to Manganese from Drinking Water

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**BACKGROUND:** Manganese (Mn) is a neurotoxic metal. Despite the common presence of Mn in groundwater, the health effects of exposure are largely unknown.

**OBJECTIVES:** Our findings suggest that exposure to Mn in drinking water and children's hair manganese concentration are associated with lower IQ scores.

**METHODS:** This cross-sectional study was supplied by groundwater samples and children's hair (MnH) and food frequency questionnaire data.

**RESULTS:** The median MnW was 1.2 µg/L.

MnH increased with manganese intake from water consumption, but not with dietary manganese intake. Higher MnW and MnH were significantly associated with lower IQ scores. A 10-fold increase in MnW was associated with a decrease of 2.4 IQ points (95% confidence interval: -3.9 to -0.9;  $p < 0.01$ ), adjusting for maternal intelligence, family income, and other potential confounders. There was a 6.2-point difference in IQ between children in the lowest and highest MnW quintiles. MnW was more strongly associated with Performance IQ than Verbal IQ.

**CONCLUSIONS:** The findings of this cross-sectional study suggest that exposure to manganese at levels common in groundwater is associated with intellectual impairment in children.

**KEYWORDS:** children, intellectual quotient, manganese, neurotoxicity, water. *Environ Health Perspect* 119:138–143 (2011). doi:10.1289/ehp.1002321 [Online 20 September 2010]

**“The findings from our study support the hypothesis that low-level, chronic exposure to manganese from drinking water is associated with significant intellectual impairments in children.”**

from water containing 100 µg/L, one presenting with intellectual impairments (Woolf and Mergler 2007) and another with neurologic symptoms, such as a repetitive stuttered speech and fine motor coordination, and fine motor skills (Woolf et al. 2007).

The maximum concentration in drinking water in the United States is 100 µg/L, as established guidelines for the maximum concentration of manganese in drinking water (100 µg/L by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (2004) and at 400 µg/L by the World Health Organization (WHO) (2008).

To date, no epidemiologic study has examined possible neurotoxic effects at manganese concentrations common in North American aquifers. In the present study, we assessed the relationship between exposure to manganese from drinking water and IQ of school-age children living in communities relying on groundwater. In addition, we



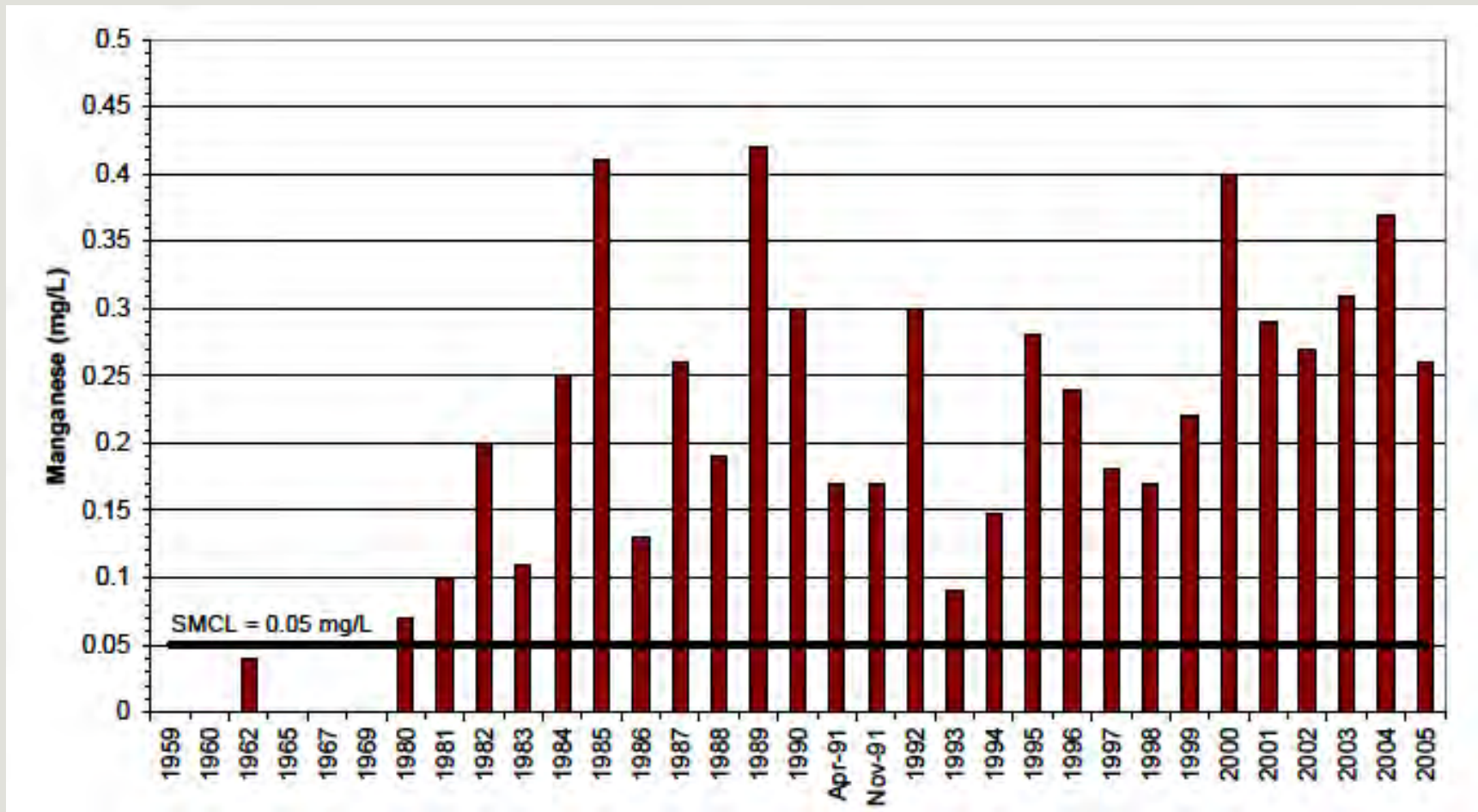
# Geology in New England Impact on Water Quality





