

PUBLISH DATE MAY 30, 2025

Welcome to SWD's 2024 Water Quality Report (This report covers the calendar year between January 1 thru December 31, 2024)

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 safe and reliable water and the staff here at the Searsport Water District (SWD) are trained and dedicated in doing just that. Our state of the art inline analyzers monitor the water 24 hours a day to assure its safety. In order to further assure that your water is free of any potential contaminants we collect samples throughout the system each and every month and send those samples to a State certified testing laboratory. We believe that we have some of the best drinking water in the State of Maine, and we take our jobs very seriously when it comes to protecting it.

Trustee Meetings are held at 2:00 PM on the second Tuesday of each month at the District Office located at: 46 Prospect Street, Searsport, ME unless otherwise posted

Where Does Your Water Come From?

The primary water supply for the Searsport Water District is 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. Much of the area surrounding the well is currently undeveloped and is owned by the Searsport Water District. We also maintain a smaller backup well and share an emergency interconnection with the Belfast Water District. These backups assure that we can provide water to our customers with little to no interruption in service. The emergency interconnection enables both utilities to provide water to each other in the event of an emergency or during times when routine maintenance of our wells is necessary.

Source Water Assessment

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 or 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 and public water systems.

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.



On December 12, 2024 we lost long term trustee and Chairman of the Board William "Bill" Shorey. Bill served the district for nearly 32 years making him the longest serving trustee of the Searsport Water District. Bill was a great advocate of the Searsport Water District and had a great understanding of the value to continuously bring the water districts system and infrastructure into the 21st century. Throughout his tenure he supported the investments of over 28 million dollars that have been completed with the water district and was onboard when the district switch from it's ailing surface water supply to its existing groundwater supply. We will miss him deeply and will carry on his legacy.

Water Test Results					
CONTAMINANT	DATE	RESULTS	MCL	MCLG	Possible Sources of Contamination
Microbiological Coliform (TCR) (1)	2024	0 pos	1 pos/month or 5%	0 pos	Naturally present in the environment.
Inorganics Barium	4/4/2022	0.0031 ppm	2 ppm	2 ppm	Discharge of drilling wastes. Discharge from metal refineries. Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride (3)	4/4/2022	0.2 ppm	4 ppm	4 ppm	Erosion of natural deposits. Water additive which promotes strong teeth. Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate (5)	4/1/2024	0.27 ppm	10 ppm	10 ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use. Leaching from septic tanks, sewage. Erosion of natural deposits.
Radionuclides Combined Radium (-226 & -228) Combined Uranium Gross Alpha (4)	12/20/2022 4/1/2024 4/1/2024	0.363 pCi/l 9.6 ppb 2.7 pCi/l	5 pCi/l 30 ppb 15 pCi/l	0 pCi/l 0 ppb 0 pCi/l	Erosion of natural deposits. Erosion of natural deposits. Erosion of natural deposits. Erosion of natural deposits.
Lead/Copper Lead 90th% Value (5) Number of sampling sites exceed ing the action level: 0	1/1/2022 — 12/31/2024	0 ppb Range (0-6.1 ppb)	AL=15 ppb	0 ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Copper 90th% Value (5) Number of sampling sites exceed- ing the action level: 0	1/1/2022 — 12/31/2024	0.107 pm Range (0.0145-0.328 ppm)	AL=1.3 ppm	1.3 ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Disinfectants and Disinfection Byp	roducts.				
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	LRAA 2024	0 ppb	60 ppb	0 ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Total Trihalomethane (TTHM) (10)	LRAA 2024	7.3 ppb	80 ppb	0 ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination.

Definitions

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

MRDL=

4 ppm

MRDLG =

4 ppm

By-Product of drinking water chlorination

Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA): A 12 month rolling average of all monthly or quarterly samples at specific sampling locations. Calculation of the LRAA may contain data from the previous year.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.

2024

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

Range

(0..72 - 1.26)

Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL)

CHLORINE RESIDUAL

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): 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

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): 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.

Running Annual Average (RAA): A 12 month rolling average of all monthly or quarterly samples at all locations. Calculation of the RAA may contain data from the previous year.

Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL): Non-mandatory water quality standards.

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

UNITS

ppm = parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L). pCi/L = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity). ppb = parts per billion = micrograms per liter (ug/l). <u>**ppt**</u> = parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/L). **MFL** = million fibers per liter. <u>**pos**</u> = positive samples.

