



Sugarloaf Water Association

Consumer Confidence Report

APRIL, 2023

We're pleased to present to you our 2022 Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

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IS MY WATER SAFE?

Annually, we conduct tests for over 80 contaminants. We detected 17 contaminants that we are required to include in this report. Only one contaminate (PFAS) was found at a level higher than the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) allows.

This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. We are committed to providing you with this information because informed customers are our best allies.

South Branch Carrabassett River



WHERE DOES MY WATER COME FROM?

Our primary water source is a combination of seven deep bedrock wells located on Sugarloaf Mountain.

Our secondary source is the South Branch Carrabassett River, filtered through a 325 gpm Kinetico Macrolite filter system located on West Mountain.

We inject two chemicals into our water; sodium hypochlorite “liquid chlorine” for disinfection, to protect you against microbial contaminants and AQ100 to remove turbidity.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT

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, public water suppliers, and the DWP. For more information about the SWAP, please contact the DWP at telephone 287-2070.

WHY ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN MY DRINKING WATER?

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.

DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?

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/Centers for Disease Control (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:

<https://www.epa.gov/ccr/forms/contact-us-about-consumer-confidence-reports>

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR LEAD

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. Sugarloaf Water Association 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>.

WATER QUALITY DATA

Contaminant	Date	Results	MCL	MCLG	Source
Microbiological					
Total Coliform (*1)	Sep 2022	1 pos/mo	1 pos/mo or 5%	0 pos	Naturally present in the environment.
Synthetics					
Total PFAS (6 Regulated)	10/4/2022	26 ppt	20 ppt	0 ppt	Man-made chemicals in a wide variety of consumer products and industrial applications. Stain- and water-resistant fabrics, carpeting, non-stick cookware, cleaning products and paints, Class B Firefighting foam (AFFF) foam and industrial processes.
Inorganics					
Arsenic (*2)	2/10/2022	4.54 ppb	10 ppb	0 ppb	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Barium	6/10/2021	0.0168 ppm	2 ppm	2 ppm	Discharge of drilling wastes. Discharge from metal refineries. Erosion of natural deposits.

Chromium	6/10/2021	1.42 ppb	100 ppb	100 ppb	Discharge from steel and pulp mills. Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride (*3)	6/10/2021	0.25 ppm	4 ppm	4 ppm	Erosion of natural deposits. Water additive which promotes strong teeth. Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate (5)	6/10/2021	1.2 ppm	10 ppm	10 ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use. Leaching from septic tanks, sewage. Erosion from natural deposits.
Radionuclides					
Combined Radium (-226 & -228)	1/4/2022	0.619 pCi/l	5 pCi/l	0 pCi/l	Erosion of natural deposits.
Combined Uranium	10/6/2021	8.8 ppb	30 ppb	0 ppb	Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross Alpha (7)	10/6/2021	11.1 pCi/l	15 pCi/l	0 pCi/l	Erosion of natural deposits.
Radium-226	1/4/2022	0.272 pCi/l	5 pCi/l	0 pCi/l	Erosion of natural deposits.
Radium-228	1/4/2022	0.448 pCi/l	5 pCi/l	0 pCi/l	Erosion of natural deposits.
Radon (8)	10/6/2021	2800 pCi/l	4000 pCi/l	4000 pCi/l	Erosion of natural deposits.
Lead & Copper					
Copper 90 th % Value (*4)	1/1/2020-12/31/2022	0.501 ppm	AL=1.3 ppm	1.3 ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Lead 90 th % Value (*4)	1/1/2020-12/31/2022	4.75 ppb	AL=15 ppb	0 ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Disinfectants and Disinfection By Products					
Chlorine Residual	RAA (2022)	0.76 ppm Range (0.20-1.60 ppm)	MRDL=4 ppm	MRDLG=4 ppm	Water additive used to control microbes.
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (*9)	LRAA (2022)	37 ppb Range (8.5-133.8 ppb)	60 ppb	0 ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Total Trihalomethane (TTHM) (*9)	LRAA (2022)	39 ppb Range (10.1-59.64 ppb)	80 ppb	0 ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Turbidity (Highest monthly reading in 2022)					
Turbidity	December 2022	0.73 ntu	5 ntu	NA	Soil runoff.