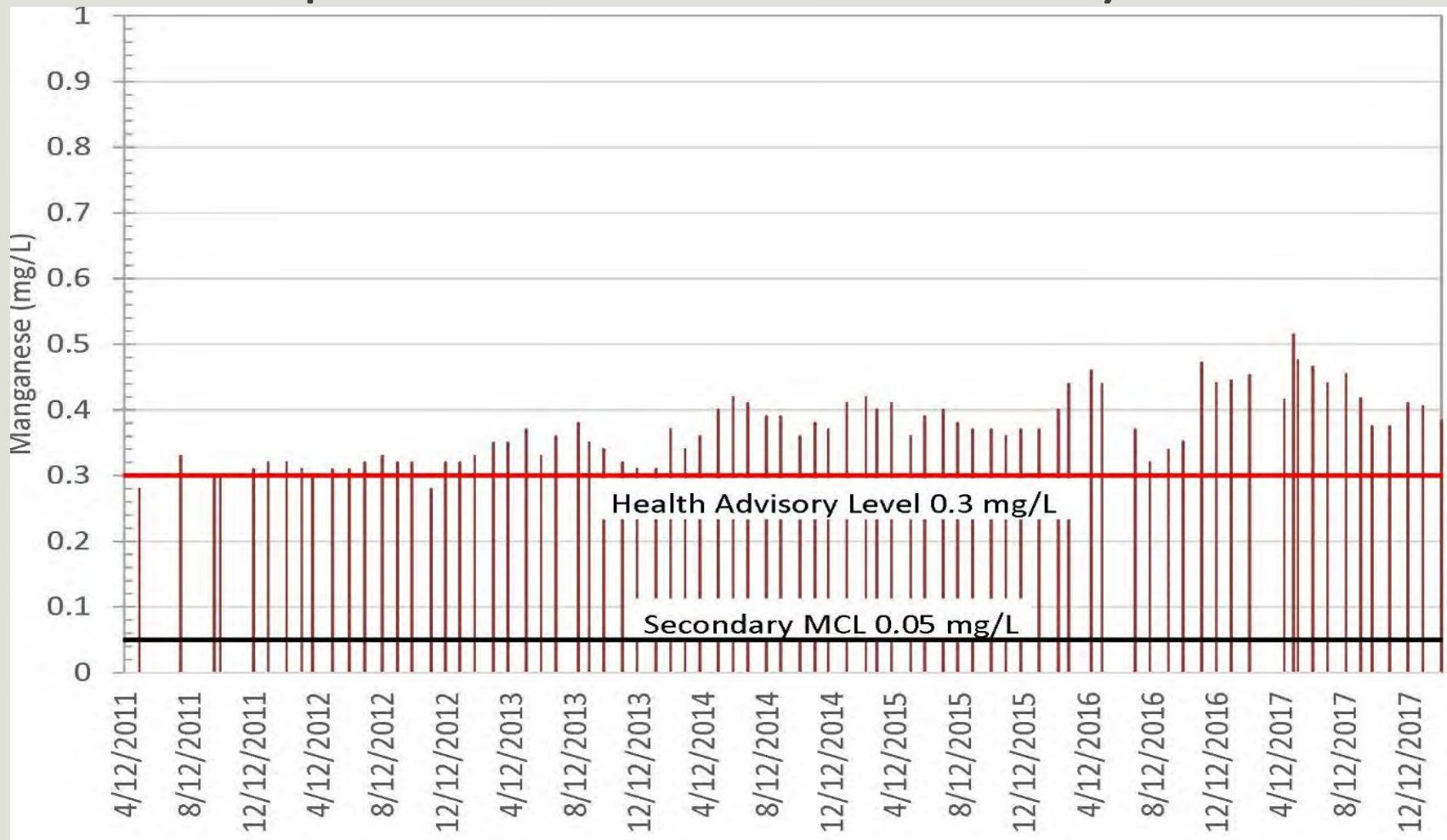


# Geology in New England Impact on Water Quality





# Geology in New England Impact on Water Quality







# PWS Balancing Act

## Water Quantity and Quality

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### Well/Source Management

- Ideally limit to 16 hours daily, allows recovery and avoid “stressing” well
- Weekly rotation of multiple sources

### Multiple sources

- Reduced flow and reduced drawdown
- Reduced Water Quality Deterioration (or delayed impact)
- Side benefit of supply redundancy is increased system resiliency
- Preferential use of sources in different (less stressed) river basins
- Problem - difficult to locate new “clean” sources

### Promote conservation

- Banning of lawn irrigation system or separate irrigation meters/rates
- Adherence to MassDEP Conservation goals of 65 gpcd and 10% UAW

