



12 Williams Street
Augusta, ME 04330

TRUSTEE MEETINGS

The monthly meetings of your Board of Trustees are open to the public. For a complete schedule, or to watch archived videos of all meetings since November, 2014, scan the code below.



The Greater Augusta Utility District 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 the water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure in Augusta; the wastewater system in Hallowell; and regional wastewater collection and treatment for the communities of Monmouth, Winthrop and Manchester.

CURRENTS

WINTER 2023

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

First the snow flies... then the holiday activities kick into high gear! On that note, we'd like to remind you that our office will be closed the following days:

Christmas – Monday, December 25, 2023

New Year Day – Monday, January 1, 2024

If you have an issue with your drinking water, sewer water or stormwater on a holiday, please alert Dispatch by calling **(207) 626-2370**.

All of us here at GAUD wish you and your loved ones a fun and festive holiday season!



Greater Augusta
Utility District

Water | Wastewater | Stormwater

CURRENTS

WINTER 2023

OUR COMMITMENT TO ONGOING PFAS MONITORING

PFAS are making headlines and will remain a hot topic in the water industry as we move into 2024. PFAS, sometimes called “forever chemicals,” are man-made substances that are persistent in the environment and can accumulate over time. Because they were deployed so widely, PFAS have been found in many places, including some water sources.

We take all water quality issues and concerns seriously, and are committed to keeping you informed. You'll find basic information about PFAS below, as well as on our website.

WHAT EXACTLY ARE PFAS?

They are man-made chemicals that show up in ordinary consumer products like non-stick cookware, microwave popcorn bags, flame retardant clothing, furniture and carpets, as well as other industrial products like firefighting foams.

WHAT ARE THE HEALTH EFFECTS OF PFAS?

Scientists are still learning about possible health effects from being exposed to PFAS. Some studies indicate that PFAS exposure may increase cholesterol and liver enzyme levels, interfere with the body's hormones, affect the immune system and increase the risk of certain types of cancers. Further research is necessary, since these studies are not consistent.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT/PROPOSED REGULATIONS?

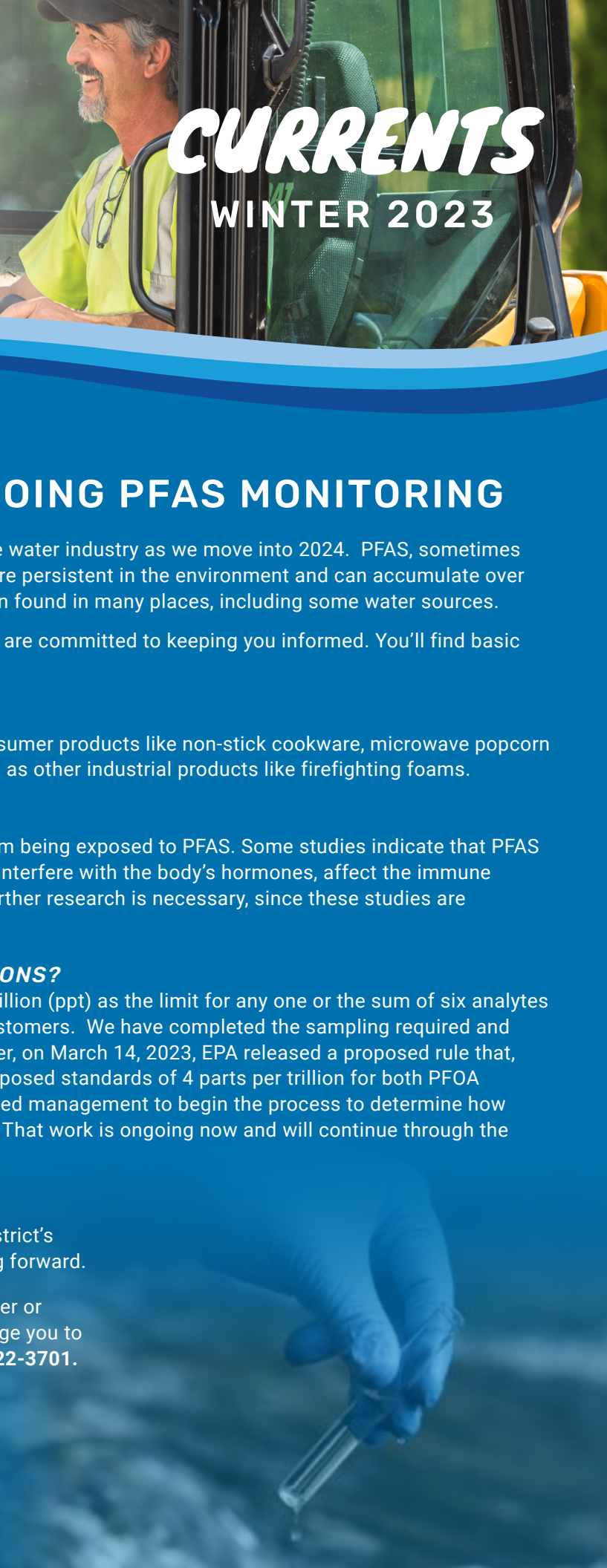
Maine implemented a law in 2021 which sets 20 parts per trillion (ppt) as the limit for any one or the sum of six analytes sampled after water treatment and before distribution to customers. We have completed the sampling required and our levels are below those set by the state of Maine. However, on March 14, 2023, EPA released a proposed rule that, if adopted, will mean that the Riverside wells exceed the proposed standards of 4 parts per trillion for both PFOA and PFOS. The Board reviewed the proposed rule and directed management to begin the process to determine how to remove PFAS from the wells on the east side of the river. That work is ongoing now and will continue through the summer of 2024.