NOTES

- Arsenic: While your drinking water may meet EPA's standard for Arsenic, if it contains between 5 and 10 ppb you should know that the standard balances the current understanding of 1) arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing it from the drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems. Quarterly compliance is based on running annual averag
- E. Coli: E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Human pathogens in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a greater health risk for infants, young children, the elderly, and people with severely-compromised 2) immune systems
- Fluoride: For those systems that fluoridate, fluoride levels must be maintained between 0.5 to 1.2 ppm. The optimum level is 0.7 ppm. (NOTE: Searsport WD does not Fluoridate). 3)

Gross Alpha: Action level over 5 pCi/L requires testing for Radium 226 and 228. Action level over 15 pCi/L requires testing for Uranium. Compliance is based on Gross alpha results 4) minus Uranium results = Net Gross Alpha.

- Lead/Copper: Action levels (AL) are measured at consumer's tap. 90% of the test must be equal to or below the action level. Nitrate: Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. 6) 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 advice from your health provider.
- PFAS: The degree of risk depends on the level of chemicals and duration of exposure. Laboratory studies of animals exposed to high doses of PFAS have shown numerous negative effects such as issues with reproduction, growth and development, thyroid function, immune system, neurology, as well as injury to the liver. Research is still relatively new, and more needs to be done to fully assess exposure on the human body. 7)
- Radon: The State of Maine adopted a Maximum Exposure Guideline (MEG) for Radon in drinking water at 4000 pCi/L, effective 1/1/07. If Radon exceeds the MEG in water, treatment 8) is recommended. It is also advisable to test indoor air for Radon.
- Total Coliform Bacteria: Reported as the highest monthly number of positive samples, for water systems that take less than 40 samples per month. TTHM/HAA5: Total Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids (TTHM and 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. Compliance is based on running annual average. 10)
- Turbidity: Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease 11)causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches.

Secondary Contaminants: W	Ve are not required to list these l	out choose to do so for those who	are monitoring sodium levels.
---------------------------	-------------------------------------	-----------------------------------	-------------------------------

CHLORIDE:	10	ppm	4/4/2022	SULFATE:	5.0	ppm	4/4/2022
MAGNESIUM:	3.6	ppm	4/4/2022	ZINC:	0.004	ppm	4/4/2022
SODIUM:	6.9	ppm	4/4/2022	IRON:	0.092	ppm	4/4/2022

All other regulated drinking water contaminants were below detection levels.

Health Information

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. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and can also come from gas stations, urban runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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, people 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. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or at the following link: <u>https://www.epa.gov/ccr/forms/contact-us-about-consumer-confidence-reports</u>

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. 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 the following link: <u>http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead</u>

Violations in 2024: No Violations in 2024.

Water System Data & Treatment

The Searsport Water District provides drinking water and fire protection to approximately 1157 customers via 32 +/miles of water mains. We also maintain three (3) in-ground concrete reservoirs which have a combined storage capacity of approximately 1.7 million gallons of treated water. Our treatment process is simple and very effective. It includes aeration for removal of both, Radon and dissolved Carbon Dioxide (CO2). In addition we add a minimal amount of Sodium Hypochlorite (liquid bleach) for disinfection. Removal of CO2 increases the pH of our drinking water thus significantly reducing corrosion within the distribution system. This is all necessary to maintain the quality of your water while meeting, and in most cases, exceeding all EPA standards.



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 the Searsport Water District Office at (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

DISTRICT OPERATIONS FOR THE YEAR 2024

<u>Construction</u>: In 2024 the MDOT road re-construction project on Route 1 in Searsport kept us busy as we had to monitor construction while the contractor worked near and/or around our water mains, water services, and main line gate valves throughout the entire project. We were fortunate as there were no conflicts with the MDOT project, however there were areas of our water mains that are very close to the new storm drain system installed by Gordon Contracting. This project was part of the water main replacement projects which were completed by the district in 2023. Upon completion of the MDOT project the district was able to close all projects which totaled \$3,156,743.98 which was \$277,256.02 under budget. For these projects the district received \$995,000.00 in grant funds from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), \$425,236.66 in Forgiveness funds from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF), and \$25,000.00 from the Town of Searsport towards fully repaving the Elm Street portion of the project. The total amount of grants, forgiveness, and contributions from the Town of Searsport was \$1,445,236.66 equaling 55% of the total project costs. The Maine Municipal Bond Bank (MMBB) Taxable Bond totaling \$1,736,507.32 is a 30-year bond with an interest rate of 1.1% which closed on 1/10/2025.