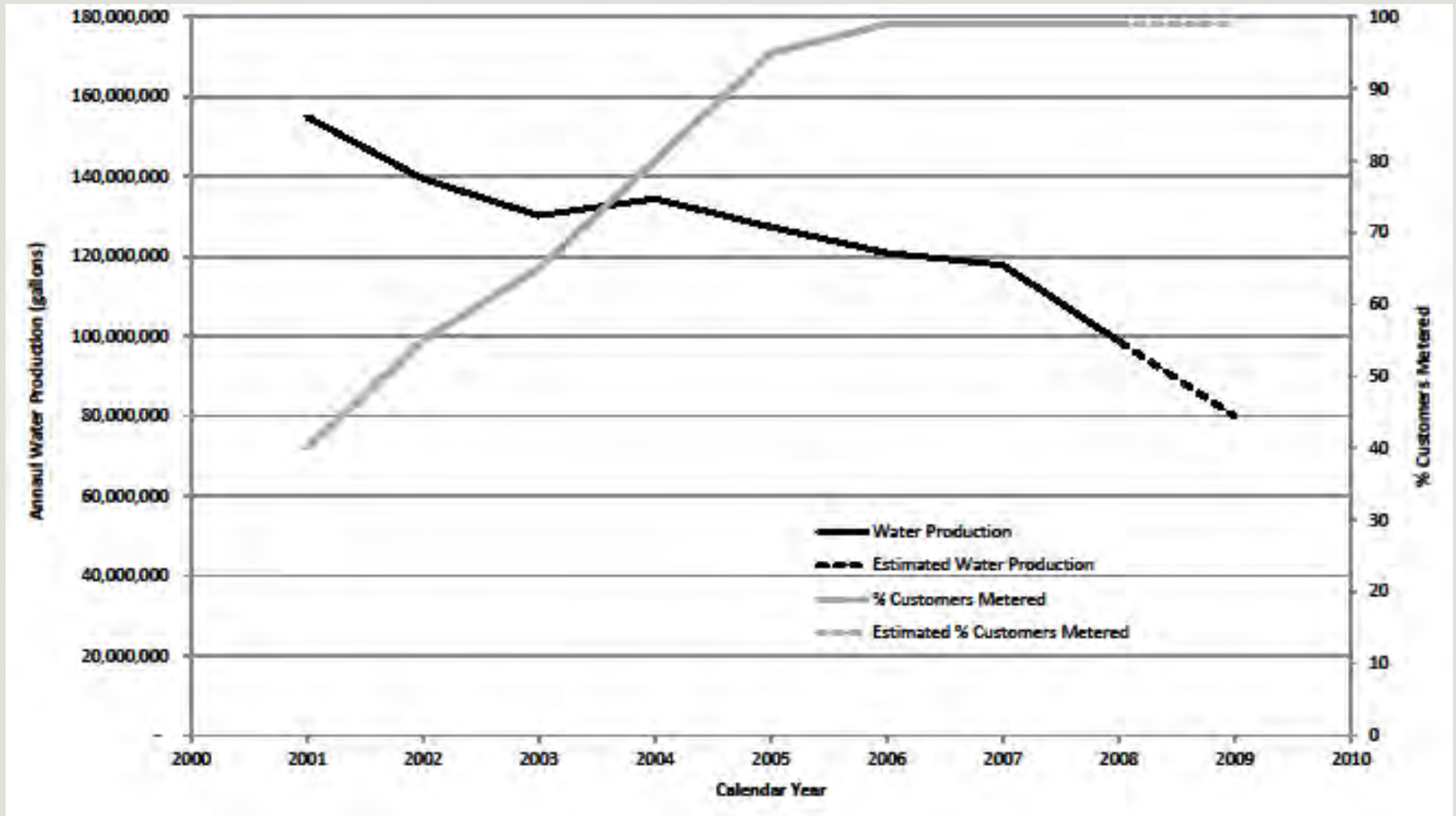


# PWS Balancing Act

Month	Average Demand (mgd) <sup>2</sup>		Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
	Low Zone	High Zone				
January	0.98	0.13	South St Millgate Soules Pond Grassy Hole	1-86 Soules Pond Millgate South St	South St Millgate Soules Pond 1-86	Grassy Hole Soules Pond Millgate South St
February	0.98	0.14	South St Millgate Soules Pond Grassy Hole	1-86 Soules Pond Millgate South St	South St Millgate Soules Pond 1-86	Grassy Hole Soules Pond Millgate South St
March	0.99	0.13	South St Millgate Soules Pond Grassy Hole	1-86 Soules Pond Millgate South St	South St Millgate Soules Pond Grassy Hole	1-86 Soules Pond Millgate South St
April	1.02	0.16	South St Millgate Soules Pond Grassy Hole	1-86 Soules Pond Millgate South St	South St Millgate Soules Pond Grassy Hole	1-86 Soules Pond Millgate South St
May	1.16	0.20	HZ Transfer <sup>3</sup> 1-86 Soules Pond Millgate	HZ Transfer South St Millgate Soules Pond	HZ Transfer Grassy Hole Soules Pond Millgate	HZ Transfer 1-86 Soules Pond Millgate
June	1.33	0.33	HZ Transfer South St Millgate Soules Pond	HZ Transfer Grassy Hole Soules Pond Millgate	HZ Transfer 1-86 Soules Pond Millgate	HZ Transfer South St Millgate Soules Pond



# PWS Balancing Act





# PWS CHALLENGES

## Treatment Impacts (Mn Example)

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### Mitigation Methods for Manganese

- Flushing Water Mains
- Cleaning Wells
- New Source Development
- Blending Source Waters
- Resting Wells
- Reduced Pumping Rates
- Sequestering through chemical addition
- Fe & Mn Removal through Treatment Facility





# PWS CHALLENGES

## Treatment Impacts (Mn Example)

### Sequestering through chemical addition

- Addition of chemical (phosphate)
- Binds Mn in solution to prevent oxidizing by air or chlorine, preventing color/staining
- Common approach for managing Mn
- Limitations
  - Only effective for Mn up to approximately 0.1 mg/L
  - Ineffective at higher temps (hot water heaters)
  - Mn is not removed (potential health impacts remain!)





# PWS CHALLENGES

## Treatment Impacts (Mn Example)

### Manganese Removal Options

(through new Treatment Facility)

- Oxidation
- Adsorption
- Filtration
  - Pressure Filtration
  - Traditional Filtration
  - Membrane Filtration
- Biological
- Ion Exchange

