WINTERPORT WATER DISTRICT
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2008 Water Quality Report
PWSID# ME0091640

About Your Drinking Water

The Winterport Water District is pleased to provide you with its 2008 Consumer Confidence Report for the public water supply ID# ME0091640. This water quality report contains important information about your drinking water. The report summarizes the quality of water the Winterport Water District provided to its customers in 2008. It includes details about your water source, what the water coming out of your tap contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies.

Although this report lists only those regulated substances that were detected in your water, we test for more than what is reported. In all during 2008, we performed laboratory tests for more than 80 different substances. This report is only a summary of our testing during 2008. If you have any questions about this report, please call (207) 223-5028.

For the year 2008, we are pleased to report that your drinking water met all public health standards.

Source of Supply

Water produced by the Winterport Water District is drawn from an 8-inch surfical, naturally developed gravel well near Lowes Brook in Winterport. The new production well was constructed using the drive and wash method in 2005. It is a sand / gravel filtered ground water source. We use chlorine for disinfection and add fluoride to promote dental health. Fluoride has been proven to reduce rates of tooth decay, especially in children. Operators of the utility are certified by the State of Maine and our treatment technicians further ensure the quality of your water.

Sources of drinking water include rivers, lakes, ponds, and wells. The Maine Drinking Water Program (DWP) has evaluated all public water supplies as part of the Source Water Protection Program. The assessments include geology, hydrology, land uses, and water testing information. Also examined is 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 Drinking Water Program (207) 287-2070.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

(A) Microbial Contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
(B) 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.
(C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
(D) 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.
(E) Radioactive contaminants which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Radon is found in the soil and bedrock formations and is a radioactive gas that you can't see, taste or smell. The State of Maine currently recommends treatment for Radon levels in drinking water above 4,000 pCi/L. The USEPA is considering setting lower standards for public drinking water. Most Radon in water is released to the air moments after turning on the tap. Breathing Radon released to air from tap water may increase 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.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

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 Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800.426.4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised 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 (800)426-4791.

Our water system is designed and operated to deliver water to our customers' plumbing systems that complies with state and federal drinking water standards. This water is disinfected using chlorine, but it is not necessarily sterile. Customers' plumbing, including treatment devices, might remove, introduce or increase contaminants in tap water. All customers, and in particular operators of facilities like hotels and institutions serving susceptible populations (like hospitals and nursing homes), should properly operate and maintain the plumbing systems in these facilities. You can obtain additional information from the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Winterport Water District – PWSID# ME0091640 8-inch surfical well naturally filtered thru sand and gravel - Serving the Town of Winterport

Microbiological Contaminants: During 2008, none of the 4 distribution system samples tested positive for coliform bacteria.

The following table lists contaminants that were detected in your water system. The table provides the maximum observed levels of regulated contaminants.

Microbiological

Contaminant / Compounds	Test Date	Violation Y / N	Maximum Concentration	Federal / State Standard		Major Sources in Drinking Water
				MCL	MCLG	
Total Coliform	2008	N	0 PPM	1	0	Naturally present in the environment.

Inorganics

Contaminant / Compounds	Test Date	Violation Y / N	Maximum Concentration	Federal / State Standard		Major Sources in Drinking Water
				MCL	MCLG	
Barium	11/19/08	N	0.002 PPM	2 PPM	2 PPM	Discharge of drilling wastes. Erosion of natural deposits.
Chromium	11/19/08	N	2.1 PPB	100 PPB	100 PPB	Discharge from steel and pulp mills. Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	6/24/08	N	1.6 PPM	4 PPM	4 PPM	Erosion of natural deposits. Water additives which promote strong teeth. Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate Nitrogen	7/21/08	N	1.2 PPM	10 PPM	10 PPM	Runoff from fertilizer use. Leaching from septic tanks, sewage. Erosion of natural deposits.

Radionnuclides

Contaminant / Compounds	Test Date	Violation Y / N	Maximum Concentration	Federal / State Standard		Major Sources in Drinking Water
				MCL	MCLG	
Radium 228	4/6/2004	N	0.19 pCi/L	5 pCi/L	0 pCi/L	Erosion of natural deposits.
Radon Screen	7/9/03	N	1.17 pCi/L	15 pCi/L	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits.

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. Our water system 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.

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old. The SDWA also allows monitoring waivers to reduce or eliminate the monitoring requirements for asbestos, volatile organic chemicals, and synthetic organic chemicals. Our system received monitoring waivers for synthetic organic chemicals. No volatile organics were detectable.

Lead and Copper Results

Lead and Copper	Test Date	90th Percentile	Total Number of Samples	Samples Exceeding Action Level	Federal / State Standard		Major Sources in Drinking Water
					Action Level	MCLG	
*Copper, ppm	1/1/08-12/31/10	0.10	10	0	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing
*Lead, ppb	1/1/08-12/31/10	1.0	10	0	15	0	

*2008 data - testing required every three years

Definitions:

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

Running Annual Average (RAA): The Average of all monthly or quarterly samples for the last year at all sample locations.
Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Units:

ppm = parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L).
ppb = parts per billion or micrograms per liter (µg/L).
pos = positive samples.
pCi/L = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity).

Notes:

1) Total Coliform Bacteria: Reported as the highest monthly number of positive samples, for water systems that take < 40 samples per month.

2) Lead/Copper: Action levels (AL) are measured at consumer's tap. 90% of the tests must be equal to or below the action level.

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. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. 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 care provider.

5) Gross Alpha: Action level over 5 pCi/L requires testing for Radium. Action level over 15 pCi/L requires testing for Radon and Uranium.

6) 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 lower standards for Radon in drinking water.

All other regulated drinking water contaminants were below detection levels.