

PWSID ME0090700
HOULTON WATER COMPANY
2023 Consumer Confidence Report



General Information

Water System Contact Name: Houlton Water Company

Address: 21 Bangor Street

City, State, Zip Code: Houlton, Maine 04730

Telephone #: (207) 532-2259 Fax#: (207) 532-1213 Email: sherman@hwco.org

Report Covering Calendar Year: Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2023

Upcoming Regularly Scheduled Meeting(s): Board Meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month @ 4pm

Source Water Information

Description of Water Source: Wells: 3

Water Treatment & Filtration Information:

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.

Secondart Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL)

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.

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).

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

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

pos = positive samples.

MFL = million fibers per liter

Water Test Results

Contaminant	Date	Results	MCL	MCLG	Possible Sources of Contamination
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Microbiological

COLIFORM (TCR) (1)	2023	0 pos	1 pos/mo or 5%	0 pos	Naturally present in the environment.
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Inorganics

BARIUM	6/5/2023	0.0099 ppm	2 ppm	2 ppm	Discharge of drilling wastes. Discharge from metal refineries. Erosion of natural deposits.
FLUORIDE (3)	1/3/2023	1 ppm	4 ppm	4 ppm	Erosion of natural deposits. Water additive which promotes strong teeth. Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
NITRATE (5)	6/5/2023	3.1 ppm	10 ppm	10 ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use. Leaching from septic tanks, sewage. Erosion of natural deposits.

Synthetics

TOTAL PFAS (6 regulated) (10)	10/2/2023	5.89 ppt	20 ppt	0 ppt	Man-made chemicals in a wide variety of consumer products and industrial applications. Stain- and water-resistant fabrics, carpeting, non-stick cookware, cleaning products and paints, Class B Firefighting foam (AFFF) foam and industrial processes.
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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.

Disinfectants and Disinfection ByProducts

TOTAL TRIHALOMETHANE (TTHM) (9)	9/13/2023	2.4 ppb	80 ppb	0 ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
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Lead/Copper

COPPER 90TH% VALUE (4)	1/1/2021 - 12/31/2023	0.15 ppm Range (0.012-0.22 ppm)	AL = 1.3 ppm	1.3 ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
LEAD 90TH% VALUE (4)	1/1/2021 - 12/31/2023	3.4 ppb Range (0-4.5 ppb)	AL = 15 ppb	0 ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.

Chlorine Residual (Add chlorine residual information)

CHLORINE RESIDUAL	Range (<u>.22</u> - <u>.65</u> ppm)	MRDL=4 ppm	MRDLG= 4 ppm	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
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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 circulatory 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.
- 10) 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.

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.)

SULFATE	18 ppm	6/5/2023
ZINC	0.003 ppm	6/5/2023
IRON	0.29 ppm	6/5/2023
MAGNESIUM	4 ppm	6/5/2023
SODIUM	7.6 ppm	6/5/2023
CHLORIDE	12 ppm	6/5/2023

Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring

Unregulated contaminants are those for which U.S. EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of these contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. In 2023 we participated in the fifth round of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5). We had no detections of any of the contaminants in this round of testing.

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
1/1/2021 - 12/31/2023	03 Violation - REPORTING, ROUTINE MINOR DIQUAT TREAT PT 2
1/1/2021 - 12/31/2023	03 Violation - REPORTING, ROUTINE MINOR DIQUAT TREAT PT 3
1/1/2015 - 12/31/2023	03 Violation - REPORTING, ROUTINE MINOR ENDOTHALL TREAT PT 2
1/1/2015 - 12/31/2023	03 Violation - REPORTING, ROUTINE MINOR ENDOTHALL TREAT PT 3
7/1/2023 -	71 Violation - CCR REPORT CONSUMER CONFIDENCE RULE

We are required to monitor our drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring indicate whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During 2023 our necessary tests for Endothall, and Diquat were sufficiently tested in 2023 with a non-detect result. Due to a communication error between our hired 3rd party Lab and the Drinking Water Program, we were subsequently cited as failing to Report. The above listed Violations were corrected by having the 3rd party lab send the non-detect results to the Drinking Water Program in February 2024.

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 (CCR) 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. The 2022 HWC CCR was posted on the HWC web site on June 23, 2023 and mailed to our customers on June 29, 2023. The CCR filing certification form was completed on September 5, 2023, but not received by the Drinking Water Program. The certification was sent to the Drinking Water Program a second time on February 28, 2024.

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

In 2023, 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).

Maine Drinking Water Program

Consumer Confidence Report Certification Form

PWSID#: ME0090700 **Water System Name:** HOULTON WATER COMPANY

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Distribute copies of your Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) to all users served by your public water system **by JULY 1ST**.
2. Use the checklist below to check off which methods you use to distribute your CCR- you **MUST** select **AT LEAST ONE** option from **EACH** of the two columns below.
3. Please complete the certification section below and submit it, along with a copy of the CCR you distributed to customers, to the Maine Drinking Water Program **before OCTOBER 1ST**.

Primary Method of Distribution (you **MUST** use **at least one (1)** of these methods)

Direct Delivery Method- to get report to each customer

CHECK IF USED	METHOD	ADDITIONAL INFO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mail hard copy	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hand deliver	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mail notice that CCR is available on website- MUST include a direct URL (<u>CCR MUST open when url is clicked</u>)	Provide url: _____ Attach copy of notice (i.e. bill)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Email the direct URL	Attach copy of email
<input type="checkbox"/>	Email the CCR as a file attachment	Attach copy of email
<input type="checkbox"/>	Email CCR in message	Attach copy of message

AND

Secondary Method of Distribution (you **MUST** use **at least one (1)** of these methods*)

Good Faith Effort to reach non-bill-paying consumers

CHECK IF USED	METHOD	ADDITIONAL INFO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Do a postal patron mailing with service area	Provide zip codes used in postal patron mailing
<input type="checkbox"/>	Deliver multiple copies to single bill addresses serving several people- i.e. apartment buildings, businesses, large private employers	Provide list of business/facilities receiving copies
<input type="checkbox"/>	Posting on internet at URL	Provide url: _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Post the CCR in public places	Provide a list of where posted
<input type="checkbox"/>	Publication of CCR in local newspaper	Provide copy of newspaper notice
<input type="checkbox"/>	Advertising availability of CCR in news media	Provide copy of announcement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Deliver to community organizations	Provide list of facilities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Availability of paper copy	Provide method of sharing this info
<input type="checkbox"/>	Population <500-complete delivery by 1 st method	Only if you provided 100% distribution to all consumers by your 1 st method & population served is below 500

Certification of Distribution and Accuracy of Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)

I certify that the information in the attached CCR contains all data and required language found in the Fillable C provided by the Drinking Water Program and that the CCR was distributed by July 1st by the methods noted above.

Name of licensed designated operator: _____
Please print

Signature: _____ Date: _____ **(DO NOT PRE-DATE)**

Date CCR distribution completed: _____ **(DO NOT PRE-DATE)**

EMAIL COPY OF CCR, COMPLETED CERTIFICATION & ACCOMPANYING DOCS TO DWPMOR@maine.gov OR MAIL TO: MAINE DRINKING WATER PROGRAM, 11 STATE HOUSE STATION, 286 WATER STREET, AUGUSTA, ME 04333-0011