

PITTSFIELD WATER DEPARTMENT
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(207) 487-5203 – OPERATOR CONTACT

PWSID ME0091280

2019 ANNUAL CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The Federal Safe Drinking Water Act requires all community water systems to distribute an annual water quality report to its customers. This is the 2019 annual water quality report of the Pittsfield Water Department, which covers the period from January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019. This annual report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water. We know that you count on the Pittsfield Water Department for a safe and reliable supply of water everyday, and we are committed to providing the highest quality of service to you. **We are pleased to report that there were no violations in 2019.**

WATER QUALITY

The Safe Drinking Water Act mandates that the State of Maine, along with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), establish and enforce minimum drinking water quality standards. These standards set limits on certain biological, radioactive, organic and inorganic substances sometimes found in drinking water. The limits set on these substances are known as Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL's). Two types of standards have been established. Primary Standards set required 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. The Pittsfield Water Department's water quality is within the levels established by EPA and the State of Maine for all Primary Standards.

Responsibility for maintaining water quality resides with the Pittsfield Water Department staff. The Pittsfield Water Department includes operators that are licensed by the State of Maine Department of Health and Human Services. We ensure that your water is safe through regular total coliform testing, fluoride and chlorine residual monitoring. These tests are conducted by the Maine State Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory, Clearwater Lab and the Pittsfield Water Department.

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 the water poses a human health risk. Contaminants that may be present in source water include: (1) microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage or wildlife; (2) inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, or farming; (3) pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, stormwater runoff, and residential uses; (4) organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which can come from gas stations, runoff, and septic systems and (5) radioactive contaminants which can be naturally occurring. 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).

Table 1 lists regulated testing conducted by the Pittsfield Water Department for which results were obtained in 2019. The most recent result is also included for contaminants which are not tested annually. All other tested and regulated drinking water contaminants were below detection levels. This testing is required by the State of Maine Drinking Water Program (DWP) and must be reported to all customers on an annual basis:

TABLE 1: 2019 REQUIRED PITTSFIELD TESTING RESULTS

CONTAMINANT	DATE	PITTSFIELD RESULTS	EPA LIMIT	EPA GOAL	SOURCE
MICROBIOLOGICAL					
Total Coliform	3 Tests Per Month	0 Positive Results	1 Positive Result	0 Positive Results	Naturally present in the environment.
INORGANICS					
Barium	8/31/17	6.7 ppb	2000 ppb	2000 ppb	Erosion of natural deposits.
Chromium	8/31/17	2.8 ppb	100 ppb	100 ppb	Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	4/23/19	0.78 ppm	4 ppm	4 ppm	Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate	9/27/19	0.1 ppm	10 ppm	10 ppm	Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper 90 th Percent Value	Summer 2017	0.22 ppm	1.3 ppm	1.3 ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead 90 th Percent Value	Summer 2017	0.98 ppb	15 ppb	0 ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
RADIONUCLIDES					
Combined Uranium	8/31/17	0.52 ppb	30 ppb	0 ppb	Erosion of natural deposits.
DISINFECTANTS AND DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS					
Haloacetic Acids	Summer 2019	32 ppb	60 ppb	0 ppb	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination.
Total Trihalomethanes	Summer 2019	78 ppb	80 ppb	0 ppb	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination.
Chlorine Residual	Monthly Testing	0.61 ppm (0.38-0.94 ppm)	4.0 ppm	4 ppm	Drinking water chlorination

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): The Average of all monthly or quarterly samples for the last year at all sample locations.
- 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)
 pos = positive samples.

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

Notes:

- 1) Total Coliform Bacteria: Reported as the highest quarterly number of positive samples, for water systems that take < 40 samples per month.
- 2) Fluoride: Fluoride levels must be maintained between 0.5 to 1.2 ppm, for those water systems that fluoridate the water. Pittsfield fluoridates its drinking water.
- 3) Lead/Copper: Action levels (AL) are measured at consumer's tap. 90% of the tests must be equal to or below the action level.
- 4) TTHM & HAA5: Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) and Haloacetic Acids (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.

The data presented in Table 1 demonstrates that the Pittsfield Water Department has been in complete compliance with the requirements for bacteria sampling and has not experienced any positive results for Total Coliform. Total coliform is used as an indicator parameter for water supply bacterial contamination. This data also shows that the Water Department is in compliance with Barium, Chromium, Fluoride, Nitrate, Uranium, Radionuclides and Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts. The Water District tests every three years for lead and copper at ten homes during each sampling event. Copper testing for 2017 was in complete compliance with a result of 0.22 ppm as compared to the EPA limitation of 1.3 ppm. The lead sampling was also in compliance with a result of 0.98 ppb versus an EPA standard of 15 ppb. 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. The Pittsfield Water Department 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 <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

WATER SUPPLY/DISTRIBUTION INFORMATION

The Water Department has been obtaining water from two groundwater wells located on Horseback Road in Burnham. Public water service is available in the more developed areas of Town. The Pittsfield Water Department provides water service to almost 1,300 connected customers. The Department supplied an average of about 383,000 gallons of water per day or 140 million gallons of potable water to customers in 2019. The Department has a 300,000-gallon standpipe at Grove Hill and a 1,204,000 gallon steel tank at Phillips Corner that can supply water for up to several days during average water use in the community. These water storage tanks also are used for peak flow fluctuations experienced during periods of hydrant flushing and for fire protection purposes. The Department maintains fire protection through 162 hydrants located throughout the service area. Treatment includes adding sodium hypochlorite for disinfection, air stripping to remove radon, adding fluoride to promote dental health and injecting phosphate for corrosion control and manganese sequestering.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT

The sources of drinking water can 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 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 the DWP. For more information about the SWAP, please contact the DWP at telephone 287-2070.

WAIVER INFORMATION

In 2019, our system was granted a 'Synthetic Organics Waiver.' This is a three year exemption from the monitoring and reporting requirements for the following industrial chemical(s): toxaphene/chlordane/PCB, herbicides 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(s).

CONTACT INFORMATION

This report is a summary of the Water Department's 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 the Pittsfield Water Department at (207) 487-5203. You may also direct questions or concerns to the DWP at (207) 287-2070 or the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791. The Department hours are generally 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM, weekdays except on holidays.