

2006 Consumer Confidence Report

Searsport Water District

Release Date
MAY 1, 2007

INTRODUCTION

The Searsport Water District (SWD) is pleased to present the 2006 Water Quality Report, which is a snapshot of your drinking water quality for the year 2006. Contained within this report is information about the Searsport Water District's source of supply, how it is treated, testing, and facts about particular contaminants. The SWD ensures that your water is safe every day through regular testing and monitoring conducted by State operated and/or independent, State certified testing laboratories.

WATER SOURCE

(GROUNDWATER WELL IN PROSPECT, MAINE)

The primary water supply for the Searsport Water District is located along Rte. 1A in Prospect, Maine. The well receives its water primarily in the form of precipitation, which is stored naturally in a large underground aquifer within the communities of Prospect and Stockton Springs. The area surrounding the well is currently sparsely developed. An active railway system and gravel pit to the south and east including trucking traffic along Rte. 1A are areas of concern. Signs with emergency numbers affixed have been installed throughout the watershed area for the purpose of providing immediate information should an accidental spill occur.



Source Water Assessment (Drinking Water Program)

Sources of drinking water include rivers, lakes, ponds, and wells. As water flows either on the surface or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and radioactive material and can also accumulate substances resulting from human and animal activity. The Maine Drinking Water Program (DWP) has evaluated all public water supplies as part of the Source Water Protection Program. The assessments included geology, hydrology, land uses, water testing information, and the extent of land ownership or protection by local ordinance to see how likely our drinking water source is to being contaminated by human activities in the future. Assessment results are available at public water suppliers, town offices, and the DWP. For more information about the Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP), you may contact the DWP at telephone (207) 287-2070.

ABOUT THE REGULATIONS

The Safe Drinking Water Act directs the State, along with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), to establish and enforce minimum drinking water standards. These standards set limits on certain biological, ra-

dioactive, organic, and inorganic substances sometimes found in drinking water. Two types of standards have been established. Primary drinking water standards set achievable levels of drinking water quality to protect your

health. Secondary drinking water standards provide guidelines regarding taste, odor, color, and other aesthetic aspects of your drinking water which do not present a health risk.

LEAD AND COPPER SAMPLING RESULTS

During the summer of 2006 the Water District sampled water from 10 homes for lead and copper, as required by State and Federal regulations. These sites meet specific criteria which represent houses that have the highest potential for lead and copper corrosion. The results showed that all samples tested were below the action level for both, lead and copper. The action level is defined as a concentration set by regulators above which treatment is required if a certain percentage of samples exceed the action level.

The Searsport Water District has been treating the water supply in order to reduce corrosion since 1996. As a result we have previously passed the lead & copper testing requirements for 6 consecutive years. The next round of testing is scheduled for the summer of 2009.

If you have lead solder in your plumbing system it is still a good idea to run your water for a minute or so in the morning prior to using the water for drinking or cooking purposes especially if the water has not been used for 6 or more hours.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PAST YEAR

On November 5, 2006 both the community and the Searsport Water District lost a dear friend and loyal Trustee with the sudden passing of Max G. Kinney. Max had served on the Board of Trustees from 1990 until the time of his death. We will certainly miss the passion, dedication and enthusiasm that Max brought to the Board of Trustees..... During the year 2006 the Searsport Water District received a \$5,000.00 grant from the Maine Drinking Water Program for the purpose of installing fencing along the District's property line around the well site and pumping station in Stockton Springs. A \$5,000.00 grant that the District received in 2005 was also used to pay for the fencing. The total cost of fencing was just under \$10,000.00. The District also installed an insertion valve along West Main Street in Searsport as part of an MDOT culvert replacement project. This was necessary for the purpose of better isolating the main along this area.

Water System Data & Treatment

The water distribution system includes approximately 40 +/- miles of water mains serving over 1000 customers. Our treatment process includes aeration for radon removal, sodium silicate to control corrosion and sodium hypochlorite (liquid bleach) for disinfection. This is all necessary to maintain the quality of your water while meeting all EPA standards. The highest Radon levels for our system was 613 pCi/L, taken in April of 2000. Radon is found in the soil and bedrock formations and is a water soluble, gaseous by-product of Uranium. Most Radon is released to the air moments after turning on the tap. The State of Maine currently recommends follow-up action (treatment) for Radon levels in drinking water above 4,000 pCi/L. The U.S. EPA is considering setting federal national standards for Radon in drinking water. Breathing Radon released to air from tap water increases the risk of lung cancer over the course of your lifetime. If you seek more information about Radon, please contact this office or the State Drinking Water Program and request a Radon Fact Sheet.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, persons with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. Guidelines, jointly developed by the EPA and the CDC, on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at www.epa.gov/ogwdw000/crypto.html. "Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Hotline @ (800-426-4791)."

