

New England Section – Tap Water Taste Test 2026

Eligibility:

- Competition in the New England Section of American Water Works is open to all utility company members.
- Participants must have incurred any state or federal drinking water violations (MCL, monitoring, recordkeeping, etc.) during the previous 12 months.

Entry Requirements:

- Attendance at NE-AWWA's Annual Conference is required to participate in the competition.
- Samples must be submitted at the conference registration desk **by 9:30 AM on Thursday, October 22, 2026.**
- Samples should be at room temperature.
- Each entry must include one (1) liter and be clearly labeled.
- The container may be of contestants' choosing.

Note: Suggested cleaning method of container:

- *Method #1 - Prepare sample bottles by washing bottle and cap with detergent. Rinse 10 times with hot water and allow to air dry.*
- *Method #2 – Prepare sample bottles by washing bottle and cap with detergent. Rinse thoroughly, then rinse with vinegar, then flush and rinse with water and allow to air dry.*

Contest Judging:

- The judging panel will be comprised of Section members and other attendees of the Conference (speakers and/or visiting AAWA officials).
- Samples will be judged on a 5-point scale from Good (1) to Best (5).
- Scores will be tabulated, and the winner will be announced during the luncheon (Thursday).
- Only the winning sample will be announced – samples will not be ranked nor will scores be released.

Do you still have questions? Please contact the NE-AWWA Office (hillari@ne-awwa.org)