



Where does my water come from?

In 2023, your drinking water came from one of the following wells in Augusta:

- Brookside Well, 97 MG (million gallons)
- Triangle Well, 150 MG
- South Well, 140 MG
- Riverside North, 189 MG

In 2023, over 576 million gallons of water were supplied from the four wells. The average flow was 1.58 million gallons of water pumped every day.

Testing for the future

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. For more information about the SWAP, please contact the DWP at (207) 287-2070.

Greater Augusta Utility District

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(207) 622-3701

ENJOY WITH CONFIDENCE

Greater Augusta Utility District is pleased to present favorable findings from our 2023 assessment of the public drinking water supply we manage. Levels of potential contaminants in source water were all below the levels we target to safeguard your health. Levels of substances that may affect taste were also comfortably within our standards.

We hope you find this Report informative. Please contact us with any questions at (207) 622-3701 or Contact@GAUD.ws.

Lead & Copper:

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. While we are responsible for providing high quality drinking water, we cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. After your water has been sitting for several hours you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to two 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 (1-800-426-4791) or at the following link: [EPA.gov/safewater/lead](https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

WHAT'S IN THE WATER?

All sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) are fed by rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs 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. 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.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems, as well as in bottled water.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

1. Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and 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, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
3. Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources: agriculture, urban stormwater runoff and residential uses.
4. 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 stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
5. Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Sodium hypochlorite is added to reduce the risk of bacteria and viruses in the distribution system. Sodium fluoride is added to help protect teeth. Carus 8100 is added to reduce lead and copper levels.

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 at: www.epa.gov/ccr/forms/contact-us-about-consumer-confidence-reports

GREATER AUGUSTA UTILITY DISTRICT–2023 DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

	MONITORED CONSTITUENT	MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL GOAL (MCLG)	MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL (MCL)	RESULTS	SAMPLE DATE	MAJOR SOURCE IN DRINKING WATER
DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM SAMPLES	Total Coliform Bacteria Note 1	0 pos	1 pos/mo or 5%	0 pos	2023	Naturally present in the environment.
	E.Coli - Note 2	1 pos	1 pos	0 pos	Sept. 2023	Human and animal fecal waste.
	Fluoride (ppm) - Note 3	4	4	0.74	2/9/2023	Water additive which promotes strong teeth.
	Copper (ppm) 90 th percentile Value - Note 4	1.3	AL = 1.3	0.28 Range (0.067-0.330)	1/1/20-12/31/22	Corrosion of household plumbing system.
	Lead (ppb) 90 th percentile Value - Note 4	0	AL = 15	1 Range (0-1.8)	1/1/20-12/31/22	Corrosion of household plumbing system.
	Total Trihalomethanes TTHM (ppb) - Note 9	0	80	20 Range (18-22)	LRAA (2023)	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
	Total Haloacetic Acids HAA5 (ppb) - Note 9	0	60	7 Range (0-7)	LRAA (2023)	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
	Asbestos	1 MFL	7 MFL	1 MFL	9/9/2020	Decay of asbestos cement in water mains; erosion of natural deposits

SOURCE WATER SAMPLES	Nirate (ppm) - Note 5	10	10	2.3	4/5/2023	Runoff from fertilizer use. Leaching from septic tanks, sewage. Erosion of natural deposits.
	Arsenic (ppb) - Note 6	0	10	3	6/21/2023	Erosion of natural deposits. Runoff from orchards, glass and electronics production wastes.
	Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.016	6/21/2023	Discharge of drilling wastes. Discharge from metal refineries. Erosion of natural deposits.
	Combined Uranium (ppb)	0	30	1.7	6/21/2023	Erosion of natural deposits.
	Radium -226 (pCi/l)	0	5	0.11	9/9/2020	Erosion of natural deposits.
	Radium -228 (pCi/l)	0	5	0.71	9/9/2020	Erosion of natural deposits.
	Combined Radium (-226 and -228) pCi/l	0	5	0.814	9/9/2020	Erosion of natural deposits.

Herbicides	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).
Pesticides	

GREATER AUGUSTA UTILITY DISTRICT—2023 DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

CHLORINE RESIDUAL	MAXIMUM RESIDUAL DISINFECTANT LEVEL GOAL (MRDLG)	MAXIMUM RESIDUAL DISINFECTANT LEVEL (MRDL)	RUNNING ANNUAL AVERAGE PPM (RRA)	RANGE PPM	MAJOR SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER
Triangle Station	4 ppm	4 ppm	1.11	0.64 - 1.37	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Riverside Station	4 ppm	4 ppm	1.08	0.68 - 1.38	By-product of drinking water chlorination.