Governance

The Searsport Water District is governed by a Board of Trustees appointed to 3 year terms by the Selectmen of the Town of Searsport. The Board meetings are open to the public and are scheduled to take place at 8:00 A.M. on the second Monday of each month in the District Office Building located at 46 Prospect Street in Searsport unless otherwise posted.

CURRENT CONTACTS AT THE SEARSPORT WATER DISTRICT

Trustees: William Shorey, Chairman - Bruce Mills, Treasurer - Larry Clark, Clerk Staff: Herb Kronholm, Superintendent - Brenda Corbin, Office Manager - Bruce Page, Foreman - Steve Sherer, Service Technician. Email us at searsportwater@adelphia.net

Where Can You Get More Information? - This report is only a summary of activities during the past year. If you have any questions about your water quality, please call (207) 548-2910 during business hours (Mon - Fri between 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.). For additional information, contact the Maine Department of Human Services Drinking Water Program at (207) 287-2070, the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline At 1-800-426-4791, the National Center for Disease Control (CDC) at (404) 639-3311, or visit one of the following web sites. USEPA: www.epa.gov/safewater - AWWA: www.awwa.org - Maine DWP: www.medwp.com

Water Quality – Detected Regulated Contaminants

Contaminant	MCLG <small>Maximum Contaminant Level Goal = The level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.</small>	MCL <small>Maximum Contaminant Level = The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.</small>	Maximum Amounts Detected in 2003, 2004 & 2005 <small>(unless otherwise noted)</small>	Potential Sources of Contaminants
Organic Chemicals	NONE DETECTED IN	ROUTINE SAMPLING.		
Inorganic Chemicals				
Barium (parts per million)	2.0 ppm	2.0 ppm	0.003 ppm 04/07/04	Discharge of drilling waste; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (parts per million)	1.3 ppm	AL = 1.3 ppm	0.07 ppm 12/31/06	Corrosion of household Plumbing.
Fluoride (parts per million)	4 ppm	4 ppm	BDL <small>(natural fluoride)</small>	Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (parts per million)	0 ppb	AL = 15 ppb	5 ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Nitrate Nitrogen (parts per million)	10 ppm	10 ppm	0.31 ppm 03/13/06	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.

Frequently Asked Water Quality Data

Contaminant	MCLG <small>Maximum Contaminant Level Goal = The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health</small>	MCL <small>Maximum Contaminant Level = The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.</small>	Maximum Amounts Detected in 2002, 2003 2004 & 2005 <small>(unless otherwise noted)</small>	Potential Sources of Contaminant
Arsenic (parts per billion)	0 ppb	10 ppb	BDL	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards.
Total Coliform Bacteria	0 pos	1 pos	0 pos 2005	Naturally present in the environment.
Gross Alpha Emitters	0 pCi/l	15 pCi/l	4.57 pCi/l 03/13/06	Naturally occurring in soil and bedrock

Definitions: Running Annual Average (RAA): The Average of all monthly or quarterly samples for the last year at all sample locations. AL = Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant that triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow (e.g. lead). BDL = Below Detection Level pCi/l = Picocuries per liter. ppm = Parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l). ppb = Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l). Pos = positive for presence of coliform bacteria.

WAIVERS

In 2004 the Searsport Water District submitted a waiver application for synthetic organic contaminants. Our next waiver request will be submitted in 2007. The Drinking Water Program (DWP) approved the waiver application, which is valid for a three year period. The waiver includes testing for the following contaminants: Pesticide Screen, Carbamate Pesticide Screen, Herbicide Screen, and Semi-Volatile Organic Screen.

Searsport Water District

46 Prospect Street

P.O. Box 289

Searsport, Maine

Phone: 207-548-2910

Fax: 207-548-6719

Email:

searsportwater@adelphia.net

Or visit us online at:

www.searsportwaterdistrict.org

