SEARSPORT WATER DISTRICT

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2025 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

Welcome to SWD's 2025 Consumer Confidence Report

(January 1, 2025 thru December 31, 2025)

This report provides you with information regarding the quality of your drinking water along with other information related to the administrative and construction activities for 2025. We know that you count on us daily to meet your drinking water needs and rest assured our staff members are all well trained and dedicated with providing you the best service possible. Our inline analyzers monitor chlorine and pH levels 24 hours a day and water samples are taken throughout the system on a monthly basis and submitted to a State certified testing laboratory to assure your water meets all EPA and State requirements. We believe that we have some of the best drinking water in the State of Maine, and we take our jobs very seriously when it comes to protecting it.

Trustee Meetings are now held at 2:00 PM on the third Wednesday every month at the District Office located at: 46 Prospect Street, Searsport, ME unless otherwise posted

Where Does Your Water Come From?

The primary water supply for the Searsport Water District comes from a single gravel packed well located along Rte. 1A in Prospect, Maine near the Stockton Springs Town line. The water that supplies our wells comes from a large underground aquifer and is recharged primarily in the form of precipitation and can provide us with up to 600 gallons per minute. The land surrounding the well is currently undeveloped and much of it is owned by the Searsport Water District. We also maintain a smaller backup well and share an emergency interconnection with the Belfast Water District. The emergency interconnection allows both Searsport and Belfast to provide water to each other in the event of an emergency or when performing necessary routine maintenance of our wells. Redundancy ensures that we have ample water during emergency events.

Source Water Assessment

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. The Maine Drinking Water Program (DWP) has evaluated all public water supplies as part of the Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP). The assessments included geology, hydrology, land uses, water testing information and the extent of land ownership or protection by local ordinance to see how likely our drinking water source is to being contaminated by human activities in the future. Assessment results are available at town offices and public water systems.

ABOUT THE REGULATIONS

The Safe Drinking Water Act directs the State, along with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), to establish and enforce minimum drinking water standards. These standards set limits on certain biological, radioactive, organic substances sometimes found in drinking water. Two types of standards have been established. Primary drinking water standards are achievable levels of drinking water quality to protect your health. Secondary drinking water standards provide guidelines regarding taste, odor, color, and other aesthetic aspects of your drinking water which do not present a health risk.

Water System Data & Treatment

The Searsport Water District provides drinking water and fire protection to approximately 1157 customers via 32 +/- miles of water mains. We also maintain three (3) in-ground concrete reservoirs which have a combined storage capacity of approximately 1.7 million gallons of treated water. Our treatment process is simple and very effective. It includes aeration for removal of both, Radon and dissolved Carbon Dioxide (CO_2). In addition we add a minimal amount of Sodium Hypochlorite (liquid bleach) for disinfection. Removal of CO_2 increases the pH of our drinking water thus significantly reducing corrosion within the distribution system and household plumbing. This is all necessary to maintain the quality of your water while meeting, and in most cases, exceeding all EPA standards.

Water Test Results

CONTAMINANT	DATE	RESULTS	MCL	MCLG	Possible Sources of Contamination
Microbiological					
Coliform (TCR) (9)	2025	**0 pos**	1 pos/month or 5%	0 pos	Naturally present in the environment.
Inorganics					
Barium	3/12/2025	**0.0032 ppm**	2 ppm	2 ppm	Discharge of drilling wastes. Discharge from metal refineries. Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride (3)	3/12/2025	**0.21 ppm**	4 ppm	4 ppm	Erosion of natural deposits. Water additive which promotes strong teeth. Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate (6)	3/12/2025	**0.27 ppm**	10 ppm	10 ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use. Leaching from septic tanks, sewage. Erosion of natural deposits.
Radionuclides					
Combined Radium (-226 & -228)	12/20/2022	**0.363 pCi/l**	5 pCi/l	0 pCi/l	Erosion of natural deposits.
Combined Uranium	3/12/2025	**8.5 ppb**	30 ppb	0 ppb	Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross Alpha (4)	4/1/2024	**2.7 pCi/l**	15 pCi/l	0 pCi/l	Erosion of natural deposits.
Radium-228	10/20/2022	**0.363 pCi/l**	5 pCi/l	0 pCi/l	Erosion of natural deposits.
Lead/Copper					
Lead 90th% Value (5)	1/1/2022 — 12/31/2024	**0 ppb**	AL=15 ppb	0 ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Number of sampling sites exceeding the action level: **0**		**Range (0-6.1 ppb)**			Complete lead tap sampling data are available upon request.
Copper 90th% Value (5)	1/1/2022 — 12/31/2024	**0.107 pm**	AL=1.3 ppm	1.3 ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Number of sampling sites exceeding the action level: **0**		**Range (0.0145-0.328 ppm)**			Complete lead tap sampling data are available upon request.
Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts.					
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (10)	7/1/2025	2.5 ppb	60 ppb	0 ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Total Trihalomethane (TTHM) (10)	7/1/2025	11 ppb	80 ppb	0 ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
CHLORINE RESIDUAL	2025	Range (0.58 - 1.20)	MRDL= 4 ppm	MRDLG = 4 ppm	By-Product of drinking water chlorination

