

Lewiston Public Services Water Division is pleased to present to you our annual water quality report. This report includes important information about the quality of your drinking water. We are dedicated to providing water that meets all federal and state regulations. If you have questions about this report or your water service, please contact us.

LEWISTON PUBLIC SERVICES WATER DIVISION
101 ADAMS AVENUE
LEWISTON ME 04240
CITYOFLEWISTON@CI.LEWISTON.ME.US
513-3003

FACTS:

- Lake Auburn has been Lewiston's public water source since 1899.
- One dollar can buy an average of 238 gallons of water.
- Lewiston serves over 23,000 people with safe drinking water.
- Lake Auburn is the only source of public water available.
- Because of Lake Auburn's exceptional water quality, the water is not filtered.
- Lewiston Water Division maintains 160 miles of water mains and 742 public fire hydrants. These water mains deliver water from the Lake to you. There are over 9,300 services connected to the public system.
- An average of 4 million gallons of water are pumped out of Lake Auburn every day for Lewiston customers.
- Auburn withdraws an average of 2.5 million gallons per day.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Your drinking water is treated to reduce your exposure to lead. 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. We are 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 1-800-426-4791 or at: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>

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HYDRANT FLUSHING

In 2010, our annual hydrant flushing program started in March and lasted through early summer. With a combination of day and night flushing, the crews began in the downtown area and progressively worked to the outskirts and dead ends. We will implement an aggressive program again this Spring and attempt to flush every hydrant in the system.

WATER RATES

Lewiston's water rates increased in July 2010. Although the overall rate increased 15%, the increase was designed to minimize the impacts on the low water user and to reduce the discounts which were built into the rate structure for those who consume more water. The average family should expect to see their bill go up less than \$8 per quarter or less than \$2.75 per month. The last water rate increase of 22% was in July, 2007. No water rate increase is expected for 2011.

NEW & IMPROVED MAINS

In 2010, improvements to the Lewiston water distribution system included replacing approximately 3,200 feet of old unlined 6 inch cast iron pipe and replacing over 800 feet of 12 inch unlined cast iron pipe with new 16 inch water pipe. This improves water quality, fire flows and decreases the time it takes to fill our storage tanks.

PARTNERING

With the assistance of a 25% American Resource and Recovery Act grant, LWD partnered with the Auburn Water District to construct an ultraviolet light disinfection facility. Substantial work was done in 2010 and the facility will be completed by June. The utilities are also partnering to construct a chloramines facility off Turner street in 2011.

WATER METERS

Lewiston's annual water meter testing and replacement continued by testing and changing approximately 600 water meters in 2010.

HEALTH INFORMATION

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised people such as 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 and chemical contaminants are available from the State Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Because Lake Auburn has been well protected, its water is of high quality and is exempted from the federal requirement to filter. It is much more expensive to treat dirty water. The best level of protection and cost saving to our customers is to keep Lake Auburn clean by protecting the land and water within the watershed. Current treatment includes adding measured doses of chlorine to kill bacteria, viruses, and other microbes. Fluoride is added to aid in tooth decay prevention. A blended phosphate is added to stop lead corrosion in customers plumbing. The water travels through transmission mains where the chlorine has time to disinfect the water. Before reaching the first customers, the pH is adjusted to prevent copper corrosion in plumbing using sodium hydroxide. Chlorine in water is converted to chloramine using ammonia to form chloramines which is a disinfectant. The water continues through piping to your service connection. State licensed operators run your water system. The Maine Drinking Water Program is the enforcement agency for EPA and ensures that all the EPA regulations are met. The drinking water is tested 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for most of our treatment systems. We have safety systems in place to ensure the treatment continues to operate correctly. Our goal is to deliver safe drinking water to your tap, always.

STATE CERTIFIED LICENSED WATER OPERATORS AT YOUR SERVICE

Lake Auburn, your water source, is a unique lake and one of the most difficult to protect. Besides the utility staff keeping a watchful eye on it, there are laws in effect that govern its use and how land in the watershed is used and developed. The Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commissions By-Laws, Auburn City Ordinances, State of Maine Private and Special Laws, an Environmental Protection Agency regulations all help to keep our lake clean and

safe. Please do your part to prevent pollution of this great natural resource. If you suspect inappropriate activity please call us at 207-784-6469 or call 911 for the Police.

ABOUT US

Lewiston Water Division is municipally owned and operated. The Lewiston City Council meets every first and third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. In the City Hall Council Chambers. You are invited to attend.

