

2022 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Bethel Water District

Bethel, Maine
PWSID ME0090160

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 comes from five drilled groundwater wells located in Bethel ranging from 36-40 feet in depth. The wells are treated with chlorine to protect from possible bacterial contaminants and fluoride to promote dental health. Our system serves a population of 1,405 customers through 656 service connections.

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 Lucien Roberge, Superintendent at 207-824-2342 or bwd@megalink.net or mailing address 800 North Road, Bethel, ME 04217. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the third Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. at the Bethel Town Office Meeting Room on Main Street.

WATER QUALITY

Bethel 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, 2022.

Waiver Information

In 2022, due to efforts to protect the water supply, our system was granted a "Synthetic Organics Waiver. This is a three-year exemption from the monitoring/reporting requirements for the following industrial chemical(s): herbicides, carbamate pesticides, toxaphene/chlordane/PCB and semivolatile organics. This waiver was granted due to the absence of these potential sources of contamination within a half mile radius of the water source.

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 man-made. 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

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.

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)

pos = positive samples.

ppb = parts per billion or micrograms per liter (µg/L)

ppt = parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/L)

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.

PFAS - The degree of risk depends on the level of chemicals and duration of exposure. Laboratory studies of animals exposed to high doses of PFAS have shown numerous negative effects such as issues with reproduction, growth and development, thyroid function, immune system, neurology, as well as injury to the liver. Research is still relatively new, and more needs to be done to fully assess exposure effects on the human body.

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.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Since our system chlorinates its water, we are required to report our annual average for chlorine residual.

Chlorine Residual was found to be 0.25 ppm, with a range of 0.18 ppm to 0.41 ppm.

VIOLATIONS

Violation Period

12/30/22 - 1/4/23

7/1/22 -

Violation Type

66 Violation – LEAD CONSUMER NOTICE (LCR) LEAD & COPPER RULE

71 Violation – CCR REPORT CONSUMER CONFIDENCE RULE

As a community public water system, we are required to provide a consumer confidence report to our customers on an annual basis. The consumer confidence report provides customers with information regarding the source and quality of the drinking water supplied to them as well as information on any violations that occurred during that time period.

In 2022, the Maine Drinking Water Program did not receive the certification of completion for distribution of CCR's. We resubmitted via email instead of using US Mail to insure they received it. A paperwork issue.

We are required to notify customers who participate in our lead/copper testing of their individual lead results. In 2022, we used our own form for test results sent to participants and the Maine Drinking Water wanted us to use their form. A paperwork issue.