



PUBLISH DATE
APRIL 30, 2009

SEARSPORT WATER DISTRICT 2008 WATER QUALITY REPORT



Welcome to SWD's 2008 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)

The sources of drinking water include rivers, lakes, ponds, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and radioactive material and can pick up 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 Assessment Program (SWAP). 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 town offices, public water suppliers, and the DWP. For more information about the SWAP, please 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

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 (ppm)	2 ppm	2 ppm	.003 ppm 3/20/2007	Discharge of drilling waste; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Copper (ppm)	1.3 ppm	AL > 1.3 ppm	0.07 ppm 1/1/04—12/31/06	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Chromium (ppb)	100 ppb	100 ppb	0.8 ppb 03/20/2007	Water additive which promotes strong teeth; erosion of natural deposits.
Lead (ppb)	0 ppb	AL = 15 ppb	5 ppb 1/1/04—12/31/06	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Alpha emitters (pCi/l)	0	15	4.57 03/13/2006	Erosion of natural deposits.
Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80 ppb	80 ppb	6.8 ppb 08/27/2007	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Total Coliform Bacteria	0 pos	1 pos	0 pos 2008	Naturally present in the environment.
Nitrate Nitrogen (ppm)	10 ppm	10 ppm	0.25 ppm 4/22/2008	Runoff from fertilizer use. Leaching from septic tanks, sewage. Erosion of natural deposits.

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).

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

pos: positive for the presence of coliform bacteria.

BDL: Below Detection Level

TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

MRDL: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level: The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

MRDLG: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal: The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

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 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>.

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 (1-800-426-4791).

WAIVER INFORMATION

In 2006, we applied for and were granted a partial or a full three-year waiver for water testing for certain synthetic organic compounds (SOC) (Phase II/V). This is an exemption from doing tests for insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, and certain other industrial chemicals that are regulated in drinking water. The State of Maine Drinking Water Program grants a waiver only upon determining, on a case by case basis, that "it will not result in an unreasonable health risk." For any water tests that are not waived, we are required to report contaminants that were detected in our water supply in this CCR.



Water System Data & Treatment

The water distribution system includes approximately 32 +/- 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. Our annual average Chlorine Residual for 2008 was 0.41 mg/l.

DISTRICT OPERATIONS FOR THE YEAR 2008

2008 was a busy year for all of us here at the Searsport Water District. Several projects kept us busy with regards to maintenance and upgrades to the water distribution and pumping systems. Those projects were as follows: Prior to the Route 1 MDOT paving project we raised and/or repaired approximately 30 water main gate valves. At the Mobil Station in Searsport we installed 2 new 1.5 inch water services to the car wash and in Stockton Springs we installed 2 new residential water services. In July we completed the annual water main flushing program. Throughout the year we repaired 5 water main breaks, four of which were in Searsport. From August to the first of November we worked on replacing an old 6 inch and 2 inch water main along Reservoir Street in Searsport with approximately 1000 feet of new 8 inch ductile iron water main. This was connected into the new 16 inch water main on Route 1 and looped and connected into the 6 inch AC main on Church Street. The new main significantly increased fire flows to the area near the school and eliminated the 2 inch dead end line that previously fed the residents along upper Reservoir Street as well as the east wing of the high school. This main replacement project was added to our large list of proposed upgrades in anticipation of the Towns proposed road reclamation project that is scheduled for Reservoir Street in 2009.

In July the District purchased a new GMC 5500 Series Dump Truck with sander and plow which replaced the old 1988 Chevy 1 ton dump truck. The old dump truck is currently being used by the Searsport Public Works Department and is still available to us should we need to use it for small jobs.

In August we experienced 2 lightening strikes in Searsport and Stockton Springs that caused damage to pump and tank level control units as well as our SCADA (Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition) equipment. We were able to make temporary repairs to the system in order to get it back in operation; however it took nearly 3 months to receive the replacement parts for some of the damaged components. Total costs of repairing and reprogramming all of the damaged equipment was slightly over \$9,000.00, which all but \$500.00 was covered by insurance.

We continue to work on the office remodeling project and should have it completed by the fall of 2009. All of the work, with the exception of the electrical and plumbing, is being performed by District employees. I must add that the Searsport Water District is very fortunate to employ the personnel that we currently have. This group of men and women are very skilled therefore allowing the District to complete a number of projects at the fraction of the cost.

In 2008 we applied for and received a \$10,000.00 matching grant from the Maine Drinking Water Programs Revolving Loan Fund. These funds are being used to complete the District's Vulnerability and Assessment and Emergency Response Plan. This project should be completed in the spring of 2009. We also received a \$2,000.00 Safety Enhancement Grant from Maine Municipal Association which was used to purchase new highway safety cones, barricades and signs.

Our new website is now up and running and is being improved upon on a regular basis. This site can be found at www.searsportwater.org and contains a wide variety of information including water rates, water quality, contractor specification sheets and contact information. We will continue to add to the site as new information becomes available.

In 2008 we pumped a total of 121,227,000 gallons of water. This amount is down 4,847,000 from the previous year. Our daily average was 331,358 gallons per day or 230 gallons per minute. This amount is 52.06% of the total daily safe yield based on a safe yield of 636,500 gallons per day.

INSPECTIONS OF WATER METERS AND BACKFLOW DEVICES

In 2009 the District's Service Technicians will perform onsite inspections of the plumbing within many of the homes and businesses throughout the system. This program is ongoing and will be performed as time allows. Our inspection will include only the plumbing leading up to and including the water meter and backflow preventer. If necessary your water meter may be changed out, at no cost to you as part of our meter maintenance program. You will be notified by mail if other plumbing issues, such as no backflow preventer or connections before the meter, are found. If you are required to make repairs to your plumbing you will be instructed by written notification to contact our office for further details and to set up an adequate time schedule for making those repairs. Once the plumbing repairs and/or upgrades have been completed our service technicians will perform a final inspection free of charge. This program is to insure the protection of the District's water system as well as your own. Please contact our office should you have any questions. Thank you.

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/Service Tech.

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