2024 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
West Paris Water District

West Paris, Maine
PWSID ME0091600

We're pleased to present to you our Annual Drinking Water Quality Report, also known as the Consumer Confidence Report. This report, a requirement of the 1996 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act, 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.

WATER SOURCE
Our water source is a 58-foot gravel packed well located at the District's gravel pit northeast of town off Pioneer Street. We add soda ash to the water to increase the pH and provide corrosion control. The District maintains 226 connections that service a population of approximately 900.

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

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water system, please contact Bill Gardner at mailing address P.O. Box 233, West Paris, ME 04289, telephone number 207-309-9667. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water system. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held annually one week after town meetings. The meeting is to be announced and will be posted.

WATER QUALITY
West Paris Water District routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The following table shows any detection resulting from our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2024.

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. All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or manmade. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

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

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes

regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected throughout water quality monitoring and testing. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

West Paris Water District

TEST RESULTS Unless otherwise noted, testing was done in 2024.					
Contaminant	**Level Detected**	**Unit Measurement**	**MCLG**	**MCL**	**Likely Source of Contamination**
Microbiological Contaminants					
Total Coliform Bacteria (June 2024)	**4 positive**	Highest monthly # of positive samples	0 positive	1 pos/mo or 5% (e. coli)	Naturally present in the environment.
E Coli (June 2024)	4 **positive**	Highest monthly # of positive samples	0 positive	1 pos	Human and animal fecal waste.
Chlorine Residual					
Chlorine Residual	**Average: 0.2** *Range (0.2-1.3)*	ppm	MRDLG = 4 ppm	MRDL =4 ppm	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Radioactive Contaminants					
Combined Radium (-226 & -228) (3/11/22)	**0.8**	pCi/l	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits.
Inorganic Contaminants					
Barium (4/5/23)	**0.0062**	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes. Discharge from metal refineries. Erosion of natural deposits.
Lead / Copper					
Copper* (7/1/24-12/31/24)	**3.31** *Range (0.262-5.21)*	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Number of sampling sites exceeding the action level: 12					
Lead* (7/1/24-12/31/24)	**13.1** *Range (1.2-33.6)*	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Number of sampling sites exceeding the action level: 2 - Complete lead tap sampling data are available upon request					
* = Reported results are the 90th percentile value (the value that 90% of all samples are less than).					
Disinfection By-Products					
HAA5 (2024) Total Haloacetic Acids	**LRAA=3.5** (Range 3.2-4)	ppb	0	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
TTHM (2024) Total Trihalomethanes	**LRAA=7.1** (Range 6.6-7.6)	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination.

Note: The state allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Not all contaminants are tested for every year due to monitoring waivers and therefore we must use the most recent round of sampling. Some of our data is more than one year old, however, is limited to no older than 5 years.

Definitions:

Action Level (AL) - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which 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) - is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) - is 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.

Maximum Residual Disinfection 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 Disinfection 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.

Not Applicable (N/A) - Does not apply

Running Annual Average (RAA) – A 12 month rolling average of all monthly or quarterly samples at all locations. Calculations 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 (e.g. treatment technique for turbidity).

Variances, Exemptions, and Waivers - State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL, a treatment technique or test for a given contaminant under certain conditions.

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:

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.

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.

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.

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.

Lead/Copper - Action levels (AL) are measured at consumer's tap. 90% of the tests 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. 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.

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.

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.

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.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

TOTAL COLIFORM BACTERIA LEVEL ASSESSMENTS

Total Coliform Bacteria Level Assessments Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms, indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessment(s) to identify problems and to correct any issues that were found during these assessments.

A Level 1 Assessment is an investigation of the water system designed to identify potential problems and determine

(if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system. During the past year, we were required to conduct 0 Level One assessment(s). We completed 0 Level One assessment(s). We were not required to take any corrective actions.

