Sugarloaf Water Association

Consumer Confidence Report 2024 1

We're pleased to present to you our 2024 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.

CONTENTS

IS MY WATER SAFE?

Annually, we conduct tests for over 80 contaminants. We detected 11 contaminants that we are required to include in this report. Only Two contaminate (TTHM/HAA5) were 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.

Sugarloaf Water Association

Consumer Confidence Report 2024

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.

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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**.

Our system completed a Lead Service Line Inventory as required by the Revised Lead and Copper Rule. It is publicly accessible at this location: Available upon request (refer to 'About Us' on page 7 for contact information.)

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Contaminant	Date	Results	MCL	MCLG	Source
Microbiological					
Total Coliform	Sep 2024	0 pos/mo	1 pos/mo or 5%	0 pos	Naturally present in the environment.
Synthetics					
Total PFAS (6 Regulated) (9*)		No Detect	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 (7*)	7/1/2024	4.82ppb	10 ppb	0 ppb	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Fluoride (1*)	11/7/2024	0.21 ppm	4 ppm	4 ppm	Erosion of natural deposits. Water additive which promotes strong teeth. Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate		No detect	10 ppm	10 ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use. Leaching from septic tanks, sewage. Erosion from natural deposits.
Radionuclides					
Combined Radium (-226 & -228)	12/20/2022	0.33 pCi/l	5 pCi/l	0 pCi/l	Erosion of natural deposits.
Combined Uranium	10/9/2024	0.657 ppb	30 ppb	0 ppb	Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross Alpha (2*)	10/9/2024	0.292pCi/l	15 pCi/l	0 pCi/l	Erosion of natural deposits.
Radium-226		No Detect pCi/l	5 pCi/l	0 pCi/l	Erosion of natural deposits.
Radium-228		No Detect pCi/l	5 pCi/l	0 pCi/l	Erosion of natural deposits.
Radon (8)	11/29/2024	796 pCi/l	4000 pCi/l	4000 pCi/l	Erosion of natural deposits.
Lead & Copper					
Copper 90th% Value (3*) number of sites exceeding the AL: **0**	7/1/24-12/31/24	0.463 ppm Range (1.8-86.1ppb)	AL=1.3 ppm	1.3 ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Lead 90th% Value (3*) number of sites exceeding the AL: **0**	7/1/24-12/31/24	14.2ppb Range (0.0099-1.32 ppm)	AL=15 ppb ***Complete lead tap sampling data are available upon request***	0 ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Disinfectants and Disinfection By Products					
Chlorine Residual	RAA (2024)	0.20-0.43 ppm Range (0.20-1.60 ppm)	MRDL=4 ppm	MRDLG= 4 ppm	Water additive used to control microbes.
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (5*)	LRAA (2024)	32.7 ppb Range (5.05-48.8ppb)	60 ppb	0 ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Total Trihalomethane (TTHM) (5*)	LRAA (2024)	23.5 ppb Range (1.8-86.1ppb)	80 ppb	0 ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Turbidity (Highest monthly reading in 2024)					
Turbidity	07/09/2024	0.68 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)
pCi/L	pCi/L picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
pos	Pos: positive samples.
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units
ug/L	Micrograms per liter

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. **Flouride** - For those systems that fluoridate, fluoride levels must be maintained between 0.5 to 1.2 ppm. The optimum level is 0.7 ppm.
2. **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 minus Uranium results = Net Gross Alpha.
3. **Lead/Copper**- Action levels (AL) are measured at consumer's tap. 90% of the tests must be equal to or below the action level.
4. **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 is recommended. It is also advisable to test indoor air for Radon.
5. **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 LRAA.
6. **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-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches.
7. **Arsenic-** While your drinking water may meet EPA's standard for Arsenic, if it contains between 5 to 10 ppb you should know that the standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing it from 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 average.
8. **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.
9. **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.

Secondary Contaminates		
We are not required to list detects for secondary contaminants, but this information, particularly sodium levels, might be useful to our customers.		
MANGANESE	0.0904 ppm	11/7/2024
MAGNESIUM	3.8 ppm	11/7/2024
NICKEL	0.0012 ppm	11/7/2024
SODIUM	6.9 ppm	11/7/2024
SULFATE	8.3 ppm	11/7/2024
IRON	0.23 ppm	11/7/2024

VIOLATIONS AND EXCEEDANCES

Violation Period	Violation Type
5/25/24 - 6/18/24	65 Violation - PUBLIC EDUCATION (LCR) LEAD & COPPER RULE*
3/31/24 – 4/8/24	66 Violation - LEAD CONSUMER NOTICE (LCR) LEAD & COPPER RULE*
1/1/24 – 3/31/24	02 Violation - MCL, LRAA TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5) DIST SYS
4/1/24 – 6/30/24	02 Violation - MCL, LRAA TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5) DIST SYS

Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) MCL Violation: In 2024, our water system exceeded the MCL for HAA5. The MCL is based on the running annual average (RAA) of four quarter's worth of sample data. HAA5 is formed as a by-product of drinking water chlorination. This chemical reaction occurs when chlorine combines with naturally occurring organic matter in water. The results of these tests revealed levels for HAA5 in excess of 60 ppb MCL . We are in the process of exploring the various options to reduce HAA5 in your water supply. Some people who drink water containing HAA5 in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer or could experience nervous system or liver damage. Reporting Violation: In 2024, we were required to distribute lead education material due to an exceedance of the lead action level. We failed to distribute that information and are required to do so. We are required to notify any customer who participated in our lead/copper testing of their individual lead results. In 2024, we failed to provide this information to our customers or failed to report information to the DWP on time.

Note* Our public water system was found to be in violation for failing to post the required public notice in a timely manner. This oversight occurred during a staffing transition, as a key employee responsible for compliance and public notifications left the organization unexpectedly.
During this transition period, this responsibility was temporarily unassigned, resulting in the notices not getting sent, and the missed posting.
We apologize for the oversight and want to assure our consumers that this administrative lapse did not affect water quality or public health.

WAIVER INFORMATION

In 2022, 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(s).

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- **Upgrade to water-efficient appliances**: Install a water-efficient dishwasher, washing machine, and other appliances to reduce water consumption. Look for the EPA's WaterSense label for appliances that are proven to save water.
- **Only run full loads**: Whether it's the dishwasher or washing machine, run them only with full loads to maximize efficiency.
- **Apply mulch around plants**: Mulch helps retain moisture in the soil, reducing the need for frequent watering while also preventing weeds.
- **Compost organic waste**: Composting can improve soil structure and water retention, reducing your need for additional watering

ABOUT US

Public Water System: Sugarloaf Water Association

PWSID #: 91690

Manager: Eric Copeland

Address: 5005 Iron Brook Road, Carrabassett Valley ME. 04947-9799

Telephone #: 207-237-6865

Fax #: 207-237-6880

Email: water1@tds.net

Website: SugarloafWater.net

Upcoming Regularly Scheduled Meeting(s): Upon request.

CERTIFICATION

I Ryan Hinkley hereby certify and attest that I have distributed copies of this Consumer Confidence Report to all users of my public water system on April 25,2025, 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.

Please share this information with anyone who drinks this water (or their guardians), especially those who may not have received this report directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this report in a public place or distributing copies by hand, mail, email, or another method.

Signed: 

Dated: 4/25/25