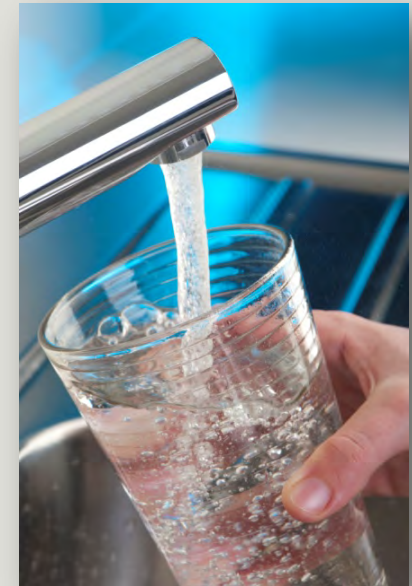
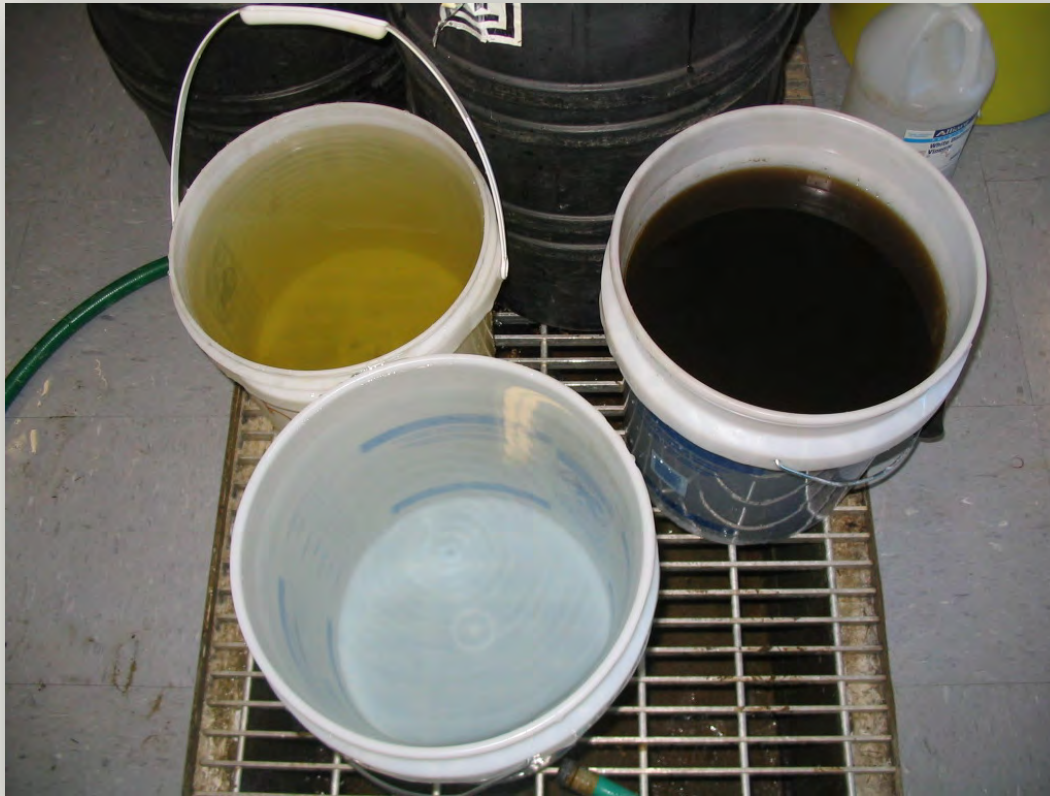




# PWS CHALLENGES

## Treatment Impacts (Mn Example)

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# PWS CHALLENGES

## Treatment Impacts (Mn Example)

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Pump Station (low Mn)  
*Estimated Cost \$1M*

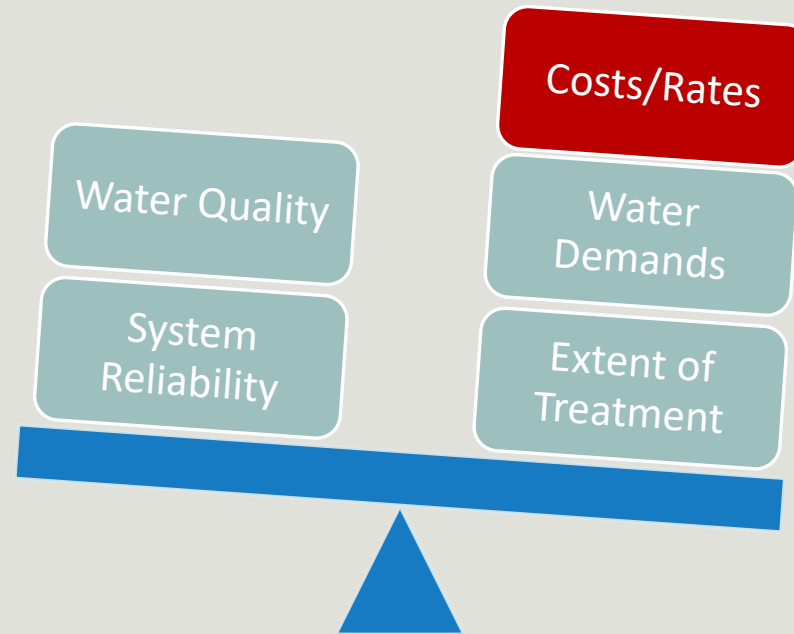
Manganese Removal Treatment Facility  
*Estimated Cost \$5M*







# Ultimate PWS Challenge



Many PWS are (or strive to be) financially self-sufficient.

Increased costs (or reduced water use) leads to increased rates.



# Questions?

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