2025
Annual Compliance Report

Public Drinking Water *in* Maine

Maine Department of Health and Human Services
Center for Disease Control and Prevention
Division of Environmental and Community Health
Drinkinig Water Program

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About the Drinking Water Program

"The Maine CDC Drinking Water Program works to ensure safe drinking water and protect public health in Maine by administering and enforcing drinking water and subsurface wastewater regulations, and providing educational, technical, and financial assistance."

Maine is fortunate to have an abundance of clean water available for public water systems to collect, treat, store, and distribute.

Safe and reliable supplies of drinking water are essential for public health protection as well as maintaining a community's economic viability. With this understanding, the United States has worked to ensure Americans have access to some of the safest public drinking water supplies in the world; more than 250 million of us get our tap water from Public Water Systems (PWS) that are subject to federal and State water standards.

The State of Maine has been providing public health protection through drinking water regulations since the early 1900s, when typhoid and cholera outbreaks were common due to the consumption of contaminated drinking water. And until as recently as the 1960s, the focus remained primarily on basic water treatment. However, public water systems face different challenges today, such as aging infrastructure, cyber-crime, securing capital financing, and source reliability and protection. As long as these challenges persist, the DWP will continue to aid water systems in identifying and responding to hazards that threaten our water supply and our health.

Maine Legislative Authorization

The Maine Legislature enacted Maine's **Water for Human Consumption Act** (WHCA) in 1976, providing administrative authority for State and federal safe drinking water regulations. This law establishes oversight over all operational aspects of public water systems in Maine that impact drinking water service and public health.

Through the WHCA, the Drinking Water Program (DWP) was established to ensure that facilities serving drinking water to the public are in compliance with federal and State regulations related to the safety of their water. Since then, public water systems have been required to meet an increasing number of rules and regulations related to clean, safe drinking water. In Maine, the **Maine State Drinking Water Rule** sets the basic requirements, and the consequences for failing to meet those requirements, for all public water systems.

Maine Public Drinking Water Commission

The Maine Public Drinking Water Commission, authorized by the WHCA, evaluates the Drinking Water Program's enforcement of the Maine State Drinking Water Rule for public water systems. The Commission also provides recommendations on administrative actions and determines funding and fee collection necessary to meet drinking water program workloads, staffing and resource requirements.

Public Health Protection

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets drinking water quality standards for public water systems in the United States. The agency establishes maximum concentration levels for harmful compounds in water.

Drinking water sources are susceptible to pollution and sometimes require appropriate treatment to remove disease-causing contaminants. Contamination of drinking water supplies can occur in both the source water and the distribution system. Sources of water contamination include naturally occurring chemicals and minerals (e.g., arsenic, radon, uranium), local land use practices (e.g., fertilizers and pesticides), manufacturing processes, and sewer overflows or wastewater releases.

The presence of contaminants in water can lead to adverse health effects, including gastrointestinal illness, reproductive problems, neurological disorders, cancer, and other issues. Infants, young children, pregnant women, older populations, and those with compromised immune systems may be especially susceptible to illness from some contaminants.

Primacy

The Maine CDC Drinking Water Program administers the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations under the 1974 Safe Drinking Water Act (SWDA). Maine was granted primacy by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

EPA Oversight

EPA established the **Public Water System Supervision** (PWSS) program under the authority of the SDWA (and the 1986 Amendments). Under the SDWA, national limits were established for contaminant levels in drinking water to ensure that the water is safe for human consumption. EPA also regulates how often public water systems monitor their water for contaminants and report the monitoring results to the states or federal government. Generally, the larger the population served by a water system, the more frequent the monitoring and reporting (M/R) requirements. In addition, EPA requires PWSs to monitor for unregulated contaminants to provide data for future regulatory development.

The SDWA allows states and territories to seek EPA approval for Primacy – that is, the authority to administer their own PWSS Programs. For a state to receive primacy, EPA must determine that the state has demonstrated they can enforce the program requirements, and meets certain requirements laid out in both the SDWA and federal regulations, including the adoption of drinking water regulations that are *no less stringent* than the federal regulations.

The 1986 SDWA Amendments gave Indian Tribes the right to apply for and receive primacy. EPA currently administers PWSS Programs on all Indian lands except the Navajo Nation, which was granted primacy in late 2000.

Organization

The Drinking Water Program, part of the Maine CDC's Division of Environmental and Community Health, is organized into five sections:

1. **Data Management and Program Support**
    - Data management and quality control
    - Rule administration, public water system compliance, and enforcement
    - Technical assistance
    - Capacity development
2. **Engineering/State Revolving Fund**
    - Engineering review
    - Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
    - Non-SRF financial assistance
3. **Field Services**
    - Public water system sanitary survey inspection

- Treatment inspection
- New well approval
- Technical assistance

4. Laboratory Accreditation/Certification

- Accreditation of water and wastewater testing laboratories
- Certification of cannabis testing facilities

5. Water Protection

- Subsurface wastewater, plumbing, and cemetery/crematoria rule administration
- Emergency response
- Source protection
- Cyber/physical security
- Climate resilience
- Permit review and archiving
- Private well technical assistance

Each section plays a crucial role in ensuring that Maine's public water systems continually provide safe, reliable drinking water to their customers.

Public Water System Inspection and Support

The DWP's Public Water System Inspectors (PWSI) and Field Services staff provide on-site advice and assistance to PWS regarding system operation and maintenance, water treatment, quality control, testing requirements and waivers. Funding options and engineering review are also available to community PWS for infrastructure improvement projects through the Drinking Water State Revolving fund (DWSRF). All PWS can take advantage of the DWP's partnership with Maine Rural Water Association (MRWA), which provides water systems with free, on-site technical assistance.

The DWP Field Services section and MRWA offer guidance to systems on reviewing the operation of treatment processes, collecting samples, filling out reports, regulatory compliance, leak detection and line location, and development of emergency response plans and vulnerability assessments.

PWS Inspectors also provide regulatory oversight and guidance, advising PWS on all aspects of system compliance with SDWA, WHCA, and other State and federal regulations. Maine is divided into seven non-municipal inspection districts, with a PWSI assigned to each. Furthermore, the state has two municipal (public utility) inspection districts, each with a dedicated PWSI who specializes in large community public water systems.

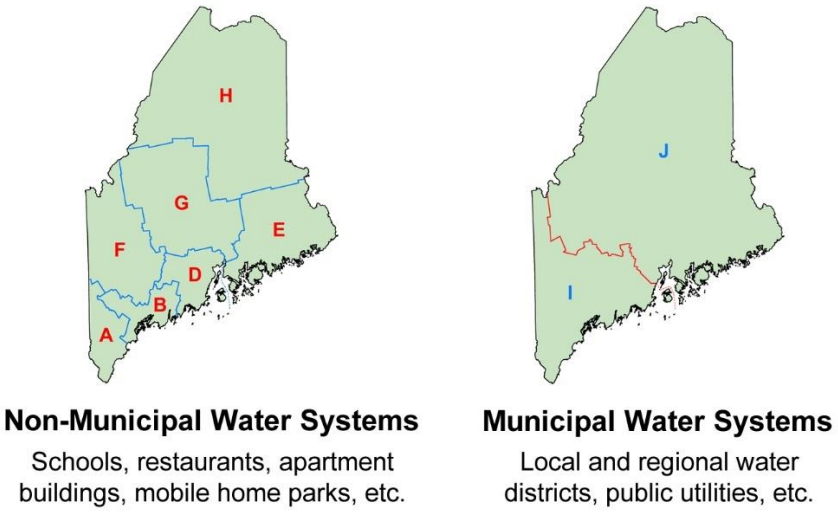
Non-Municipal Public Water System Inspection Districts

- **District A** – Southern Maine
- **District B** – Portland Region
- **District D** – Midcoast Maine
- **District E** – Downeast Maine
- **District F** – Western Maine
- **District G** – North-Central Maine
- **District H** – Northern Maine

Municipal (Public Utility) Water System Inspection Districts

- **District I** – Southern Maine
- **District J** – Central & Northern Maine

Figure 1. Inspection Districts in Maine.