Definitions

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA): A 12 month rolling average of all monthly or quarterly samples at specific sampling locations. Calculation of the LRAA may contain data from the previous year.
Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL: 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 or MCLG: 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.
Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL)
Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
Running Annual Average (RAA): A 12 month rolling average of all monthly or quarterly samples at all locations. Calculation of the RAA may contain data from the previous year.
Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL): Non-mandatory water quality standards.
Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

UNITS

ppm = parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L). **pCi/L** = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity). **ppb** = parts per billion or micrograms per liter (ug/l). **ppt** = parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/L). **MFL** = million fibers per liter. **pos** = positive samples.

NOTES

1) Arsenic: While your drinking water may meet EPA's standard for Arsenic, if it contains between 5 and 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 the drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems. Quarterly compliance is based on running annual average.
2) E. Coli: E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Human pathogens in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a greater health risk for infants, young children, the elderly, and people with severely-compromised immune systems.
3) Fluoride: For those systems that fluoridate, fluoride levels must be maintained between 0.5 to 1.2 ppm. The optimum level is 0.7 ppm. **(NOTE: Searsport WD Does Not Fluoridate).**
4) Gross Alpha: Action level over 5 pCi/L requires testing for Radium 226 and 228. Action level over 15 pCi/L requires testing for Uranium. Compliance is based on Gross alpha results minus Uranium results = Net Gross Alpha.
5) Lead/Copper: Action levels (AL) are measured at consumer's tap. 90% of the test must be equal to or below the action level.
6) Nitrate: Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant you should ask advice from your health provider.
7) PFAS: The degree of risk depends on the level of chemicals and duration of exposure. Laboratory studies of animals exposed to high doses of PFAS have shown numerous negative effects such as issues with reproduction, growth and development, thyroid function, immune system, neurology, as well as injury to the liver. Research is still relatively new, and more needs to be done to fully assess exposure on the human body.
8) Radon: The State of Maine adopted a Maximum Exposure Guideline (MEG) for Radon in drinking water at 4000 pCi/L, effective 1/1/07. If Radon exceeds the MEG in water, treatment is recommended. It is also advisable to test indoor air for Radon.
9) Total Coliform Bacteria: Reported as the highest monthly number of positive samples, for water systems that take less than 40 samples per month.
10) TTHM/HAA5: Total Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids (TTHM and HAA5) are formed as a by-product of drinking water chlorination. This chemical reaction occurs when chlorine combines with naturally occurring organic matter in water. Compliance is based on running annual average.
11) Turbidity: Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease -causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches.

All other regulated drinking water contaminants were below detection levels.
Secondary Contaminants: We are not required to list these but choose to do so for those who are monitoring sodium levels.

SODIUM: 6.14 ppm 3/12/2025 **CHLORIDE: 11 ppm 3/12/2025** **SULFATE: 5.0 ppm 3/12/2025**
MAGNESIUM: 3.27 ppm 3/12/2025 **ZINC: 0.0044 ppm 3/12/2025**

Health Information

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

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

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or at the following link: **https://www.epa.gov/ccr/forms/contact-us-about-consumer-confidence-reports**