Source Water Protection: In 2024 the district acquired an additional 45-acre parcel of land adjacent to the district's existing property surrounding its production well. This property was a critical purchase as Carley Brook, which runs very close to the production well, travels directly through this 45-acre parcel. The total costs including legal, appraisal, and other fees came to \$59,196.26 which also qualified the district for \$20,000.00 in Forgiveness Funds from the Maine Drinking Water's Land Acquisition Program. The district's out of pocket expense for this parcel of land was \$39,196.26 and was bonded through the Maine Municipal Bond Bank for 10 years at an interest rate of 1%. We have been working very diligently to protect the aquifer for future generations to come and this transaction goes a long ay in doing just that.

Operations: In 2024, the district pumped a total of 119,903,000 gallons of water. This amount was an increase of 5,407,000 gallons from the previous year. The major contributors to the excess usage was from main breaks, undetected service leaks, and flushing hydrants throughout the system. Flushing hydrants alone takes large volumes of water to complete and is necessary to maintain the quality of water throughout the system together with assuring the fire hydrants are properly maintained as well.

The average daily pumping rate was 327,604 gallons per day or 228 gallons per minute. This amount is 51.47% of the total daily safe yield based on our long term calculated safe yield of 636,500 gallons per day or 232,322,500 million gallons per year. Total water sold to our 1,150 +/- customer during 2024 was 67,736,636 gallons. This amount is a decrease of 1,616,428 gallons as compared to 69,353,064 gallons sold in 2023.

In 2024 the district replaced its 2025 F250 and its 2016 F350 Service and Utility Trucks as it's our practice to replace these vehicles every 8 years as we have found we receive a higher resale value and that our fleet remains in excellent condition as we need these vehicles in a moments notice whenever an issue may arise within our system. The F250 was sold to the Town of Searsport and should serve them well for several years to come.

Administration: The information in this report is a clear indicator that the Searsport Water District is committed with making much needed upgrades to the system. We are also committed to protecting the sand and gravel aquifer that serves over 1,150 residential, commercial, and industrial customers together with the schools and health centers within the towns of Searsport and Stockton Springs. Our commitment to protecting the aquifer also assures the safety of the private wells located within the district's watershed protection aquifer.

Over the past 30 +/- years the district has invested approximately \$28 million into system upgrades with more than half of those funds coming in the form of Federal grants, State grants, SRF Forgiveness Funds together with private investments. Currently the Board of Trustees and staff agree that it is time to take a break to keep water rates affordable. We will not begin any new large scale water main replacement projects until the next major bond is paid off in 2033. However, we will continue to make necessary improvements as needed to assure the safety and reliability of our entire water distribution system.

We thank each and everyone of our customers for your support over the years and are proud to be able to provide you with some of the best drinking water in the State of Maine. Should you need emergency assistance after hours please call the emergency number at 207-338-2040. You can reach us Monday - Friday at (207) 548-2910 between the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. or email us at <u>info@searsportwater.org</u> should you have any questions or concerns. You can also find us on the web at www.searsportwater.org or like us on Facebook @ Searsport Water District.

In closing, I would once again like to take a moment to remember former Chairman of the Board William "Bill" Shorey along with the many accomplishments the district has made under his guidance during his 32 years with the district. When Bill and former trustee Max Kinney hired me back on April 11, 1994 I was a little skeptical about the future of the district as it needed much attention and many upgrades. At the time of my being hired the district was in the process of developing a ground water supply to replace the surface water supply at Half Moon Pond. And, for the past 30 years this well has successfully served the district with some of the best water the State of Maine has to offer and continues to do so today. During Bill's tenure his commitment to continually making improvements to the district's infrastructure by utilizing grant funds coupled with low interest loans has proven to be a huge success. These upgrades range from a new groundwater supply to new and upgraded pumping stations to replacing several miles of much needed new water mains. Bill's legacy of being a "GREAT STEWARD" of the Searsport Water District will continue on through us all as this is a commitment we must make as this is our responsibility and our job! Thank you Bill as your leadership and commitment will forever be imbedded in the success of the Searsport Water District. You will be missed not only as a trustee but as a friend as well.

Searsport Water District, 46 Prospect Street, PO Box 289, Searsport, ME 04974

Trustees	Operators	Office Staff
Larry Clark, Chairman	Herbert Kronholm, Superintendent	Brenda Storey, Office Mgr.
Bruce Mills, Treasurer	Timothy Wilson, Foreman	Kyle Anne Manzie, Office Asst.
Tony Bagley, Clerk as of (3/1/25)	Harold Porter, Service Technician	

Phone: (207) 548-2910 Fax: (207) 548-6719 Business hours are Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

email: info@searsportwater.org Visit our website: www.searsportwater.org Like us on Facebook: Searsport Water District

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