Sanitary Surveys

A sanitary survey is a regular review of a public water system, from source to tap, to identify any deficiencies and make recommendations for improvements. A sanitary survey also offers another opportunity for public water system operators to ask questions and learn about their requirements and responsibilities.

PWS Inspectors conduct routine sanitary surveys for every public water system. Community water systems and Bottled Water facilities are inspected every three years, while Non-Transient, Non-Community and Transient water systems are inspected every five years. On average, each PWS Inspector surveys about 60 public water systems every year.

Capacity Development

The term “System Capacity” refers to the technical, managerial and financial resources of a public water system that are necessary for the system to consistently provide safe drinking water for its users.

Each capacity element noted below overlaps and consequently supports the others. Likewise, any weakness or failure of an individual element can lead to the collapse of the others. It is the intent of the Capacity Development Program to ensure public water systems remain viable, identify systems at risk, and assist systems in developing and maintaining system capacity.

- **Technical Capacity**

  The physical infrastructure of the water system, including but not limited to source water adequacy, infrastructure adequacy (including wells, source water intakes, and collection, treatment, storage and distribution), and the ability of system personnel to implement the requisite technical knowledge necessary to operate the system to consistently provide safe drinking water.

- **Managerial Capacity**

  The management structure of the water system, including but not limited to ownership accountability, staffing and organization, and the effectiveness of interactions of system personnel with customers, regulators and other entities, and the awareness of system personnel of available external resources, such as technical and financial assistance.

- **Financial Capacity**

  The financial resources of the water system, including but not limited to revenue sufficiency, credit worthiness and fiscal management and controls.

The Drinking Water Program requires that all public water systems receiving loans through the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (DWSRF) undergo a **Capacity Development Review**. In such a review, the technical, managerial, and financial capacity of a water system is assessed to ensure that it has sufficient capacity to proceed with a DWSRF loan.

Professional Licensing

The DWP oversees the licensure of drinking water professionals in a number of capacities. To become licensed in any capacity, candidates must sit for and pass board examinations and then apply for licensure from the appropriate authority. There are fees associated with exams and licensure; most licensed individuals are expected to take part in professional development and continuing training in order to retain their license's active status.

- **Water Operators:** All Community and Non-Transient/Non-Community (NTNC) Public Water Systems, and any Transient water systems using surface water supplies, are required to place the operation of the water system under the direct supervision of a licensed water operator, also known as a Designated Operator (DO). A Designated Operator's qualifications must match - or exceed - both tiers of the PWS's classification (Treatment and Distribution).

  Water operator licensure is overseen by the Board of Licensure of Water System Operators.

- **Well Drillers** and **Pump Installers:** Any person or company engaged in the business of constructing water wells in Maine, or that installs, replaces, or repairs water well pumps, must be licensed by the State of Maine. This requirement also extends to installers of open- and closed-loop geothermal systems.

  Licensure of Well Drillers and Pump Installers is overseen by the Maine Water Well Commission

- **Site Evaluators:** Site Evaluators are individuals that design subsurface wastewater disposal systems. These individuals are required to have the skills and ability to properly identify and accurately report soil textures and limiting factors so they can adequately classify soils, recognize site limitations, and properly size disposal systems.

  Licensure is managed by the Subsurface Wastewater unit of the DWP.

- **Septic System Inspectors** and **Installers:** The Subsurface Wastewater unit offers voluntary certification programs for System Inspectors and Installers. These programs reflect minimum criteria for evaluating and reporting on existing subsurface wastewater disposal systems and non-regulatory incentives to broaden the use of proper septic system installation techniques.

Laboratory Accreditation

Regulatory efforts to protect drinking water extend to requiring that laboratories become certified to analyze drinking water samples. Certified laboratories use approved methods to analyze drinking water samples from public water systems. The resulting findings are used to monitor PWS compliance with State and federal standards and provide PWS with reliable information on the quality of their water.

In Maine, laboratory accreditation is overseen by the DWP's Laboratory Accreditation unit. Laboratory accreditation is required by several regulatory initiatives, including drinking water, wastewater, and diesel residual organics/gasoline residual organics. Labs are accredited by the tests they offer (e.g., arsenic, bacteria). The DWP recommends confirming your laboratory's accreditation status prior to ordering tests.

Important: Only DWP-accredited laboratories using EPA methods 533, 537 and 537.1 may be used to test for **PFAS** in water. The current list of Maine-accredited labs for PFAS testing can be found online at https://tinyurl.com/Maine-Labs-PFAS (PDF).

Learn more about Maine laboratory accreditation at https://tinyurl.com/Maine-Labs.

Public Water Systems in Maine

What is a Public Water System?

Public water systems provide water for human consumption through pipes and other constructed conveyances (distribution system) to at least 15 service connections, or serve a minimum average of 25 people per day for at least 60 days per year. The water is usually drawn from exclusive sources: some systems own wells, while others utilize surface water (e.g., lakes and streams).

Public water systems are divided into two categories: **Community** and **Non-Community**; Non-Community systems are further separated into **Transient** and **Non-Transient** groups.

- **Community** systems include municipal water districts, apartment buildings, nursing homes, and mobile home communities.
- **Non-Community Transient** public water systems include gas stations, parks, resorts, campgrounds, restaurants, golf courses, and hotels/motels.
- **Non-Transient, Non-Community (NTNC)** systems include schools, factories, office buildings, and hospitals.
- **Bottled Water/Vendor** systems include water bottling facilities and water vending machines.

Figure 2. Tabulation of Public Water Systems in Maine by Type and Total Population Served.

PWS Type	Active Systems in Maine	Population Served
Community	387	692,940
Non-Transient, Non-Community	394	63,285
Transient, Non-Community	1,130	189,641
Total Regulated	**1,911**	**945,866**

December, 2025

PWS Responsibilities

While the Drinking Water Program serves as the regulatory body for public water systems in Maine, the systems themselves are responsible for ensuring their ability to provide safe drinking water. These responsibilities include routine operations and maintenance, regular sampling of post-treatment drinking water, and reporting data to both the Drinking Water Program and the consumers they serve.

1. **Operations and Maintenance:** Regardless of size and complexity, no public water system can be fully automated. All systems require human oversight, and every piece of equipment requires some level of maintenance. Some water systems – Community and NTNC PWS, and any Transient systems that draw from surface water – must employ licensed water operators with qualifications that match the complexity of the water system's treatment requirements and overall source-to-distribution equipment.

To ensure all public water systems serve safe drinking water to the public, sanitary surveys are performed every three to five years. Sanitary surveys are routine inspections conducted by the DWP's Public Water System Inspectors.

2. **Routine Sampling:** Depending on the type of public water system and water source, water quality testing is required for a variety of contaminants on a routine basis. PWS must verify that the levels of contaminants present in the water do not exceed any MCLs (Maximum Contaminant Levels). Specific sampling requirements for public water systems may differ based on site specific characteristics and water quality results. Figure 3 details general sampling schedules by system type. (See Appendix A for a complete list of contaminants regulated in Maine.)

Figure 3. General sampling requirements by system type.