All other regulated drinking water contaminants were below detection levels.

HARDNESS (NOT A CONTAMINANT OR EPA REGULATED)	YOUR WATER	SAMPLE DATE	
Hardness (ppm as Ca)	150	2020	The District's water is classified as "hard" to "very hard" according to USGS guidelines.

	CONTAMINANT	YOUR WATER	MCL	SAMPLE DATE	NOTICEABLE EFFECTS ABOVE THE SECONDARY MCL
SECONDARY CONTAMINANTS	Chloride (ppm)	36	250	6/21/2023	Salty taste.
	Magnesium (ppm)	6.8	N/A	6/21/2023	None.
	Sodium (ppm)	21	N/A	6/21/2023	Sodium is very low.
	Zinc (ppm)	0.0045	5	6/21/2023	Metallic taste.
	Sulfate (ppm)	20	250	6/21/2023	Salty taste.
	Iron (ppm)	0.29	0.3	6/21/2023	Rusty color; sediment; metallic taste; reddish or orange staining.
	Nickel (ppm)	0.0011		6/21/2023	
	Manganese (ppm)	0.0012		6/21/2023	

MONITORED CONSTITUENT	MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL GOAL (MCLG)	MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL (MCL)	RESULTS	SAMPLE DATE	MAJOR SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER
Total PFAS (ppt) (6 regulated) - Note 10	0	20	8.53	3/22/2023	Man-made chemicals in a wide variety of consumer products and industrial applications. Stain- and water-resistant fabrics, carpeting, on-stick cookware, cleaning products and paints, Class B Firefighting foam (AFFF) foam and industrial processes.

- MCL—the state interim limit for any one of OR the sum of the six analytes above is 20 PPT.
- MCLG—none has been set at this time.
- Possible Sources of Contamination: man-made chemicals found in various industrial and consumer products—generally designed to repel water, resist stains and grease.

7/1/2023 - 71 Violation - CCR REPORT CONSUMER CONFIDENCE RULE

As a community public water system, we are required to provide a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) to our customers on an annual basis. The Consumer Confidence Report 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. In 2023, we failed to certify to the Maine Drinking Water Program that we had distributed our Consumer Confidence Report to our customers. We corrected this violation by both providing certification to the Maine Drinking Water Program in 2024 and by acknowledging the error in this Consumer Confidence Report.

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.

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 LRAA 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. MRDLG's 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)

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

ppt: parts per trillion

pCi/l: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

pos: positive samples

MFL: million fibers per liter

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:** 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. Copper/Lead:** 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 for 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 4,000 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.

MORE INFORMATION

This report is produced for all drinking water customers of the Greater Augusta Utility District.

For more information about the quality of your water or the District, please go to GreaterAugustaUtilityDistrict.org/Drinking-Water or call us at (207) 622-3701 (M–F, 7:00 A.M to 4:00 P.M).

ABOUT YOUR UTILITY DISTRICT

Many people think that the Greater Augusta Utility District is part of the City of Augusta. But, in fact, it is a standalone quasi-municipal entity. Its roots go back to 1903, when the Augusta Water District was formed to take over a private water company.

Today, the District is a regional public utility that owns, operates and maintains four distinct systems to handle your water needs: a system of wells that supply drinking water; a wastewater collection system; a stormwater collection system; and a wastewater treatment plant. We service all systems in Augusta; the drinking water in Manchester; the wastewater system in Hallowell; and wastewater collection and treatment for Monmouth, Winthrop and Manchester.

We are proud to continue our long tradition of supplying our customers with clean, safe and plentiful drinking water. On behalf of all the employees, I thank you for your support!

—Brian Tarbuck, General Manager | BTarbuck@GreaterAugustaUtilityDistrict.org



YOUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The District is governed by a Board of Trustees, as spelled out by the District's charter, which oversees the operation of the District, approves policies, reviews financial performance, sets rates and enables the District to take out loans for projects.

The Board is made up of nine people, seven with voting rights; and two ex-officio, non-voting members (one each from Hallowell and Augusta). Seven of the Trustees are appointed by the Mayor of Augusta and two by the Mayor of Hallowell.

Trustees are appointed to three-year terms. The Board meets monthly and all meetings are open to the public. For the date and time of each meeting, visit our website, where you can also find minutes and videos of past meetings. You can also watch most meetings live on CTV-7.



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