Lead and Copper

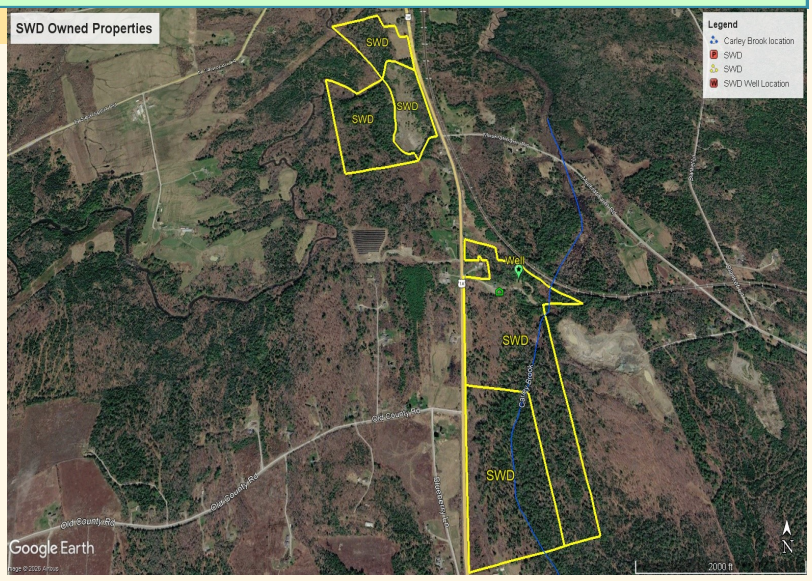
Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Your public water system is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact your public water system. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at: **http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead**

Our system completed a Lead Service Line Inventory as required by the Revised Lead and Copper Rule. It is publicly accessible at this location: Searsport Water District office at 46 Prospect Street, Searsport, ME 04974 or by calling (207) 548-2910.

Violations: No Violations in 2025.

Source Water Protection

In order to protect the district's groundwater supply we try to purchase properties within the Source Water Protection area when they become available. The properties in or around the groundwater aquifer play a significant roll in protecting the district's drinking water supply. At present the district currently owns and maintains approximately 145+/- acres within and surrounding its Source Water Protection area. District ownership is the best way to prevent future development thus significantly reducing the risk of contamination. We strive to maintain a healthy forest by monitoring tree health, managing invasive species, and controlling overgrowth through selective thinning, and protecting the soil. These practices boost resilience against pests, diseases, and climate change, while supporting local wildlife habitats. Healthy forests protect groundwater by filtering pollutants, preventing soil erosion, and facilitating aquifer recharge. Maintaining this balance requires careful management of both the land and water. The photo to the right shows SWD owned land within the yellow boundaries located along Rte. 1A.



Where Can You Get More Information? - This report is only a summary of activities during the past year. If you have any questions about your water quality, please call the Searsport Water District Office at (207) 548-2910 during business hours (Mon – Fri between 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.). For additional information, contact the Maine Department of Human Services Drinking Water Program at (207) 287-2070, the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline At 1-800-426-4791, the National Center for Disease Control (CDC) at (404) 639-3311, or visit one of the following web sites. USEPA: www.epa.gov/safewater – AWWA: www.awwa.org – Maine DWP: www.medwp.com

DISTRICT OPERATIONS FOR THE YEAR 2025

Administrative Activities: Although we adequately budget for all annual expenses associated with the administrative and operational costs of the district many times it's the unanticipated costs that catch us off guard. These additional costs are usually attributed to unexpected system repairs, higher prices of fuel, electricity, and equipment to mention a few. In 2025 alone the district was faced with several unanticipated increases in costs with regards to well maintenance, pump replacements, system repairs, fuel and electric, and higher than normal costs associated with maintaining and upgrading areas of our water distribution system.

One large unanticipated project was the replacement of several hundred feet of water main on Main Street in Stockton Springs which was completed in November 2025. The old 1906 cast iron water main in this area suffered a significant failure and was located directly under a concrete box culvert. The cost of repairing this section of water main came in at just over $20,000.00. The Board of trustees quickly decided that this section of water main needed to be replaced and relocated outside of the MDOT Right of Way as the MDOT plans to replace the box culvert in the near future. An application was made to MMBB for a $1,000,000 General Resolution Loan which was approved. Prior to the approval date easements and permits were put in place to allow for the main replacement project to move forward. Prior to replacing the water main hydrants were installed on each side of the box culvert for flushing purposes and to prevent future shutdowns should a failure occur in that area. This meant one more shut down was necessary while the hydrants were being installed. In November our contractor assisted with the installation of a temporary water line that fed the Cape Jellison area while construction was under way with the installation of the new 12" water main. The project was completed and the new water main was put into service within 7 days. Total costs for completing this portion of the project came in around $100,000.