	Community		Non-Transient, Non-Community		Transient	
	Groundwater	Surface Water	Groundwater	Surface Water	Groundwater	Surface Water
Total Coliform Bacteria	Monthly or Quarterly	Monthly	Monthly or Quarterly	Monthly	Monthly or Quarterly	Monthly
Nitrates	**All:** Monthly - Quarterly - Annually					
Nitrites	**All:** Quarterly - Every 9 Years					
Inorganics **Volatile Organics**	Quarterly - Every 3 Years (Based on Results History)	Quarterly or Annually	Quarterly - Every 3 Years (Based on Results History)	Quarterly or Annually	State Monitoring Possibly Required (Based on Risk and Results History)	
Synthetic Organics *	**C / NTNC:** Quarterly - Every 9 Years (Based on Risk and Results History)				Not Applicable	
Lead and Copper	**C / NTNC:** Bi-Annually - Every 3 Years (Based on Population and Results History)					
Cyanide	**C / NTNC:** Quarterly - Every 9 Years					
Asbestos*	**C / NTNC:** Every 9 Years					
Radionuclides	Quarterly - Every 9 Years (Determined by Results History)		State Monitoring Possibly Required (Based on Risk and Results History)		State Monitoring Possibly Required (Based on Risk and Results History)	
Disinfection By-Products	Quarterly - Every 3 Years (Based on Population and Results History)	Quarterly - Annually (Based on Population and Results History)	Quarterly - Every 3 Years (Based on Population and Results History)	Quarterly - Annually (Based on Population and Results History)	Not Applicable	
PFAS	**C / NTNC** (NTNC Schools & Day Cares only): One Time - Annual (On-going Quarterly/Annually if exceedance/detect)					

***** Waivers are available to allow decreased sampling frequency.

Most systems are eligible to reduce the sampling frequency for many analytes based on sample result history (see Variances and Exemptions, pg. 12).

Reporting to the DWP

1. **Sample Results:** Public water systems send water samples to Maine-accredited laboratories for analysis, and these laboratories report the sample results to the DWP within the time-frame set by the system's specific requirement. Although the laboratory reports sample results to the DWP, the public water system is ultimately responsible for ensuring that water quality results are on time and correctly reported.

2. **Monthly Operating Reports:** All public water systems that add chemical(s) to their water systems for treatment are required to send monthly operating reports to the DWP by the tenth day of the following month.

These reports help track the amount of chemical used, daily production of the water system, and the amount of chemical residual present in the distribution system. The DWP reviews monthly operating reports to ensure that each public water system's treatment is operating efficiently and effectively, providing clean, safe drinking water.

Reporting to Consumers

1. **Consumer Confidence Reports:** Every year, community water systems are required to develop and distribute a Consumer Confidence Report. These reports detail the previous year's water quality information and must be shared with consumers and the DWP by July 1 every year. Public water systems are also required to provide evidence to the DWP that Consumer Confidence Reports were delivered to consumers.

2. **Public Notification:** The Public Notification Rule requires public water systems to notify consumers when a violation occurs. The scope and delivery method of public notices vary, depending on the type of violation.

Variances and Exemptions

A primacy state can grant a PWS a variance from a primary drinking water regulation if the characteristics of raw water sources reasonably available to the PWS do not allow the system to meet the MCL. To obtain a variance, the system must agree to install the best available technology, treatment techniques, or other means of limiting drinking water contamination that the EPA Administrator finds are available (taking costs into account), and the state must find that the variance will not result in an unreasonable risk to public health. A variance must be reviewed no less than every 5 years to determine if the PWS remains eligible.

A state with primacy may grant an exemption temporarily relieving a PWS of its obligation to comply with an MCL, treatment technique, or both if the system's noncompliance results from compelling factors (which may include economic factors) and the system was in operation on the effective date of the MCL or treatment technique requirement. The state will require the PWS to comply with the MCL or treatment technique as expeditiously as practicable, but no later than 3 years after the otherwise applicable compliance date.

Violations and Enforcement

Violations

Violations are issued when a public water system does not meet all of the requirements mandated by the Safe Drinking Water Act or the Maine Rules Related to Drinking Water.

Initial violations result in a Notice of Noncompliance (NON), advising the PWS of the drinking water requirements that were missed and the steps and timeline to be followed for returning to compliance. Quite often these will include submitting missing samples and/or required documentation as well as certification that a public notice was posted or distributed. Public notices advise consumers of the nature of the violation and the PWS's plan to correct the lapse in compliance.

If the instructions contained in the NON are followed, then the PWS will return to compliance and no further action is necessary. However, when a PWS does not follow the instructions for returning to compliance after a NON, the DWP begins the administrative enforcement process, outlined in Maine statute and the Maine Rules Relating to Drinking Water.

Health-Based and Non-Health-Based Violations

- **Health-based violations** are issued when water sample results show the presence of contaminant(s) at concentrations above a **maximum contaminant level** (MCL) or when a **treatment technique** (TT) requirement is not met. The maximum contaminant level is set by the EPA and is based on human health and safety standards. Treatment techniques are specified processes intended to reduce the level of a contaminant.

- **Non-health-based violations** are violations that are not directly related to human health and safety. These types of violations typically arise when public water systems fail to test drinking water for a regulated contaminant (**failure to monitor**, or FTM), neglect to report test results to the DWP (**failure to report**), and/or fail to alert their customers to violations of the SDWA (i.e., **public/consumer notification**).

Violation Types

- **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) Exceedance:** A maximum contaminant level is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. These levels are set as close as feasible to the Maximum Contaminant Level Goal, or MCLG. The MCLG is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk. When the MCL level is set for a contaminant, public health, available technology, and cost are all taken into consideration. If a PWS exceeds the MCL for any regulated contaminant, they are in violation of drinking water standards. Maximum contaminant levels for drinking water are set by the EPA.

- **Maximum Residual Disinfection Level (MRDL) Exceedance:** The EPA sets national limits on residual disinfectant levels in drinking water to reduce the risk of exposure to Disinfectant Byproducts (DBPs). DBPs are formed when public water systems add chemical disinfectant for either primary or residual treatment. These limits are known as Maximum Residual Disinfection Levels (MRDL).

- **Treatment Technique (TT) Failure:** Treatment techniques are water treatment processes that reduce the level of contamination in drinking water. For certain contaminants, the EPA establishes treatment techniques instead of an MCL, such as those established for viruses, bacteria, and turbidity under the Surface Water Treatment Rule. Other rules have established treatment techniques as well, such as conducting lead education or creating corrosion control treatment plans per the Lead and Copper Rule or failing to complete a level

assessment or corrective actions under the Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR). Failure to correctly follow treatment techniques is a violation.

- **Failure to Monitor (FTM):** All public water systems are required to regularly sample and test their water to ensure that it meets federal and State drinking water standards and is safe to drink. Every spring, the DWP provides water systems with their annual testing requirements. Water tests must be performed by a certified laboratory, and the test results must be submitted to the DWP. Failure to sample and test water as detailed in a PWS sampling schedule is a violation.

- **Failure to Report:** Public Water Systems are expected to generate a series of operational and maintenance reports over the course of a year, augmenting their scheduled sample tests. Some scheduled activities, such as seasonal start-up procedures, require the PWS to report their completion to the DWP.

  Furthermore, most violations include a reporting requirement, obliging the PWS

  1. to notify their consumers when a drinking water standard has been violated and the steps the system will take to correct the issue; and
  2. to notify the DWP when instructions included in a NON have been followed and the system is returning to compliance.

  Failure to provide required notification is a violation.

Calendar Year 2025 Summary of Violations

During discussions, in 2008, with EPA Region 1 and other New England States, the Maine Drinking Water Program has learned that other states do not increase sampling beyond federal requirements.

Maine does increase sampling above federal requirements in certain cases. Examples include:

- Maine may require a PWS to submit monthly/quarterly nitrate samples because of septic system set-back issues.
- In some circumstances, Maine may also require Transient Non-Community water systems to conduct quarterly monitoring for VOCs.
- Maine requires all Community and NTNC water systems to monitor for Radon, Radionuclides, and Fluoride during new well approval. Some NTNCs have been ordered to install radionuclide and fluoride removal treatment, with routine monitoring to ensure the equipment is operating properly.
- Maine has also ordered some Transient Non-Community water systems to install arsenic removal.

