

April 25, 2022



21 Bangor Street
Houlton, Maine 04730
Tel 207.532.2259
www.hwco.org

Dear Water Customers:

HWC is pleased to continue to provide you with high quality drinking water supplied from reliable sources. The attached 2021 Consumer Confidence Report being provided to our customers is an annual requirement of the State of Maine Drinking Water Program (DWP). The purpose of the report is to provide to you, our customer, a description of the HWC water quality, an account of the source of supply, treatment & filtration methodologies and the results of the required testing as directed by DWP.

We are happy to provide you the attached 2021 Consumer Confidence Report, which shows the tests that were completed and results of each. The results tell the consumer that the water that they are consuming is well within the requirements set by the Drinking Water Program.

An electronic copy of the report can also be found at the following link:

<http://hwco.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/2021-Consumer-Confidence-Report.pdf>

In addition, the Houlton Water Company has updated its 2020 Consumer Confidence Report, as it was found by the DWP that HWC had failed to include two test results in the reporting table for 2020. Both test results were well within limits and the water was and continues to be safe to consume. This reporting error has been corrected and the updated 2020 report can be found at the following link.

<http://hwco.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/2020-Consumer-Confidence-Report-Corrected.pdf>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Gregory F. Sherman'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'G'.

Gregory F. Sherman
General Manager, HWC

HOULTON WATER COMPANY
2021 Consumer Confidence Report

Address: 21 Bangor Street

City, State, Zip Code: Houlton, Maine 04730

Telephone #: (207) 532-2259

Fax#: (207) 532-1213

Email: sherman@hwco.org

Public Water System Identification ME0090700

Contact: Gregory F. Sherman, GM

Report Covering Calendar Year: Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2021

Upcoming Regularly Scheduled Meeting(s): Meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of Each Month at 7pm

Source Water Information

Description of Water Source: Wells: 3

Water is supplied by three ground water wells. Two at McPartland Pumping Station in Houlton and one at the Coleman Pumping Station in Hodgdon. HWC has two underground storage reservoirs totaling 1.5 million gallons and an above ground tank totaling 800,000 gallons

Water Treatment & Filtration Information:

HWC treats its drinking water with Sodium Fluoride and Sodium Hypochlorite (Chlorine)

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.

Definitions:

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

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.

Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA): A 12 month rolling average of all monthly or quarterly samples at specific sampling locations. Calculation of the RAA may contain data from the previous year.

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

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.

Units:

ppm = parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L).

pCi/L = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity).

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

pos = positive samples.

MFL = million fibers per liter

Water Test Results

<i>Contaminant</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Results</i>	<i>MCL</i>	<i>MCLG</i>	<i>Possible Sources of Contamination</i>
--------------------	-------------	----------------	------------	-------------	--

Microbiological

COLIFORM (TCR) (1)	2021	0 pos	1 pos/mo or 5%	0 pos	Naturally present in the environment.
--------------------	------	-------	----------------	-------	---------------------------------------

Inorganics

ANTIMONY, TOTAL	7/27/2020	0.53 ppb	6 ppb	6 ppb	Discharge from petroleum refineries, fire retardants, ceramics, electronics, and solder.
BARIUM	7/27/2020	0.0099 ppm	2 ppm	2 ppm	Discharge of drilling wastes. Discharge from metal refineries. Erosion of natural deposits.
CHROMIUM	7/27/2020	1.9 ppb	100 ppb	100 ppb	Discharge from steel and pulp mills. Erosion of natural deposits.
FLUORIDE (3)	11/1/2021	0.96 ppm	4 ppm	4 ppm	Erosion of natural deposits. Water additive which promotes strong teeth. Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
NITRATE (5)	4/12/2021	1.3 ppm	10 ppm	10 ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use. Leaching from septic tanks, sewage. Erosion of natural deposits.

Radionuclides

COMBINED RADIUM (-226 & -228)	9/13/2021	0.526 pCi/l	5 pCi/l	0 pCi/l	Erosion of natural deposits.
RADIUM-226	9/13/2021	0.415 pCi/l	5 pCi/l	0 pCi/l	Erosion of natural deposits.
RADIUM-228	9/13/2021	0.111 pCi/l	5 pCi/l	0 pCi/l	Erosion of natural deposits.

Lead/Copper

COPPER 90TH% VALUE (4)	1/1/2018 - 12/31/2020	0.15 ppm	AL = 1.3 ppm	1.3 ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
LEAD 90TH% VALUE (4)	1/1/2018 - 12/31/2020	3.6 ppb	AL = 15 ppb	0 ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.

Chlorine Residual (Add chlorine residual information)

CHLORINE RESIDUAL	Range (0.47 - 0.57 ppm)	MRDL=4 ppm	MRDLG= 4 ppm	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
-------------------	-------------------------	------------	--------------	--

Notes:

- 1) Total Coliform Bacteria: Reported as the highest monthly number of positive samples, for water systems that take less than 40 samples per month.
- 2) E. Coli: E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Human pathogens in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a greater health risk for infants, young children, the elderly, and people with severely-compromised immune systems.
- 3) Fluoride: For those systems that fluoridate, fluoride levels must be maintained between 0.5 to 1.2 ppm. The optimum level is 0.7 ppm.
- 4) Lead/Copper: Action levels (AL) are measured at consumer's tap. 90% of the tests must be equal to or below the action level.
- 5) 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.
- 6) 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 circulator problems. Quarterly compliance is based on running annual average.
- 7) 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.
- 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) 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.

All other regulated drinking water contaminants were below detection levels.

Secondary Contaminants (You are not required to list detects for secondary contaminants, but this information, particularly sodium levels, might be useful to your customers. The decision to supply this information in your CCR is up to you.)

MAGNESIUM	3.4 ppm	7/27/2020
IRON	0.23 ppm	7/27/2020
CHLORIDE	10 ppm	7/27/2020
ZINC	0.0028 ppm	7/27/2020

SULFATE	17 ppm	7/27/2020
SODIUM	8.4 ppm	7/27/2020

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. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

EPA/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>

If present, elevated levels of 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. Houlton Water Company is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested.

Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at the following link:

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>

Violations

Violation Period	Violation Type
1/1/2020 - 12/31/2020	71 Violation - CCR REPORT CONSUMER CONFIDENCE RULE

In 2021, HWC failed to report the test results for chromium and antimony, which were both found to be within acceptable limits for 2020. HWC was also granted a three year waiver for synthetic organics in 2020 and did not report in the 2020 CCR. To correct this issue, the 2020 CCR has been redone and posted to the HWC website at the following link.

<http://hwco.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/2020-Consumer-Confidence-Report-Corrected.pdf>

[2020 HWC Consumer Confidence Report - Updated](#)

Waiver Information (to be included in the CCR for systems that were granted a waiver)

In 2020, 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): TOXAPHENE/CHLORDANE/PCB, HERBICIDES, CARBAMATE PESTICIDES, 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(s).