VIOLATIONS

Violation Period	Violation Type
1/1/2024 - 6/30/2024	66 Violation - LEAD CONSUMER NOTICE (LCR) LEAD & COPPER RULE
1/1/2024 - 6/30/2024	SE Violation - STATE EXCEEDANCE COPPER SUMMARY
7/1/2024 - 12/31/2024	SE Violation - STATE EXCEEDANCE COPPER SUMMARY DIST SYS
6/1/2024 - 6/30/2024	1A Violation - MCL, E. COLI, POS E COLI (RTCR) E. COLI
6/1/2024 - 6/30/2024	1A Violation - PUBLIC NOTICE, MCL, E. COLI, POS E COLI E. COLI
8/1/2024 - 8/31/2024	47 Violation - UNCOVERED STORAGE FACILITY(IESWTR/LT1) IESWTR STORAGE 1
1/1/2024 - 12/31/2024	52 Violation - FOLLOW-UP OR ROUTINE TAP M/R (LCR) LEAD & COPPER RULE DIST SYS
7/1/2024 - 12/31/2024	53 Violation - WATER QUALITY PARAMETER M/R (LCR) LEAD & COPPER RULE DIST SYS
7/1/2024 - 12/31/2024	53 Violation - WATER QUALITY PARAMETER M/R (LCR) LEAD & COPPER RULE TREAT PT 1

E. coli MCL Acute Violation: In 2024, our water system tested positive and recheck sample(s) were positive for the presence of fecal coliform and/or E. coli bacteria. A “Boil Water Order” was immediately issued. Public notification was posted or distributed to all residents. To resolve this problem work was done to repair leaks in the roof reservoir and a disinfection system was installed. Once a chlorine residual was established in the distribution system six representative samples were taken and all of them resulted in no bacteria present. The Boil Water Notice was lifted in August 2024. Fecal coliform and 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. Germs in these wastes can cause diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or fatigue. Subsequent tests have been negative for fecal coliform and E. coli bacteria.

Lead & Copper Action Level Exceedance: In 2024, routine sampling detected (lead/copper) in excess of the maximum level allowed. 5 out of 10 sites sampled, exceeded the action level for (lead/copper). Drinking water regulations require that samples are taken from homes with a high risk potential for lead/copper in the plumbing. The following were action steps we were required to take and the dates those actions were completed: Distribute public lead/copper education material to all residents (Done on 6/11/2024); Submit a corrosion control plan to the State Drinking Water Program (Done on 3/11/2025). Our plan we submitted to reduce the corrosivity of the water (or reduce lead/copper levels) involves: maintaining a pH of 7.5 by using soda ash injected by a chemical feed pump. We have to fully implement/complete our plan by 3/15/2025. Lead/copper sampling will resume in May 2025. Results of subsequent future lead/copper testing will be made available to all residents. Lead Health Effects: Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children

can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems. Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure. Copper Health Effects: Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short time could experience gastrointestinal distress, or suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their doctor.

We are required to monitor our drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring indicate whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During 2024, we did not test for, or failed to collect all necessary tests for lead and copper or we failed to provide necessary paperwork required with this sampling.

In 2024, we failed to adequately test or failed to report water quality parameters following a lead/copper exceedance. When a water system exceeds a lead or copper action level, they are required to collect additional water quality parameters to help determine whether their water is corrosive and contributing to the high values or to insure that they are adjusting their pH adequately to prevent corrosion. We failed to take/report the necessary tests, but have collected/will collect the required tests needed to come back into compliance.

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.

Our water system failed to adequately cover our finished water storage facility. Uncovered storage tanks can allow for disease causing organisms to be introduced into the public drinking water supply.

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:

Our system completed a Lead Service Line Inventory as required by the Revised Lead and Copper Rule. It is publicly accessible at this location: West Paris Town Office.

Or can be obtained by contacting Bill Gardner at 207-309-9667 or info@westparis.me

All 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 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.

For most people, the health benefits of drinking plenty of water outweigh any possible health risk from these contaminants. However, 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/Center of Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or at https://www.epa.gov/ccr/forms/contact-us-about-consumer-confidence-reports.

We, at West Paris Water District, work hard to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect and preserve our drinking water resources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life, and our children's future. Please contact us with any questions. Thank you for working together for safe drinking water.

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.