As a result, FTM and MCL violations for these cases may have been given a federal violation code instead of a state violation code. When looking at the detailed report, keep in mind that federal rules may not apply to that particular type of system, or that the State of Maine is more stringent in an effort to protect public health. The MDWP is continuing to review these violations, and is reassigning them as state violations when appropriate.

Summary of 2025 Violations by Rule

1. **Revised Total Coliform Rule (Bacteria)**
   - 12 MCL violations for 12 PWS
   - 624 FTM/Reporting violations for 340 PWS.
   - 117 Treatment Technique violations for 99 PWS
   - 48 Reporting violations for 47 PWS.

2. **Volatile Organic Contaminants (Phase II/V Rule)**

   - There were no MCL violations.
   - 3 FTM/Reporting violations for 3 PWS.

     Note: Because all VOCs are included in a single sample, one FTM/Reporting violation covers all of the regulated VOCs. Had a violation been issued for each regulated VOC not tested for in 2025, the total number of violations would have been 63.

3. **Synthetic Organic Contaminants (Phase II/V Rule)**

   - There were no MCL violations
   - 35 FTM/Reporting violations for 15 PWS.

4. **Inorganic Contaminants (Phase II/V Rule)**

   - 15 MCL violations for 9 PWS.
     - 11 Arsenic
     - 4 Nitrate
   - 87 Nitrate FTM/Reporting violations incurred for annual, quarterly, or monthly monitoring periods for 78 PWS.
   - 4 Arsenic FTM/Reporting violations for 4 PWS.
   - 6 FTM/Reporting violation for 4 PWS for the inorganic chemical (IOC) group test.
   - 5 FTM/Reporting violations for 5 PWS for various other IOC analytes.

5. **Lead and Copper Rule**

   - 32 Treatment Technique violations for 25 PWS.
   - 34 FTM/Reporting violations for 24 PWS.
   - 72 Consumer Notification and Public Education violations for 64 PWS.

6. **Radionuclides Rule**

   - 5 MCL violations for 3 systems
   - 8 FTM/Reporting violations for 8 PWS

7. **Surface Water Treatment Rule**

   - 3 SWTR Treatment Technique violations for 2 PWS.
   - 2 Turbidity Exceedance violations for 1 PWS
   - 2 Record Keeping violations for 2 PWS.
   - 4 FTM/Reporting violations for 3 PWS.

8. **Interim Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule**

   - There were no violations.

9. **Stage 2 Disinfectants / Disinfection By-Products Rule**

   - 11 MCL violations incurred among 5 PWS.
   - 24 FTM/Reporting violations for 19 PWS.

- 0 Qualified Operator Failure violations.

10. Consumer Confidence Rule

- 40 Consumer Notification violations.

11. Filter Backwash Recycle Rule

- There were no violations.

12. Long Term 1 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule

- There were no violations.

13. Groundwater Rule

- 23 Groundwater Rule Monitoring Violations for 18 PWS.

14. Public Notification Rule

- 866 Public Notification Rule violations for 366 PWS.

The complete report of PWS violations can be viewed or downloaded at https://tinyurl.com/MeDWP-ACR-2025-Full (PDF)

Enforcement

Enforcement action against a PWS occurs when the system violates federal or State drinking water regulations and does not address the non-compliance issue in a timely manner. Under its primacy agreement with EPA, as well as the Maine Water for Human Consumption Act, DWP is authorized to enforce State and federal drinking water regulations using administrative enforcement actions to address any PWS violations that remain out of compliance after an initial NON is mailed.

The following provides an overview of this administrative enforcement process.

1. **Administrative Consent Order:** In the rare occurrence that a PWS fails to meet the deadlines and requirements of the NON, the DWP will offer the system an Administrative Consent Order ("consent order"). A consent order is a signed agreement between the DWP and the PWS, wherein both parties agree to negotiated terms for bringing the PWS back into compliance. A schedule for compliance is set within the order for the PWS to follow.

   Consent orders include deadlines for both formalizing an agreement for returning to compliance as well as addressing outstanding violations. If any of those deadlines are missed, and the PWS has not requested an extension, the DWP may proceed to the next enforcement stage.

2. **Administrative Compliance Order and Conditional Penalty Assessment:** Should a PWS miss a deadline (without being granted an extension) or fail to meet the terms of the finalized consent order, an Administrative Compliance Order ("compliance order") is issued.

   A compliance order directs a PWS to return to compliance on a strict set of actions and deadlines. The terms of a compliance order are not negotiable; they generally detail a list of unresolved PWS violations, along with specific directives for resolving those violations. The order is final and binding; however, because it is a final agency action, the PWS may request an administrative hearing.

3. **Administrative Penalty Assessment:** An Administrative Penalty Assessment is an enforcement tool utilized by the DWP that enables the Program to assess monetary penalties (fines) should a PWS fail to meet its obligations under the compliance order. These penalties are determined by the severity of the accrued violations covered by the compliance order. If the DWP did not include an administrative penalty with the compliance order, the Program may assess an administrative penalty to the PWS after the system fails to meet the terms of the compliance order.

   If the PWS fails to pay a penalty within 30 days, DWP will refer the PWS to the Office of the Maine Attorney General (OAG) for civil enforcement, which could result in court action, including complaints for injunctive relief and civil penalties, as well as payment of attorney fees.

4. **Referral to Attorney General or the Environmental Protection Agency:** The Maine CDC will refer a PWS to either the OAG or EPA when the above stages of administrative enforcement actions are exhausted and the PWS remains out of compliance with drinking water regulations.

   In instances where a water system is referred to the OAG, a civil complaint will be filed against the PWS in District Court, seeking an order to address outstanding violations as well as administrative and civil penalties (and possible attorney fees).

   Ultimately, if the PWS does not comply with a Court Order, the Court may issue a Default Judgment that could include additional fines and penalties and, eventually, a warrant for the arrest of the PWS owner.

   In cases referred to the EPA, that agency will issue an administrative order requiring the PWS to take specific actions to return to compliance. These actions could include collecting samples, reporting results, installing water quality treatment, hiring a water operator, etc. However, once referred to the EPA, the PWS is subject to federal enforcement action under federal law, which could result in substantially higher fines and penalties than those under State law.

Enforcement Targeting Tool

The EPA's Enforcement Targeting Tool (ETT) is a method for determining which public water systems require enforcement actions. The tool extracts data from each primacy agency in the country, including the DWP, in order to identify public water systems with violations that do not appear to have been resolved or addressed. It uses a set formula based on violation type and on the length of time the violations have remained unresolved.

Using this formula, public water systems are prioritized for enforcement action in an effort to facilitate a return to compliance. Any public water system scoring 11 points or higher is considered "priority" status. The DWP must address or resolve priority status systems within 60 days of the EPA's quarterly Enforcement Targeting Tool report. Each quarter, the DWP researches the accuracy of all of Maine's priority-status public water systems on the Enforcement Targeting Tool list and reports progress or status of each system to the EPA.

Keeping Maine's Drinking Water Safe

The Drinking Water Program promotes a core message of four principles that ensure public water systems provide safe drinking water to their customers: **source protection**, **sampling**, **treatment**, and **maintenance of tanks and pipes**. The core message encourages water systems to continually work to identify, reduce, and eliminate risks and vulnerabilities to their water systems.

The four principles of the DWP's core message direct public water systems toward the overarching goal of ensuring safe drinking water for all their consumers. To that end, the DWP provides financial and consulting resources to help public water systems adhere to these principals. (See Financial Resources, pg. 23, and Capacity Development, pg. 7)

Source Protection

- **The Importance of Source Protection:** The ideal drinking water source is in a remote, forested natural area with no nearby sources of pollution. However, most water sources are located near more densely populated areas, increasing the vulnerability of the source to contamination. Contamination, whether from harmful chemicals or biological organisms, often comes from activities on the land close to a drinking water source.

