Auburn Water and Sewerage Districts
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2024 Consumer Confidence Report

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report will provide you with information about the quality of your water for the year 2024. It is our goal to continuously produce adequate supplies of safe and affordable drinking water. We strive to apply the best available treatment systems and are committed to protecting our sole water resource, Lake Auburn. Please take time to read this report. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact us at 207-784-6469.

The Auburn Water District (AWD) monitors your drinking water according to Federal and State rules and regulations. The information provided here shows the results of our monitoring from January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024. Some substances will be reported with earlier dates if they were not tested for in 2024.

In 2024 the Auburn Water District produced and treated approximately 919 million gallons of safe drinking water to more than 17,000 customers.

WHERE DOES MY WATER COME FROM?
Your drinking water comes from Lake Auburn, which has been the source of Lewiston and Auburn's public drinking water since 1875, Lake Auburn is fed by a mostly forested watershed that includes Buckfield, Turner, Hebron, Minot, and East Auburn. Due to the high quality of Lake Auburn's water, the EPA has exempted the Auburn Water District and Lewiston Water Division from the requirement to filter the water prior to disinfection. This exemption reduces treatment costs while providing excellent, safe water to our consumers. To ensure long-term protection of the water source, the two Districts formed the Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission in 1993. This commission is empowered to protect the lake and surrounding watershed. The most effective, safest, and least expensive method for keeping Lake Auburn clean is to ensure that water entering the lake is protected through a well-managed watershed. For more information about watershed protection and how you can do your part visit: **www.lakeauburnwater.org** or call 207-784-6469.

DESCRIPTION OF WATER TREATMENT PROCESS:
Water from Lake Auburn enters the treatment process through an intake pipe. The water flows through a coarse screen and drum strainer. This is followed by ultraviolet light treatment, which inactivates targeted viruses that may be present in the water. Chlorine is added for disinfection; the alkalinity is increased, and pH is adjusted. Fluoride is added for dental health benefits. A corrosion inhibitor, orthophosphate is added to prevent customer owned lead and copper plumbing materials from leaching into their drinking water. Chlorine is converted to chloramine by adding ammonia sulfate and finished water is delivered to the distribution system.

WE ALWAYS AIM TO DELIVER SAFE DRINKING WATER TO YOUR TAP!
State Licensed operators run your water system. Drinking water quality is monitored 24 hours a day and analyzed 7 days a week. We conduct thousands of water samples each year to monitor water quality. In addition, we closely monitor the lake and contributing waters. Technology enables safety systems to ensure that treatment continues to operate correctly.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT:
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, public water suppliers, and the DWP. For more information about the SWAP, please contact the DWP at 207-287-2070.

ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN MY DRINKING WATER?

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or manmade. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

PFAS TESTING INFORMATION

PFAS are widely used, long-lasting chemicals, components of which break down very slowly over time. Because of their widespread use and their persistence in the environment, many PFAS are found in the blood of people and animals all worldwide and are present at low levels in various food products and in the environment. PFAS are found in water, air, soil and living things at locations across the nation and the globe. Scientific studies have shown that exposure to some PFAS in the environment may be linked to harmful health effects in humans and animals. There are thousands of PFAS chemicals, and they are found in many different consumer, commercial, and industrial products. This makes it challenging to study and assess the potential human health and environmental risks. The Auburn Water District sampled for PFAS through the UCMR3 (Unregulated Contaminant Rule) in 2013-2014. We found no detections of the six PFAS compounds tested for. In 2022 the Maine State Legislature enacted S.P. 64 (Resolve, To Protect Consumers of Public Drinking Water by Establishing Maximum Contaminant Levels for Certain Substances and Contaminants). Through this program and subsequent required testing, the Lewiston Water Division found no detections of the 25 required PFAS compounds. All samples were analyzed by an independent certified lab. No detections of PFAS compounds in the drinking water source for Auburn is a result of watershed protection that prevent common practices that are known to spread these compounds, such as land application of wastewater sludge, and use of certain firefighting foams, around Lake Auburn.

For more information about PFAS in Public Water Systems, visit:
https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/environmental-health/dwp/pws/pfas.shtml#highlights
or call the Maine Drinking Water Program general number at 207-287-2070.

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS MONITORING

Unregulated contaminants are those for which the U.S. EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist the EPA in determining the occurrence of these contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulations are warranted. In 2023 we participated in the fifth round of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5). We had no detections of any of the contaminants in this round of testing.

2024 EVENTS

The Auburn Water District completed water main replacements on the following streets in 2024, Marian, Fourth, Dunn and Chestnut Street. The District was able to complete a lead service line inventory ahead of the October 2024 deadline. We are happy to report no Lead service lines or galvanized lines requiring replacement. The District completed 144 external excavation inspections, 757 internal inspections and we received 909 of self-reported inspections from our customers. The District needs to continue gathering data to stay in compliance with LCRR. At this time, we still need 2975 additional inspection records. Customers interested in viewing the inventory can do so by visiting our office at 268 Court Street.