Definitions

Units

ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
ppt	ppt: parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter (ng/L)
pos/mo	positive samples/month
Ntu	Nephelometric Turbidity Units
pCi/L	picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity).

Other Important Drinking Water Acronyms

MCLG	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level: This highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
TT	Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water systems must follow.
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.
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.
LRAA	Locational Running Annual Average.

RAA 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.

*Other Important Drinking Water Definitions

1. Total Coliform Bacteria: Reported as the highest monthly number of positive samples, for water systems that take < 40 samples per month.
2. Arsenic: The U.S. EPA adopted the new MCL standard in October 2001. Water systems must meet this new standard by January 2006.
3. Fluoride: Fluoride levels must be maintained between 0.5-1.2 ppm. The optimum level is 0.7 ppm for those water systems that fluoridate the water.
4. Lead/Copper: Action levels (AL) are measured at consumer's tap. 90% of the tests must be equal to or below the action level.
5. 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 provider.
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. 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 effects on the human body.
8. 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 die MEG in water, treatment is recommended. It is also advisable to test indoor air for Radon. The U.S.EPA is proposing setting federal standards for Radon in public drinking water.
9. TTHM/HAA5: Total Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids (TTHM and HAAS) are formed as a by-product of drinking water chlorination. This chemical reaction occurs when chlorine combines with naturally occurring organic matter in water.
10. 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 immune systems.

Secondary Contaminates

We are not required to list detects for secondary contaminants, but this information, particularly sodium levels, might be useful to our customers.

CHLORIDE	5.2 ppm	12/20/2022
IRON	0.45 ppm	10/6/2021
MAGNESIUM	0.00143 ppm	12/20/2022
NICKEL	0.004 ppm	10/6/2021
SODIUM	4.29 ppm	12/20/2022
SULFATE	2.4 ppm	12/20/2022
ZINC	0.0011 ppm	12/20/2022

VIOLATIONS AND EXCEEDANCES

Violation Period

1/1/2022 - 12/31/2022

Violation Type

SE Violation - STATE EXCEEDANCE TOTAL PFOA AND PFOS WELL HD 2

PFAS Exceedance: In 2022, our water system exceeded the State total PFAS standard of 20 ppt (parts per trillion). Our water system has been placed on quarterly sampling for PFAS. Results of subsequent PFAS testing will be made available. While research on PFAS exposure is still relatively new, people exposed to high levels of PFAS could experience health effects linked to reproduction and development, thyroid function as well as immune and neurologic issues.

** Note: We have taken the contaminated well offline to address this issue.

WAIVER INFORMATION

In 2020, our system was granted a 'Synthetic Organics Waiver.' This is a three year exemption from the monitoring/reporting requirements for the following industrial chemical(s): TOXAPHENE/CHLORDANE/PCB, HERBICIDES, CARBAMATE PESTICIDES, SEMIVOLATILE ORGANICS. This waiver was granted due to the absence of these potential sources of contamination within a half mile radius of the water source.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Source Water Protection Tips

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides – they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.

ABOUT US

Public Water System: Sugarloaf Water Association

PWSID #: 91690

Manager: Eric Copeland

Address: 5005 Iron Brook Road

City, State, Zip Code: Carrabassett Valley ME. 04947-9799

Telephone #: 207-237-6865

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Email: water1@tds.net

Website: SugarloafWater.net

Upcoming Regularly Scheduled Meeting(s): Upon request.

CERTIFICATION

I Joshua Burdin hereby certify and attest that I have distributed copies of this Consumer Confidence Report to all users of my public water system on April 5, 2023, in accordance with 40 CFR§ 141-142. I further certify that the information contained in this annual Consumer Confidence Report is correct and consistent with compliance monitoring data. Any intentional deception or misinformation represented in this report may be cited as a violation of State and U.S. EPA National Primary Drinking Water Rules.

Signed:



Dated: 04/20/2023