  The Safe Drinking Water Act requires all public water systems to produce safe water through a multiple-barrier approach. Source protection is the first and most important component of these barriers. If pollutants never reach a drinking water source, the risk for human consumption is greatly diminished – even if other barriers fail. Additionally, treating a contaminated drinking water source is typically much more costly than protecting a drinking water source area.

- **Keeping Contamination Away:** Approval of a new public water system well requires contamination sources, particularly leach fields and underground fuel storage tanks, to be set back a minimum distance from the well. The Maine State Drinking Water Rules require all public water system wells to be 300 feet from potential sources of contamination and 1,000 feet from underground fuel storage tanks.

  When these setback distances cannot be met for unavoidable reasons, such as limited property size or wetlands, the DWP administers setback waiver policies that help to mitigate the increased risk created by reduced setbacks. Mitigation may include increased sampling, well construction requirements, or, in some cases, a pre-treated septic process or the installation of drinking water treatment for the removal of any contaminants from the water supply. The DWP's public water system inspectors administer these setback waiver policies whenever a well with reduced setback is proposed for approval.

- **Source Protection Measures**

  - **Synthetic Organic Compound (SOC) Waivers:** SOCs are man-made organic compounds that are less volatile (not as likely to escape into the atmosphere) when compared to *volatile* organics (VOCs) and other compounds. SOCs include herbicides, insecticides, pesticides, and/or fungicides that can be commonly found in runoff and wastewater discharges.

Per federal rule, all Community and Non-Transient Non-Community (NTNC) public water systems are required to test for SOCs at least once every 9 years (in three 3-year periods). Under a new process introduced in 2022, systems will perform their required SOC testing *based on the year of their next sanitary survey*. After that initial round of testing, systems will have the option to apply for waivers from SOC testing for two periods in the 9-year timeframe. (Systems will be ineligible for a waiver during the *third* 3-year period, as they are required to test for all SOCs at least once every 9 years). Any system that does not submit a waiver application will be required to collect during the next 3-year period.

Determinations on waivers are based on land use activities in the vicinity of any active water well(s). Following DWP review, systems may receive full- or partial waivers. However, any system found to be ineligible for a waiver will be required to test every 3 years (or quarterly, if they have treatment for SOCs or if they have detected SOCs in compliance sampling).

It should be noted that SOC rules follow a complex set of parameters. A system's SOC schedule might be for 9-year, 3-year, annual, or quarterly testing, based on risk and sample results. It is conceivable that a system may be on a 9-year schedule for certain SOCs, but on 3-year or quarterly schedules for others.

As mentioned, systems will transition to this new SOC process in conjunction with their next sanitary survey. Until then, systems should continue to test for SOCs per previous requirements (refer to most recent SOC waiver letters and required testing sheets). Systems will not receive SOC waiver applications or approval letters from the DWP during this interim period; previous waiver/testing schedules will remain in effect for each system until they transition to the new process.

- **Filtration Avoidance:** The Surface Water Treatment Rule requires all public water systems with sources from surface water or groundwater under the influence of surface water to disinfect and filter the drinking water they provide to their consumers.

  Only those systems demonstrating compliance with the most stringent water quality criteria set forth in the Rule may qualify for filtration avoidance. Maine has nine community water systems that qualify for, and currently maintain, filtration avoidance (see Appendix B for full list).

Sampling

- **The Importance of Sampling:** Sampling is considered the best way of determining the quality of drinking water and ensuring it is free of contaminants such as lead, arsenic, nitrates, and bacteria. In Maine, public water systems are required to regularly test the water they provide to consumers and report the results to the DWP. The Safe Drinking Water Act lists 86 contaminants for which water systems must test. (See Appendix A for a complete list of regulated contaminants.) Any test results exceeding the standard (MCL) may require treatment, replacement of source, or blending with other sources to reduce the contamination level. Testing schedules are based on a frequency that is reasonable for the protection of public health.

Not only does sampling ensure that the water is safe to drink, doing so on a regular schedule will also indicate whether a water system is performing the way it is designed. Sample results can help draw attention to potentially serious problems with the source, treatment, or distribution system.

Treatment

- **The Importance of Treatment:** Although no two public water systems are exactly the same, they all share the same goal of providing safe, reliable drinking water to the communities they serve. To meet this goal, many water systems must treat their water to remove potentially harmful contaminants. The types of treatment provided by a public water system vary depending on the size of the system, the source (groundwater or surface water), and the quality of the source water. An important part of delivering safe drinking water, treatment is only successful when the proper chemicals are applied in the correct amounts and all equipment and materials are regularly maintained and monitored. Effective oversight of treatment systems helps to ensure that high-quality drinking water is delivered to the public.

Maintaining Pipes and Storage Tanks

- **The Importance of Maintaining Pipes and Storage Tanks:** A water system's distribution system, a network of piping and storage tanks, is an integral part of its ability to provide safe, clean water to consumers. It is important for water systems to regularly inspect their distribution systems as contaminants can enter drinking water through damaged pipes or tanks. Routine inspection and maintenance may also help water systems save money if they are able to find and repair leaks in a timely manner to abate water loss.

Water Protection

It is due to its overarching responsibility to protect public health that the Drinking Water Program resides within the Maine CDC. And there was a time when protecting public health focused primarily on the drinking water providers and their end product. This is not to imply there are persistent "bad actors" dominating the public's access to drinking water. Rather, our knowledge and understanding of what constitutes safe drinking water has progressed over time; as those understandings have developed, public water systems have adapted accordingly to better ensure their consumers' safety. Improved testing and treatment and the removal of toxic infrastructure have resulted in safe drinking water at virtually every tap served by a PWS in Maine. But today we find that a broader scope is necessary to ensure that safety; in the new landscape, external forces dominate the threats to safe drinking water – and yes: there are some bad actors out there.

Established as a section of the DWP in 2024, **Water Protection** has been tasked with helping public water systems anticipate and mitigate the external influences that threaten their drinking water supplies from source to distribution. Today, threatening influences come in many forms, from pathogens and synthetic chemicals leaching into groundwater to extreme environmental events and cyber criminals. The Drinking Water Program continues to urge PWS to understand these threats and remain vigilant, taking whatever precautions are necessary to maintain the delivery of safe drinking water.

Subsurface Wastewater

The Subsurface Wastewater unit adopts and enforces Maine's rules that regulate subsurface sewage disposal systems, the licensing of persons to evaluate soils for subsurface wastewater disposal systems, and inspection of plumbing and subsurface wastewater disposal systems. The importance of these undertakings cannot be overlooked, as the influence of wastewater can have a profound impact on the safety of drinking water sources and the health of water consumers.

As a predominantly rural state, Maine relies heavily on decentralized sewage disposal facilities for human waste – i.e., septic systems. The State of Maine has regulated septic systems as a means of protecting public health since 1920, to varying degrees. Over the years, the Maine State Plumbing Code and the State of Maine Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules have been administered by the Maine CDC and its predecessors.

The Subsurface Wastewater unit's primary responsibility is contributing to the protection of public health by ensuring subsurface wastewater disposal systems meet the requirements set forth in State and federal rules and statutes. Roles and responsibilities of the Subsurface Wastewater unit include:

- Administration of rules pertaining to subsurface wastewater disposal in Maine:
  - State of Maine Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules (CMR 241),
  - Rules for Appointment and Administration of Local Plumbing Inspectors (CMR 240), and
  - Rules for Site Evaluators of Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Systems (CMR 245).
- Maintaining copies of all plumbing and subsurface wastewater permits issued statewide.
- Licensing site evaluators for subsurface wastewater disposal systems.
- Providing reviews of engineering plans for compliance with or variance from departmental rules in support of the Division's various program areas.
- Conducting site inspections to assist site evaluators, local officials, and property owners.
- Administration of a voluntary subsurface wastewater disposal system installers certification program, in association with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection.

- Review and approval of cemeteries, crematoria, crypts, and mausoleums.
- Providing resources and advice for partnering government agencies, including the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Land Use Planning Commission (LUPC), Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry, and Maine Department of Education.