CONTACTS

David Jones, PE, Director LPS
Richard Burnham, PE, Lewiston City Engineer
Kevin Gagne, Water & Sewer Superintendent
Mary Jane Dillingham, Water Quality Manager

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Maine Water Utilities Assoc. @ www.mwua.org
American Water Works Association @ www.awwa.org
USEPA @ www.epa.gov
Maine Drinking Water Program @ www.medwp.com
National Center for Disease Control @ www.cdc.gov

What's in Your Water?

This table provides Lewiston Water Division 2010 Water Quality sampling results for the public water supply

SUBSTANCE	Units of Measure	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Highest Level Detected	Range of Detections	How it gets in the water	Violation
Total Coliform	Per 100 milliliters	5%	6 positive out of 120 tests (July 2010)		Naturally found in the environment	NO
Chloramine	Parts per million	4	2.40 (average in 2010)	1.79 - 3.55	Water additive for disinfection	NO
Turbidity	Nephelometric Turbidity Unit	5	2.30 (12/15/2010)		Soil pollution	NO
Copper	Parts per million	1.3	0.11 (1/1/06 - 12/31/08)		Corrosion of household plumbing	NO
Fluoride	Parts per million	4	1.3 (6/29/10)		Water additive promoting strong teeth	NO
Lead	Parts per billion	15	2 (1/1/06 - 12/31/08)	1 - 12	Corrosion of household plumbing	NO
Gross Alpha Screen	Picocuries per liter	15	0.552 (1/06)		Erosion of natural deposits	NO
Haloacetic Acids	Parts per billion	60	32.44 RAA	28-42	By-product of chlorination	NO
Total Trihalomethanes	Parts per billion	80	33.71 RAA	18.5-55.3	By-product of chlorination	NO
Arsenic	Parts per million	10	0.71 (4/10)		Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards	NO
Barium	Parts per million	2	0.0015 (4/10)		Erosion of natural deposits	NO
OTHER INFORMATION						
Chloride	Parts per million	250	11		Naturally found in environment	NO
Iron	Parts per million	0.03	<.05		Naturally found in environment	NO
Magnesium	Parts per million	None	0.75		Naturally found in environment	NO
Manganese	Parts per million	.05	0.0028		Naturally found in environment	NO
Sodium	Parts per million	None	7.9		Naturally found in environment	NO
Sulfate	Parts per million	250	3		Naturally found in environment	NO
Zinc	Parts per million	5	<.002		Naturally found in environment	NO

There were no violations in 2010. There were no waivers from testing granted in 2010. All other regulated drinking water contaminants were below detection levels.

DEFINITIONS

MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.

RAA: Running Annual Average - The average of all quarterly samples for the last year at all sample locations.

Lead/Copper: Action levels - the concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers requirements that a system must follow. These samples are measured at customers' tap. 90% of the tests must be equal or below the action level.

Haloacetic acids/Total trihalomethanes: These chemicals are tested quarterly. Compliance is based on a four quarter running average. The result reported is the average value of the four quarters of 2010.

Turbidity: Is a measure of the cloudiness or silt in the untreated water. Excessive turbidity levels can cause problems with disinfection effectiveness.

Total coliform: Bacteria used as an indicator to determine disinfection effectiveness. Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful bacteria may be present. Positive results indicated that water main flushing was needed. E.coli bacteria were not detected in the treated drinking water.

Why is it important to protect Lake Auburn?

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. More information about contaminants can be obtained by calling EPA's Safe Water Hotline. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:
- *Microbial*, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- *Inorganic*, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater pollution, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas, mining, or farming.
- *Pesticides and herbicides*, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water pollution, and residential uses.
- *Organic chemicals*, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and can come from gas stations, urban pollution, and septic systems.

About 75% of the land in the watershed of Lake Auburn is forested. Urban grasses, pastures and croplands cover about 23% of the watershed. The water supply intake is located in the southeast portion of the lake where access to the lake and shoreland is restricted. There are threats to Lake Auburn. As water flows, either on the surface or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and radioactive material and can pick up substances resulting from human or animal activity. 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, public water suppliers, and the DWP. For more information about SWAP, please contact the DWP at telephone 207-287-2070. There is no other public source of drinking water available to the twin cities. Hospitals, schools, businesses, manufacturers, restaurants, residents, all of us rely on and need safe drinking water, in good quantity and at an affordable rate, for our communities to function, thrive, and prosper.