PLANS FOR 2025

AWD is budgeted to replace water mains on Spring and Loring Streets, in addition to continued Lead and Copper investigations. The District conducted a Request for Qualifications and selected a new water meter platform. The District's water meters are aging, and we plan to replace all meters in our system over the next two years. The new meter platform will reduce our operating costs, provide more service and support to our customers and offer greater accuracy than our current meters.

WHAT'S IN YOUR WATER?

This table provides Auburn Water District's 2024 water quality sampling test results for the public water supply.

Parameter	Date	Results	MCL	MCLG	Possible Sources of Contamination
MICROBIOLOGICAL					
COLIFORM (TCR) (9)	2024	0 pos	1 pos/mo or 5%	0 pos	Naturally present in the environment.
INORGANIC COMPOUNDS					
BARIUM	4/8/2024	0.0017 ppm	2 ppm	2 ppm	Discharge of drilling wastes. Discharge from metal refineries. Erosion of natural deposits.
FLUORIDE (3)	12/3/2024	0.76 ppm	4 ppm	4 ppm	Erosion of natural deposits. Water additive which promotes strong teeth. Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
SYNTHETICS					
HEXACHLOROCYCLOPENTADIENE	6/11/2024	0.11 ppb	50 ppb	50 ppb	Discharge from chemical factories.
RADIONUCLIDES					
COMBINED RADIUM (-226 &-228)	5/13/2020	1.4 pCi/l	5 pCi/l	0 pCi/l	Erosion of natural deposits.
RADIUM-228	5/13/2020	1.3 pCi/l	5 pCi/l	0 pCi/l	Erosion of natural deposits.
LEAD AND COPPER					
COPPER 90TH% VALUE (5)	1/1/2021 - 12/31/2023	0.2 ppm Range (0.0372-0.233 ppm)	AL=1.3 ppm	1.3 ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Number of sampling sites exceeding the Copper action level: **0**					
LEAD 90TH% VALUE (5)	1/1/2021 - 12/31/2023	6.2 ppb Range (0-151 ppb)	AL=15 ppb	0 ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Number of sampling sites exceeding the Lead action level: **2**			Complete lead tap sampling data are available upon request		
DISINFECTION AND DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS					
TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5)(10)					
AVCOG (SITE#9)	LRAA (2024)	29 ppb Range (24-35 ppb)	60 ppb	0 ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
AWD EP (SITE#36)	LRAA (2024)	29 ppb Range (23-33 ppb)	60 ppb	0 ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
POLAND SPRING (SITE #32)	LRAA (2024)	33 ppb Range (26-44 ppb)	60 ppb	0 ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
RIVERSIDE SS (SITE#12)	LRAA (2024)	31 ppb Range (29-33 ppb)	60 ppb	0 ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
TOTAL TRIHALOMETHANE (TTHM)(10)					
AVCOG (SITE#9)	LRAA (2024)	28 ppb Range (16-44 ppb)	80 ppb	0 ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
AWD EP (SITE#36)	LRAA (2024)	30 ppb Range (18-46 ppb)	80 ppb	0 ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
POLAND SPRING (SITE #32)	LRAA (2024)	35 ppb Range (26-49 ppb)	80 ppb	0 ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
RIVERSIDE SS (SITE#12)	LRAA (2024)	36 ppb Range (28-48 ppb)	80 ppb	0 ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
CHLORINE RESIDUAL					
	RANGE 2.77-3.37 ppm		MRDL=4 PPM	MRDLG=4 PPM	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
TURBIDITY HIGHEST MONTHLY READING 2024					
TURBIDITY	3/22/2024	2.97 NTU	5 NTU	N/A	Soil runoff.
SECONDARY CONTAMINANTS (ASTHETIC STANDARDS)					
CHLORIDE	4/8/2024	16 ppm			
SULFATE	4/8/2024	6 ppm			
MAGNESIUM	4/8/2024	0.92 ppm			
MANGANESE	4/8/2024	0.0065 ppm			
SODIUM	4/8/2024	15.7 ppm			

TABLE DEFINITIONS

In this table you will find terms and abbreviations you may not be familiar with. The following definitions are provided to help you understand the terms.

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

Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA): A 12 month rolling average of all monthly or quarterly samples at specific sampling locations. Calculation of the RAA may contain data from the previous year.
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.
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 or micrograms per liter **(µg/L)**
pos = positive samples
MFL = million fibers per liter

NOTES:
1) 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.
2) 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.
3) 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.
4) 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.
5) Lead/Copper: Action levels (AL) are measured at consumer's tap. 90% of the tests must be equal to or below the action level.
6) 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.
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 the MEG in water, treatment is recommended. It is also advisable to test indoor air for Radon.
9) Total Coliform Bacteria: Reported as the highest monthly number of positive samples, for water systems that take less than 40 samples per month.
10) 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.
11) 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
12) NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units is the unit used to measure the turbidity of a fluid or the presence of suspended particles in water

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:

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

LEAD AND COPPER
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. Your public water system is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact your public water system. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available 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 by request at the Auburn Water District Office, 268 Court Street Auburn, ME 04210

Violations
No Violations in 2024

UPCOMING REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING(S):
The regularly scheduled Water District Trustee meetings are held the Wednesday following the third Tuesday every month at 4:00 PM, 268 Court Street in Auburn.

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.