WHAT ARE GAUD'S TEST RESULTS?

We have found no PFAS levels above 20 ppt in any of the District's five wells. We plan to continue with regular sampling moving forward.

As always, if you have any concerns about your drinking water or how we handle our stormwater and wastewater, we encourage you to contact us at contact@gaud.ws or call our office at **(207) 622-3701**.

Scan the QR code at right for more information about PFAS or visit www.GAUD.ws/pfas.





RIVER CROSSING PROJECT WRAPS UP

Our top capital improvement priority in 2023 was the Kennebec River Utility Crossing Project. The project represents a significant milestone in the enhancement and modernization of our wastewater and drinking water systems. We held a celebration and info event on October 11 to mark the conclusion of the project.

Project Overview:

The project replaced two aging cast iron wastewater pipes beneath the Kennebec River, dating back to 1962. It involved a multi-faceted effort to add a drinking water pipe, a wastewater pipe and fiber communications sleeving under the river.

Key Project Elements:

- Installation of two 16-inch diameter pipes parallel to each other, situated approximately 60 feet upstream of the 1962 crossing.
- One of the new pipes conveys wastewater, replacing the compromised 8-inch cast iron line.
- The other pipe will convey drinking water, creating a redundant river crossing that connects the east and west water systems.
- The existing 20-inch cast iron wastewater pipe was relined.
- The 8-inch pipe will become a regional fiber optic communications conduit.



FALL 2023 EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

The following GAUD employees celebrated work anniversaries in September, October and November. We're so grateful to have all of them on our team!

- **September**
 - Rebecca Hughes (pictured at right), 21 years of service
 - John Mills, 20 years of service
 - Hardy Cummings, 5 years of service
- **October**
 - Bob Higgins, 6 years of service
 - Troy Maheux, 5 years of service
- **November**
 - Lee Cumber, 31 years of service



PREPPING FOR WINTER? CHECK THAT HEATING OIL TANK!

There are approximately 400,000 home heating oil (HHO) tanks in Maine. Many of these tanks meet the DEP "high risk" criteria and are in need of replacement to prevent spills. Heating oil spills can cause long term pollution in your drinking water and the air in your home, decrease the value of your home, and cause ecological damage to the surrounding environment. These preventable spills have resulted in millions of dollars spent on associated clean-up costs and have disrupted thousands of lives and homes. Is your tank a "high risk" tank?

We all can play an important role in preventing heating oil tank leaks by periodically checking our tanks. Unfortunately, tanks do not last forever. One of the greatest pollution threats to our groundwater, wastewater and stormwater is unintentional leakage of home heating oil from older, corroded heating oil tanks through basement floor drains and sump pumps. Inspect your heating oil tank and answer the following questions to find out if your tank is at risk of causing a spill. Look but do not touch, as a rusty or oily patch on the tank could indicate a leak or a weak spot.

Top Three Causes of Oil Tank Leaks?

1. Tank corrosion due to water and sludge build-up. A licensed oil heat technician can conduct an ultrasonic thickness test to determine steel thickness, which can indicate whether significant corrosion has occurred. Ultrasonic thickness testing is best used for tanks under 20 years old. For tanks over 20 years old, it is time to start planning for a tank replacement.
2. Parts failure can result from age, corrosion, and damage sustained from weather events. This includes but is not limited to rusted tank legs, unprotected filters damaged from falling ice or snow, and corroded fuel lines.
3. Human error spill causes include tank overfilling, improper maintenance or repair efforts, and damage to fuel lines and parts due to human activity.

Is your tank in danger of leaking?
Scan the QR code at right and review the simple questionnaire.



IMPORTANT RATE INFORMATION

Following a public hearing on May 15, 2023, the Board approved increases to the District's drinking water and wastewater rates. These changes took effect on July 1, 2023.

While we take pride in keeping costs and rates stable, rising operating costs have made these increases essential to continue providing safe and reliable drinking water supplies, and effective wastewater collection and treatment, as detailed below.

Drinking Water & Fire Protection

The minimum monthly increase is \$1.37. The typical customer will pay approximately \$2.53 more per month. The increase applies to all customer classes, including public and private fire protection and private hydrants.

Wastewater

The minimum monthly increase is \$3.32. The typical residential customer will pay approximately \$9.32 more per month.

EQUIPMENT UPDATE

We acquired the following pieces of equipment to assist us in maintaining and enhancing our infrastructure:

- CAT Excavator
- In-situ structure coating trailer
- Trucks
 - 2 Ford F250s
 - 3 Chevrolet Silverados
 - 3 Ford Lightnings