Water Resources and Resilience

Working with public water systems and associated stakeholders, the Water Resources and Resilience unit provides guidance on identifying and withstanding – or recovering from – events that pose a danger to drinking water sources, treatment, and distribution. The Water Resources and Resilience unit works with Public Water Systems as a partner in:

- Emergency response
- Source protection
- Cyber/physical security
- Climate resilience

Financial Resources

The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

The maintenance and improvement of Maine's infrastructure is essential to our economy, health, safety, security and to the environment. The SRF provides a vital pathway toward these goals.

The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) is a State-operated program that provides financial assistance to Maine public water systems, helping to ensure safe drinking water and provide essential public health protection. Funding for drinking water infrastructure improvement projects – upgrading or replacing water system pipes, treatment plants, storage tanks, and sources of water – is available as low interest loans. Disadvantaged Community Water Systems may receive further assistance through principal forgiveness.

Federal allocations for the fund were included in the 1996 amendments to the SDWA, while states match 20% of Federal grant dollars. This means that every dollar invested by the State of Maine secures five Federal dollars.

A portion of the DWSRF is used to fund non-construction projects that help improve and protect drinking water quality in Maine. These programs provide funds for source water protection, technical assistance, system capacity development assistance, and land acquisition.

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Maine Municipal Bond Bank (MMBB) administer the DWSRF together. The Drinking Water Program is the lead administrator, responsible for project management and technical support, as well as overseeing the construction activities for projects funded by the DWSRF. The MMBB is the financial administrator and oversees the loan application process and tracks money to and from the fund.

Historically, it has been the trend that Public Water Systems will undertake major improvement programs once every 5-10 years, generally replacing less than 3% of their aging or obsolete infrastructure. At this rate, many systems' assets will age to failure.

Since the DWSRF Program was introduced in 1997, hundreds of projects have been funded in Maine, with a total outlay of hundreds of millions of dollars. In August, 2021, a decision to blend Federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funds for increased principal forgiveness was announced.

The DWSRF continues to play a critical role in Maine's future by supporting the provision of safe drinking water for Mainers. Repayments from past DWSRF loans return over $10 million per year, going on to provide loans for new projects. With the "revolving" nature of the DWSRF, that amount will continue to increase as the DWSRF loan pool continues to grow.

Still, the current aging infrastructure replacement rate is inadequate. Funding levels below demand levels is only one factor in the inadequate infrastructure replacement rate. Many water systems are only addressing their most critical needs to minimize rate increases on customers. Consequently, the true funding gap is much larger than is currently suggested by project requests. Local leaders will increasingly need to make difficult choices to ensure water systems remain viable into the future.

Non-Construction Funding Assistance

Highlights

The following grant programs address specific concerns that could impact the ability of a public water system to provide safe drinking water.

- **Source Water Protection Grants:** The Source Water Protection Grant Program awards grants to community and non-profit, non-community public water systems for projects that will help protect their *surface water* source from contamination. Specifically, grants are awarded for projects that demonstrate a commitment to the ongoing protection of a drinking water source.

- **Wellhead Protection Grants:** The Wellhead Protection Grant Program awards grants to community and non-profit, non-community public water systems for projects that will help to protect their *groundwater* source from contamination. As with Source Water Protection grants, these grants are awarded for projects that demonstrate a commitment to the ongoing protection of a drinking water source.

- **Water System Asset Security Grants:** Water System Asset Security Grants are for planning or implementing security measures to protect water system assets. Community and non-profit, non-community public water systems are eligible. Examples of applicable projects include, but are not limited to, planning and/or implementation of physical security measures, implementation of cybersecurity projects*****, and risk and resilience assessment for public water systems serving under 3,300 people. (*****Cybersecurity assessments are required for these types of projects.)

- **Capacity Development Grants:** Capacity Development Grants provide funds for public water systems seeking to develop or improve their technical, financial, and/or managerial operations (i.e., *capacity*). Water systems can receive grants for up to 50% of the cost of a study or review that will generate a report detailing possible improvements in system management, finances, and water quality.

  Maximum grant amount, $20,000.

- **Small System Compliance Loan:** The Small System Compliance Loan Program was established in 2010 specifically to assist small water systems that are experiencing regulatory compliance issues. Eligible systems include all community systems not regulated by the Public Utilities Commission that have a population of 500 or less, and all non-transient, non-community water systems that operate as not-for-profit. Examples include mobile home parks, apartment buildings, nursing homes, and schools.

  This loan program provides 100% principal forgiveness (up to $50,000) for water treatment improvements necessary to achieve compliance with a current or future SDWA requirement, excluding the Revised Total Coliform Rule. Examples of eligible projects include, but are not limited to, treatment systems to resolve compliance issues with lead, copper, radon, arsenic, or antimony levels.

- **Water System Consolidation Grants:** Water System Consolidation Grants provide partial funding to join two water systems. Qualifying public water systems must have technical, managerial, and/or financial capacity issues that will be addressed by consolidating with a more viable public water system. The more viable, receiving public water system must have no technical, managerial, or financial capacity issues. Finally, the consolidation cannot result in capacity issues for the overall system.

  The Consolidation Grant funds up to 50 percent of the cost of the water system consolidation for for-profit facilities, and up to 75 percent of the cost for not-for-profit facilities, with a maximum reimbursement of up to $100,000.

- **Land Acquisition Loans:** The Land Acquisition Loan program provides low interest loans to community and non-profit non-community public water systems for the purchase or legal control of land in drinking water source protection areas. Land acquisition is a key component of safe and secure drinking water and the protection of public health. Shoreline and direct watershed land use and development have a major impact on the quality of water available to a water system and control of those land uses is an extremely cost-effective way of managing future water treatment cost.

The 1996 Amendments to the SDWA stress the importance of preventing drinking water contamination through source water protection and water system management. The EPA has long maintained that "the best way to control activities within sensitive areas is to purchase land and/or development rights to that land."[1]

Land Acquisition Loans continue to be made available to any water system that is presented with the opportunity to purchase land integral to the protection of their drinking water system. Land acquisition loans have ranged from a purchase of 2.3 acres all the way up to nearly 1,200 acres.

In 2019, the DWP updated the Land Acquisition Loan program to encourage more systems to invest in protecting their source waters. These low-interest loans will now be eligible for 50% principal forgiveness (up to $50,000) for the purchase of land and/or conservation easement in a drinking water source protection area.

[1] *Source Water Protection: Best Management Practices and Other Measures for Protecting Drinking Water Supplies* – US Environmental Protection Agency, 2003 https://tinyurl.com/EPASWP-2003

For a complete list of DWP funding options, please turn to Appendix C.

Challenges, Initiatives, and Milestones

PFAS in Public Water Systems

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are man-made chemicals that have been widely used since the 1940s in consumer products and industrial applications. Due to their widespread use and persistence in the environment, most people in the United States have been exposed to some level of PFAS. There is evidence to suggest that continued exposure above specific levels to certain PFAS may lead to adverse health effects.

With the passage of S.P. 64 (Resolve, To Protect Consumers of Public Drinking Water by Establishing Maximum Contaminant Levels for Certain Substances and Contaminants), the Maine legislature mandated that all Community and NTNC schools and childcare facilities test their finished drinking water for PFAS. One hundred percent of these 679 systems have performed PFAS testing, and approximately ten percent of them reported PFAS levels above Maine's interim standard of 20 parts per trillion (ppt). Almost all of these systems have addressed their PFAS, mostly by installing treatment. The DWP is working to implement new federal and State PFAS regulations that impose more stringent Maximum Contaminant Levels and therefore impact additional Public Water Systems.

Revisions to the Lead and Copper Rule

EPA's new Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) and Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) better protect children and communities from the risks of lead exposure by testing schools and childcare facilities, identifying and removing lead service lines from distribution systems, and enhancing the information available to communities and customers.

