



SEARSPORT
WATER DISTRICT

SPRING 2008

SEARSPORT WATER DISTRICT 2007 WATER QUALITY REPORT



Welcome to SWD's 2007 Water Quality Report

This report provides you with information regarding the quality of your drinking water. We know that you count on us each and every day for a safe and reliable supply of drinking water and the staff here at the Searsport Water District (SWD) are trained and dedicated in doing just that while also providing you, our customer, with the highest quality of service possible. We also monitor the water that you drink 24 hours per day and have your water tested by State operated and/or independent, State certified testing laboratories each and every month. This is done as part of our assurance to you that your water is safe to drink each and every day .

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, radioactive, organic substances sometimes found in drinking water. Two types of standards have been established. Primary drinking water standards are 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.

Where Does Your Water Come From?

The primary water supply for the Searsport Water District comes from a single gravel packed well located along Rte. 1A in Prospect, Maine. This 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 call numbers have been installed throughout the watershed area for the purpose of providing immediate information should an accidental spill occur.

The EPA requires that we test several parameters. Here are just a few.



Water Test Results After Treatment

Although many regulated Organic and Inorganic Chemicals were not found, here is a list of chemicals that were detected in the water after treatment.

CONTAMINANT	MCLG	MCL	RESULT	Potential Sources of Contaminants
Organic Chemicals	NONE DETECTED IN ROUTINE SAMPLING			
Inorganic Chemicals				
Barium (mg/L)	.0005	2	.0031	Discharge of drilling waste; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Copper (mg/L)	1.3	AL > 1.3	0.07 03/20/2007	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Chromium (ug/L)	100	100	0.8 03/20/2007	Water additive which promotes strong teeth; erosion of natural deposits.
Lead (ug/L)	0.0	AL > 15	5 12/31/2006	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Alpha emitters (pCi/l)	0	15	4.57 03/13/2006	Erosion of natural deposits.
Trihalomethanes (ug/L)	80	80	6.8 08/27/2007	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Total Coliform Bacteria	0 pos	1 pos	0 pos 2007	Naturally present in the environment.

Definitions

RAA: Running Annual Average: The average of all monthly or quarterly samples for the last year at all sample locations.

AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. 90% of sample results must be less than the action level to meet compliance.

MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

mg/L: milligrams per liter = parts per million (ppm).

ug/l: micrograms per liter = parts per billion (ppb).

pos: positive for the presence of coliform bacteria.

BDL: Below Detection Level

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

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.

NOTES:

1. Total Coliform Bacteria: Reported as the highest monthly number of positive samples, for water systems that take < 40 samples per month. For water systems that take > 40 samples per month, no more than 5% of the samples may be positive.
2. Arsenic: The U.S. EPA adopted the new MCL standard in October 2001. Water systems must meet this new standard by January.
3. Fluoride: Fluoride levels must be maintained between 1-2 ppm, for those water systems that fluoridate the water.
4. Nitrate: Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.
5. Radon: 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.
6. Gross Alpha: Action level over 5 pCi/L requires testing for Radium. Action level over 15 pCi/L requires testing for Radon and Uranium.
7. Uranium: The U.S. EPA adopted the new MCL standard of 30 ug/L(ppb), in December 2000. Water systems must meet this new standard after December 2003.
8. Lead/Copper: Action levels (AL) are measured at consumer's tap. 90% of the tests must be equal to or below the action level. If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Searsport Water District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.
9. TTHM/HAA5: Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) and Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) are formed as a by-product of drinking water chlorination. This chemical reaction occurs when chlorine combines with naturally occurring organic matter in water.

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)."



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 bed-rock 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.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PAST YEAR

2007 was a fairly straight forward year for us here at the Searsport Water District. Private contractors installed 800 feet of new 8" water main down Summer Street in Searsport as part of the new sub-division project at the Homeport Inn. This main included 2 new fire hydrants to a street that did not have public fire protection in the past. On Osprey Lane in Searsport 400 feet of new 8" water main was approved and put into service. This main included 1 additional fire hydrant located at the end of this line and was done as part of Penquis Caps approved housing development project.

Several new houses were constructed along Osprey Lane in Searsport with new water services installed into those homes. This project continues to progress at the rate of approximately 4 homes per year. A new 2" main was installed along McGrath Lane to provide water to 3 new house lots in that area. This main was also installed at the developer's expense as the District does not invest in new main extensions unless the main extension is specifically done to eliminate water supply and/or water quality problems.

The District replaced a pressure reducing valve at the PRV Station with a new altitude valve at a cost of approximately \$8,000.00. This was done to eliminate the need to manually control the valve on a daily basis. The new valve is completely automatic and controls the level of our number 2 reservoir therefore allowing proper fluctuation of that tank on a daily basis.

We have finished building the shelves in the new garage thus completing the work within the garage. We have also started the process of renovating the office, which hasn't seen much for repairs since it was built in 1968. We are doing the construction work ourselves, as time permits. To date we have replaced several windows and have replaced all of the insulation within phase 1 of the construction project. Our hot air heating system, which was condemned a couple of years ago, has also been replaced with a new more efficient boiler system. All new electrical is also being installed. Once phase one is complete we will begin phase 2 which includes renovations to the office area, which we hope will begin in the spring. At that time the office will temporarily move into the newly renovated space when those renovations begin.

Approximately 8 services and/or curb boxes were repaired along with 7 main breaks. We also repaired, tested and replaced 23 meters and installed 11 new meters into new customer locations in both, Searsport and Stockton Springs. We also installed at total of 66 meters and removed 56 throughout the year for both, our seasonal and annual customers.

Our customer base continues to grow, however our customer consumption has increased slightly. At present we serve approximately 1,100 +/- residential, industrial, commercial and governmental customers in Searsport and Stockton Springs and provide private fire protection service to several customers as well. We own and maintain approximately 40 +/- miles of water main, excluding service lines. We also manage over 100 acres of source water protection land including 3 reservoirs, 2 pumping stations and 3 pressure reducing buildings within Belfast, Searsport, Stockton Springs and Prospect.

Rates were increased as part of the Maine PUC mandate to fulfill the drawdown requirements of the Stockton Springs Fire Protection Buyout. The next and last increase associated with this mandate is scheduled to take effect on January 1, 2010.

In 2007 we pumped a total of 126,074,000 gallons of water. Our daily average was 345,408 gallons per day or 240 gallons per minute. This amount is 54.27% of the total daily safe yield based on a safe yield of 636,500 gallons per day.

As always I would like to thank all of our customers for their continued support. We here at the Searsport Water District work hard to assure that you, our customer, receive the highest quality water and service available. To do this our personnel are on-call 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Should you need emergency assistance please call the emergency number listed below. And a gracious thanks to the SWD Trustees and employees for their continued commitment and hard work throughout the year. It's their dedication, commitment and knowledge of the water system that enables us to bring to you what we truly believe is some of the best water in the State of Maine.

Current Contacts at the Searsport Water District

Trustees

William Shorey, Chairman

Bruce Mills, Treasurer

Larry Clark, Clerk

Operators

Herbert Kronholm, Superintendent

R. Bruce Page, Foreman

Stephen Sherer, Service Tech.

Office Staff

Brenda Corbin, Office Mgr.

Phone: (207) 548-2910 Fax: (207) 548-6719 email: info@searsportwater.org or visit our website: www.searsportwater.org

Business hours are Monday – Friday 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

In case of an emergency during non business hours please call the Waldo County Dispatch Center @ 1-800-660-3398