

**WINTERPORT WATER DISTRICT**  
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PWSID 0091640

**2023 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 2023 annual water quality report of the Winterport Water District, which covers the period from January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. This annual report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water. We know that you count on the Winterport Water District 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 2023.**

**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 District'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 Winterport Water District's staff. The operators 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 and chlorine residual monitoring. These tests are conducted by the Maine State Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory and the Winterport Water District.

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 and (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. 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 online at: <https://www.epa.gov/ccr/forms/contact-us-about-consumer-confidence-reports>

Table 1 lists regulated testing conducted by the Winterport Water District for which results were obtained in 2023. 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: 2023 REQUIRED WINTERPORT WATER DISTRICT TESTING RESULTS**

CONTAMINANT	DATE	WINTERPORT RESULTS	EPA LIMIT	EPA GOAL	SOURCE
<b>MICROBIOLOGICAL</b>					
Total Coliform	Quarterly Testing	0 Positive Results	1 Positive Result	0 Positive Results	Naturally present in the environment.
<b>INORGANICS</b>					
Arsenic	6/27/22	0.53 ppb	10 ppb	0 ppb	Erosion of natural deposits.
Barium	6/27/22	0.002 ppm	2 ppm	2 ppm	Erosion of natural deposits.
Chromium	6/27/22	0.66 ppb	100 ppb	100 ppb	Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	Monthly Testing	0.72 ppm (0.66 – 0.79 ppm)	4 ppm	4 ppm	Water additive for teeth.
Nitrate	8/30/23	0.93 ppm	10 ppm	10 ppm	Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper 90 <sup>th</sup> Percent Value	Summer 2021	0.15 ppm (0.034 – 0.17 ppm)	1.3 ppm	1.3 ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead 90 <sup>th</sup> Percent Value	Summer 2021	1.2 ppb (0 – 2.1 ppb)	15 ppb	0 ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
<b>SYNTHETIC COMPOUNDS</b>					
PFAS (6 compounds)	10/31/23	11.7 ppt	20 ppt	-	Manmade chemicals including household products, fabrics, cookware, and cleaners.
<b>RADIONUCLIDES</b>					
Combined Uranium	6/27/22	0.92 ppb	30 ppb	0 ppb	Erosion of natural deposits.
Combined Radium (-226 and -228)	6/16/21	0.509 pCi/L	5 pCi/L	0 pCi/L	Erosion of natural deposits.
Radium-226	6/16/21	0.132 pCi/L	5 pCi/L	0 pCi/L	Erosion of natural deposits.
Radium-228	6/16/21	0.377 pCi/L	5 pCi/L	0 pCi/L	Erosion of natural deposits.
<b>DISINFECTANTS AND DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS</b>					
Chlorine Residual	Quarterly Testing	0.72 ppm (0.60-0.86 ppm)	4.0 ppm	4.0 ppm	Drinking water chlorination.
Total Trihalomethanes	8/30/2023	0.50 ppb	80 ppb	0 ppb	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination.
Haloacetic Acids	8/30/2023	0 ppb	60 ppb	0 ppb	Byproduct of 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).      pCi/L = picocuries per liter.  
 ppt = parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/L).

**Notes:**

- 1) Total Coliform Bacteria: Reported as the highest monthly number of positive samples.
- 2) 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.
- 3) Fluoride: Fluoride levels must be maintained between 0.5 to 1.2 ppm, for those water systems that fluoridate the water. Winterport adds fluoride.
- 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) 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.
- 7) PFAS: The degree of risk depends on the level of chemicals and duration of exposure. Lab studies of animals exposed to high doses of PFAS have shown numerous negative health 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.

The data presented in Table 1 demonstrates that the Winterport Water District 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 District is in compliance with Arsenic, Barium, Chromium, Fluoride, Nitrate, Radionuclides, PFAS, and Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts. The District tests every three years for lead and copper at ten homes during each sampling event. Copper testing in 2021 was in complete compliance with a result of 0.15 ppm as compared to the EPA limitation of 1.3 ppm. The lead sampling in 2021 was also in compliance. The lead testing was 1.2 ppb versus an EPA standard of 15 ppb. The next round of testing is scheduled for 2024. 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 District 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>.

**WAIVER INFORMATION**

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. We are expected to test for these contaminants in 2024.

**WATER SUPPLY/TREATMENT/DISTRIBUTION INFORMATION**

The District obtains water from two sand and gravel groundwater wells located on Nason Bean Lane. The District provided water service to about 322 connected customers in 2023. The District supplied an average of 92,790 gallons of water per day or 33.9 million gallons of potable water to customers in 2023. In 2019, the District installed a new 714,000-gallon concrete storage tank off of Park Drive that can supply water for up to several days during average water use to the community. This water storage tank also is used for peak flow fluctuations in the system during periods of hydrant flushing and for fire protection purposes. The tank was constructed at a higher elevation to improve pressures throughout the system. The District maintains fire protection through hydrants located throughout the Town. Prior to distribution, the District adds sodium hypochlorite for disinfection, fluoride for dental considerations and a sequestering agent for control of corrosion and calcium scale deposits.

## **SOURCE WATER PROTECTION**

Several years ago, the District adopted a Well Head Protection plan to help prevent source contamination. The next steps will be to work towards a Zoning Ordinance to implement this plan.

## **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 287-2070.

## **FUTURE PLANS AND NEEDS**

The Winterport Water District applied to the Drinking Water Program for funding to replace the remainder of its unreliable, undersized galvanized steel water lines. These lines total about 1,700 linear feet in sections of Parsonage Street between Marine Street and Mechanic Street, Steamboat Street from the end of the new 8-inch ductile iron water main to the end of the line, and Lincoln Avenue from Willow Street to Commercial Street. This grant is going to provide 75 percent of the costs of this replacement. A small water rate increase may be needed to the remainder.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

This report is a summary of the Winterport Water District'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 Water District at (207) 223-5028. 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.

## **WATER LEAKS**

If you discover indoor plumbing leaks, please have them properly repaired in a timely manner. This includes toilets that run non-stop. If you observe flowing water outdoors which could be a possible water main leak, please report this to the District at (207) 223-5028 to have it investigated.