The Maine Drinking Water Program is implementing these provisions according to the established schedule. The required Lead Service Line (LSL) Inventories have been completed, and out of approximately 290,000 service lines in the State, only 29 LSLs have been identified. This is in large part due to a statewide ban on the installation of LSLs in the 1926 State Plumbing Code. Implementation of these new regulations will continue, with additional investigation, monitoring and public notification.

Extreme Weather Preparedness

EPA sources suggest that the northeastern United States will likely experience more drought, more frequent intense rainfall events, and more tropical cyclone activity (hurricanes and similar storms) in the future. The DWP is working with our response partners at EPA, the Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), County Emergency Management Agencies, the Maine Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (MEWARN), and public water systems to better prepare ourselves for extreme weather event impacts to public water supply operations.

The DWP website includes resources that can be used to increase PWS situational awareness and provides content for extreme weather response planning and exercising. Resources are available for weather – and weather-related – events including:

- Drought
- Extreme Cold
- Power Outages
- Extreme Heat
- Flooding
- Hurricanes

Cybersecurity

The water sector continues to be a target for cyber threat actors. In recent years, Public Water Systems in Maine have experienced a variety of cyber breaches, including ransomware attacks, surreptitious installation of software and key loggers by cyber criminals, loss of SCADA functionality, and loss of data and other information. DWP considers cyber threats to be a high priority.

Threat Update: The DWP understands that ransomware and business email compromise attacks are currently increasing nation-wide. DWP has anecdotally observed this trend in Maine as well.

- **Ransomware** is a form of malicious software that encrypts (locks) files or an entire computer to make them unusable until a ransom is paid. Paying the ransom does not guarantee decryption. For more information, visit the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) ransomware website: https://www.cisa.gov/stopransomware/general-information.
- **Business Email Compromise** (BEC) is a cyberattack scam in which a cybercriminal impersonates a known contact and sends an email to the victim seemingly from this known source. If the cybercriminal is successful, the victim will believe the cybercriminal is a trusted vendor or colleague. The scam can play-out in a variety of ways, including the victim paying for real contractor services to a fraudulent account as requested by the cybercriminal, or sharing employee direct deposit information with the cybercriminal. The FBI reported that Maine experienced approximately 29% more BEC attacks in 2025 compared to 2024 alone.

Cybersecurity Resources to help public water systems increase their cyber resilience:

- Launched in July 2024, the **Cybersecurity and PWS Resilience** page of the DWP website offers guidance and resources to help public water systems protect their digital infrastructure. The DWP's Cybersecurity Plan can be found on this page: https://tinyurl.com/MaineDWP-Cybersecurity
- The DWP Cybersecurity and Resilience Plan officially kicked off in January of 2024. The Plan articulated goals of having the largest systems in the state assessed by cybersecurity subject matter experts (SMEs) within the first year of implementation, and working with SMEs to get the remaining systems serving more than 3,300 persons assessed during year 2. As of May 29, 2026, eleven of the PWSs in Maine have completed assessments conducted by Maine Army National Guard and CISA.
- DWP provides timely cybersecurity alerts via GovDelivery to notify PWSs of new and emerging cybersecurity threats and vulnerabilities.
- DWP collaborated with CISA and EPA to host tabletop exercises and workshops on cybersecurity focused on Maine PWSs in 2025. Later in 2026, DWP, in collaboration with MWUA and Tom's Water Solutions, will be coordinating to hold an event series on manual operations for PWSs in response to all-hazards, including cybersecurity.
- In 2026, DWP created a new quick reference guide for responding to initial notifications of a security incident (including cybersecurity) for DWP staff, which has already been put into action.
- Some cybersecurity assessments and improvements are eligible for funding under the DWP **Water System Asset Security Grant.** To learn more, visit the Drinking Water Program's Financial Resources webpage https://tinyurl.com/DWP-Funding
- The EPA's ***Incident Action Checklist - Cybersecurity*** is a short yet rigorous guide to help public water systems prepare for, respond to, and recover from a cyberattack. https://tinyurl.com/EPA-IAC-Cybersecurity.

- For a more detailed read on increasing cybersecurity resilience for water and wastewater systems, see Water ISAC's ***12 Cybersecurity Fundamentals for Water and Wastewater Utilities,*** *Recommended Practices to Reduce Exploitable Weaknesses and Consequences of Attacks*, online at https://tinyurl.com/WaterISAC-Cybersecurity-12.

  CISA's Shields Up Campaign website also has additional resources for cybersecurity: https://www.cisa.gov/shields-up

- **Cybersecurity resources** from the American Water Works Association (AWWA) can be found here: https://www.awwa.org/resource/cybersecurity-guidance/.

Appendix A

Contaminants in Drinking Water Regulated by the Maine Drinking Water Program

1. Microorganisms

- Total Coliform
- *E. coli*
- *Cryptosporidium*
- *Giardia lamblia*
- Heterotrophic bacteria/Heterotrophic Plate Count (HPC)
- *Legionella*
- Viruses
- Turbidity

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2. Inorganic Chemicals (IOC)

- Antimony
- Arsenic
- Asbestos
- Barium
- Beryllium
- Cadmium
- Chromium (Total)
- Copper
- Cyanide
- Fluoride
- Lead
- Mercury
- Nickel (no federal regulation, but may require treatment)
- Nitrates (measured as Nitrogen)
- Nitrites (measured as Nitrogen)
- Selenium
- Thallium

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3. Radionuclides (RAD)

- Gross Alpha
- Uranium
- Combined Radium (226 & 228)
- Radon

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4. Disinfectants and Disinfection By-products (DBP)

- Bromate
- Chloramines
- Chlorine
- Chlorine Dioxide
- Chlorite
- Ozone
- Total Organic Carbon (TOC)
- Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)
- Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)

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5. Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC)

- 1,1,1-Trichloroethane
- 1,1,2-Trichloroethane
- 1,1-Dichloroethylene
- 1,2,4- Trichlorobenzene
- 1,2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane (Statewide waiver)
- 1,2-Dichloroethane

- 1,2-Dichloropropane
- Benzene
- Carbon Tetrachloride
- Chlorobenzene
- Cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene
- Dichloromethane
- Ethylbenzene
- Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether-MTBE (Maine-regulated)
- o-Dichlorobenzene
- p-Dichlorobenzene
- Styrene
- Tetrachloroethylene
- Toluene
- Trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene
- Trichloroethylene
- Vinyl chloride
- Xylenes (total)

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6. Synthetic Organic Compounds (SOC)

- Acrylamide
- Alachlor (Lasso)
- Atrazine
- Benzo(a)pyrene (PAHs) (waived unless facility uses/stores concrete, asphalt, tar, or coal, or has incinerators)
- Di (2-ethylhexyl) adipate
- Di (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate
- Dioxin (2,3,7,8-TCDD) (Statewide waiver)
- Endrin
- Epichlorohydrin
- Ethylene dibromide (Statewide waiver)
- Glyphosate (Statewide waiver)
- Heptachlor
- Heptachlor epoxide
- Hexachlorobenzene
- Hexachlorocyclopentadiene
- Hexazanone/ Velpar (Maine-regulated)
- Lindane (BHC gamma)
- Methoxychlor
- Simazine
- Chlordane
- Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) (Maine-regulated)
- Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)
- Toxaphene
- 2,4,5 – TP (Silvex)
- 2, 4-D
- Dalapon
- Dinoseb
- Pentachlorophenol (can be waived unless a woodworking facility is nearby)
- Picloram
- Carbofuran
- Oxamyl (Vydate)
- Diquat
- Endothall

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7. Water Quality Parameters (WQP)

- Alkalinity
- Calcium
- Orthophosphate
- pH
- Silica

Appendix B

PWS Maintaining Filtration Avoidance (Surface-water sources)

