

**Pittsfield Water Works
112 Somerset Ave.
Pittsfield, Maine 04967**

**2008 Consumer Confidence
Report**

INTRODUCTION

This is the annual water quality report of Pittsfield Water Works. This annual report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water. We know that you count on us for a safe and reliable supply of water every day, and we are dedicated to providing the highest quality of service to you.

THE CONTENTS OF THIS REPORT

The Safe Drinking Water Act mandates the State of Maine, along with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), to establish and enforce minimum drinking water standards. These standards set limits on certain biological, radioactive, organic and inorganic substances sometimes found in drinking water. The limits set on these standards are known as MCLs, Maximum Contaminant Levels. Two types of standards have been established. Primary Standards set achievable levels of drinking water quality to protect your health. Secondary Standards provide guidelines regarding the taste, odor, color, and other aesthetic aspects of your drinking water which do not present a health risk. Listed on the following pages are the results of the System's regular testing, which provide the test results for both Primary and Secondary Standards. In 2008 all substances tested met both Primary and Secondary Standards within the levels established by the EPA and the State of Maine.

The 2008 testing results indicate Pittsfield Water Works meets or surpasses all state and federal requirements.

WATER QUALITY

We ensure that your water is safe through regular monitoring and testing of water quality. These tests are conducted by Maine State Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory and Clearwater Laboratory, of Newport Maine, State certified testing laboratories. This report

shows a comprehensive summary of the laboratory test results for the constituents we regularly monitor in your water supply. Responsibility for maintaining water quality resides with our certified water treatment plant operators, licensed by the State of Maine Department of Human Services.

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 storm water 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 storm water 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. 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).

WATER SUPPLY/SOURCE INFORMATION

The Pittsfield Water Works uses a ground water as its water source. There are 2 wells located on Peltoma Ave. just over the Pittsfield and Burnham town line in Burnham. The wells are gravel wells.

To ensure the quality of your source water, the treatment techniques used by Pittsfield Water Works include: aeration, fluoridation,

and sodium hypochlorite (chlorine) for disinfection.

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 on the SWAP, you may contact the DWP at telephone (207) 287-2070.

WATER SYSTEM DATA

Your water supply and distribution system includes over 30 miles of water main. The system served approximately 1200 customers in 2008 and provides fire protection service through 168 hydrants. In the last twelve months, we have produced and delivered over 144,121,000 gallons of water. That's an average of 394,852 gallons each day. The system also maintains approximately 1,500,000 gallons in our 2 storage tanks. This storage allows us to meet peak system demand periods and maintain an adequate supply during fire fighting activities.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2008

This was a busy year for the Pittsfield Water Works. In addition to our regular maintenance and repair work on the system, the department replaced 3 fire hydrants, and added a few new services. *Pittsfield Water Works also began an aggressive meter replacement program, to upgrade all of our water meters, this project will proceed through the summer of 2009.*

FUTURE PLANS AND NEEDS

Pittsfield Water Works continues to anticipate the current and future needs of the system. Future plans call for a plan to replace the aging fire hydrants, continued upgrades at our water treatment facility, and routine maintenance of the distribution system.

LEAD IN DRINKING WATER

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. Pittsfield Water Works 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 at 1-800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

This report is only a summary of our activities during the past year. If you have any questions about your water quality, the information contained in this report, or your water service in general, please call us at the town office at (207) 487-3136 (8:00 AM to 5:00 PM) or the Water Works garage at (207) 487-5203 (7:00 AM to 3:30 PM) during normal business hours. Pittsfield Town Council Meetings, open to the public, are typically held the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm at the Pittsfield Town Office. You may also direct questions to the Maine Department of Human Services Drinking Water Program at (207) 287-2070 or the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

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