Other items that need immediate attention and will be paid for using funds from the $1,000,000 MMBB General Resolution Loan are as follows: 1.) Replacement of the district's existing SCADA system which is now obsolete. 2.) Replacement of the old billing software system as it is also obsolete. 3.) Well rehabilitation and well pump replacement project along with replacement of our 31 year old 75 HP pumps within our pump station. 4.) Replacement of the 6 older version computers within the office. 5.) Construction of an additional storage garage at the office complex to house necessary equipment and inventory parts. 6.) New trench boxes and tampers used during construction projects along with any other necessary equipment depending on available remaining funds.

The $1,000,000 General Resolution Loan with the Maine Municipal Bond Bank was necessary to pay for these much-needed upgrades and will prevent the district from having to draw down its emergency reserve accounts which are needed in the event of an extreme emergency. The General Resolution Loan will be paid back over a 20-year period and carries an average interest rate of 3.3257% over the life of the loan. As with any unanticipated expense incurred by the district comes the need to raise the rates to our customers. We here at the district don't take this lightly therefore the trustees have agreed to phase rate increases in over the next two years rather than burdening our customers with a single higher rate. The rates will be moderate and will go into effect beginning with a 1.5% increase starting on March 1, 2026, with the next increase of 3% starting May 1, 2026. In 2027 we will increase rates once again by 1.5% with a proposed date of January 1, 2027, which will be followed by an additional increase of no more than 3% on April 1, 2027. Moving forward, the district is hoping to keep annual increase at the smaller 1.5% level to simply keep up with inflation and to avoid larger rate increases. With any luck inflation will level off thus reducing the need for future rate increases.

Construction: As stated above under Administrative Activities the district replaced a section of water main on Main Street in Stockton Springs and installed 2 additional hydrants through the stream bed at that location as a precautionary measure should something ever happen to the water main in the stream bed location. This will allow for the district to install a quick bypass line from hydrant to hydrant without having to disrupt service to the 180 +/- customers in the future. In May the district began the process of rehabilitating its single production well along with installing a new well pump on both the main production well and the backup well. During this time, we purchased water from the Belfast Water District via the interconnection facility with Belfast. We also replaced one of the high lift pumps in the pump station and are awaiting the installation of the second backup high lift pump. The old high lift pumps have been in operation since 1995. Three (3) new water services were installed during 2025, and we continue to replace the remaining 300 +/- older water meters with radio read meters and are in hopes of completing this project and moving all customers over to the monthly billing cycle by December 31, 2027. Monthly billing has been extremely effective in allowing us, and our customers, to detect leaks early thus preventing higher water bills.

Operations: In 2025, the district pumped a total of 121,047,500 gallons of water. This amount is an increase of 1,144,500 gallons from the previous year with much of that water being sold to the Belfast Water District. The average daily pumping rate was 331,637 gallons per day or 230.3 gallons per minute. This amount is 52.10% of the total daily safe yield based on our calculated safe yield of 636,500 gallons per day or 232,322,500 gallons per year. Total water sold to our 1,150 +/- customers during 2025 was 70,294,716 gallons. This amount is an increase of 2,558,080 gallons as compared to the 67,736,636 gallons sold in 2024.

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, mobile home parks, and businesses.) You can do this by posting this report in a public place or distributing copies by hand, mail, email, or another method. Thank you.

Searsport Water District, 46 Prospect Street, PO Box 289, Searsport, ME 04974

Trustees	Operators	Office Staff
Larry Clark, Chairman	Herbert Kronholm, Superintendent	Brenda Storey, Office Mgr.
Bruce Mills, Treasurer	Timothy Wilson, Foreman	Kyle Anne Manzie, Office Asst.
Tony Bagley, Clerk	Harold Porter, Service Tech	

Phone: (207) 548-2910 Fax: (207) 548-6719 Business hours are Monday – Friday 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
email: info@searsportwater.org Visit our website: www.searsportwater.org Like us on Facebook: Searsport Water District
In case of an emergency during non business hours please call the Waldo County Dispatch Center @ 1-800-660-3398