- **Auburn Water District:**
  Lake Auburn
- **Bangor Water District:**
  Floods Pond
- **Brewer Water Department:**
  Hatcase Pond
- **Great Salt Bay Sanitary District:**
  Little Pond
- **Lewiston Water and Sewer Division:**
  Lake Auburn
- **Mount Desert Water District:**
  Lower Hadlock Pond
  Jordan Pond
- **Portland Water District:**
  Sebago Lake
- **Presque Isle Utility District:**
  Presque Isle Stream
- **Town of Bar Harbor Water Division:**
  Eagle Lake

Appendix C

Complete List of Non-SRF Financial Assistance Options

Learn more about DWP funding options at https://tinyurl.com/DWP-Funding

- **Grants**
  - **Capacity Development Grants:** Grant money available to public water systems to enhance system capacity.
  - **Lead Service Line Inventory Assistance Grants:** Grants for Community or Non-Transient, Non-Community water systems to assist with lead service line inventory activities.
  - **Source Protection Grant Program:** Grants for the protection of public drinking water sources, available to community or non-profit, non-community public water systems using surface water and groundwater.
  - **System Consolidation Grants:** Partial funding (grant money) available to water systems for the purpose of consolidation with another water system.
  - **Very Small System Capacity Development Grants:** Grant money available to public water systems with a population of 100 or less to enhance system capacity.
  - **Very Small System Compliance Loan Fund:** 100% principal forgiveness loans for water treatment improvements required to achieve compliance with Safe Drinking Water Act standards (excluding the Total Coliform Rule)
  - **Very Small System Total Coliform Grants:** Grant money available to Community and not-for-profit Non-Community public water systems with a population of 100 or less to install a continuous chlorination disinfection system that is needed to achieve compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act standards.
  - **Water System Asset Security Grant:** Grants to community or non-profit, non-community public water systems for planning or implementing security measures to protect water system assets.

- **PFAS Grants**
  - **Resolving PFAS Contamination**
    - **Small Disadvantaged Community Emerging Contaminant Grant:** Grants to small or disadvantaged community systems to address PFAS contamination.
    - **Small Public Water System Emerging Contaminant Grant:** Grants to small Community or Non-Transient, Non-Community public water systems to address PFAS contamination issues.
    - **Emerging Contaminant Grant** (Larger Systems)**:** Grants to Community or Non-Transient, Non-Community public water systems to address PFAS contamination issues.
    - **Emerging Contaminant Consolidation Grant:** Grants to Community and NTNC public water systems to address PFAS contamination and allow consolidation with a municipal PWS that does not have a PFAS exceedance.

- **Planning and Pilot Studies for PFAS Contamination**
  - **Very Small System Emerging Contaminant Planning Grant:** Grants to very small Community or Non-Transient, Non-Community public water systems to study and assess PFAS contamination issues.
  - **Emerging Contaminant Planning Grant:** Grants to Community public water systems to study and assess PFAS contamination issues.
- **Private Wells with PFAS**
  - **Water Main Extension to Private Wells Containing PFAS:** Grants to Community public water systems for extending distribution areas to homes with PFAS-contaminated wells.

- **Loans**
  - **Emergency Construction Fund:** Loans for water systems where recent unexpected events pose a serious threat to health and welfare.
  - **Land Acquisition Loans:** Low interest loans to community or non-profit, non-community public water systems for purchase or legal control of drinking water source protection areas.
  - **Lead Service Line Project Loan:** Loans to build lead service line inventories, replace lead service lines, or do galvanized replacements.
  - **Project Capital Improvements Loan:** Financing for infrastructure improvements needed for compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act and to protect public health

Appendix D

Online Resources

- **Maine CDC Drinking Water Program:** www.medwp.com
- **2025 Annual Compliance Report – All Violations:** https://tinyurl.com/MeDWP-ACR-2025-Full
- **Subsurface Wastewater:** https://tinyurl.com/SSWW-Maine
- **Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention:** https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/

- **Maine Drinking Water Statutes and Rules:** https://tinyurl.com/DWP-Statutes-Rules-Policies
- **Safe Drinking Water Act:** https://tinyurl.com/PL104-182SDWA
- **State of Maine Drinking Water Rule:** https://tinyurl.com/DWRule-10-144-CMR-Ch-231
- **Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rule:** https://tinyurl.com/SSWWRule-10-144-CMR-Ch-241

- **Maine Drinking Water Commission:** https://tinyurl.com/MEDWCommission
- **Maine Board of Licensure of Water System Operators:** https://tinyurl.com/ME-Water-Operators
- **Maine Water Well Commission:** https://tinyurl.com/Me-WDC

- **Maine Department of Environmental Protection:** https://www.maine.gov/dep/
- **US Environmental Protection Agency:** https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water
- **Maine Rural Water Association:** https://www.mainerwa.org
- **US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:** https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/drinking/index.html

Appendix E

Contact the Maine CDC Drinking Water Program

Address:

286 Water Street, 3rd Floor
State House Station 11
Augusta, ME 04333-0011

Online: www.medwp.com

Phone:

- Main Line: (207) 287-2070
- Emergency: (207) 557-4214
  (Nights, weekends, and holidays only)
- TTY: Maine relay 711
- Fax: (207) 287-4172

Leadership Directory

Program Administration

Drinking Water Program Director
Amy Lachance
(207) 557-2380

Robin Frost
Deputy Program Director
(207) 287-8411

David Welch
Program Support Specialist
(207) 287-3056

Data Management and Program Support

Section Manager
Robin Frost
SDWIS Administrator
(207) 287-8411

Compliance Assurance

Mackenzie Bardelli – Unit Leader
Compliance Assurance Supervisor
(207) 441-9244

Rule Administration

Amilyn Stillings – Unit Leader
Rule Administrator
(207) 287-6472

Engineering/State Revolving Fund (SRF)

Section Manager
McKenzie Parker, PE
Chief Engineer
(207) 557-2255

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

Eduard Chenette, PE –Unit Leader
Senior Engineer
(207) 215-9262

Field Services

Section Manager
Maraquita Hollman
(207) 592-6312

Laboratory Accreditation/Certification

Section Manager
Christine Blais
Lab Accreditation Officer
(207) 287-3220

Water Protection

Section Manager
Alex Pugh
Senior Environmental Hydrogeologist
(207) 592-2086

Subsurface Wastewater

Alex Pugh – Unit Leader
Senior Environmental Hydrogeologist
(207) 592-2086

Water Resources and Resilience

Susan Breau, CG – Unit Leader
Hydrogeologist
(207) 592-6981

Appendix F

Glossary of Acronyms

AWWA	American Water Works Association
BEC	Business Email Compromise
CDC	Center for Disease Control and Prevention
CISA	Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (U.S.)
DEP	Department of Environmental Protection (Maine)
DO	Designated Operator
DWP	Drinking Water Program (Maine)
DWSRF	Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency (U.S.)
ETT	Enforcement Targeting Tool
FTM	Failure to Monitor
GWR	Groundwater Rule
IOC	Inorganic Compounds
LCR	Lead and Copper Rule
LUPC	Land Use Planning Commission (Maine)
M/R	Monitoring and Reporting
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level
MCLG	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal
MEMA	Maine Emergency Management Agency
MEWARN	Maine Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network
MRDL	Maximum Residual Disinfection Level
MRWA	Maine Rural Water Association
NON	Notice of Non-compliance
NTNC	Non-Transient, Non-Community
OAG	Office of the Attorney General (Maine)
PFAS	Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances
PO	Primary Operator
PWS	Public Water System
PWSI	Public Water System Inspector
PWSS	Public Water System Supervision
RTCR	Revised Total Coliform Rule (U.S.)
SCADA	Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition
SDWA	Safe Drinking Water Act (U.S.)
SDWIS	Safe Drinking Water Information System
SOC	Synthetic Organic Compounds
SWTR	Surface Water Treatment Rule (U.S.)
TT	Treatment Technique
VOC	Volatile Organic Compound
WHCA	Water for Human Consumption Act (Maine)