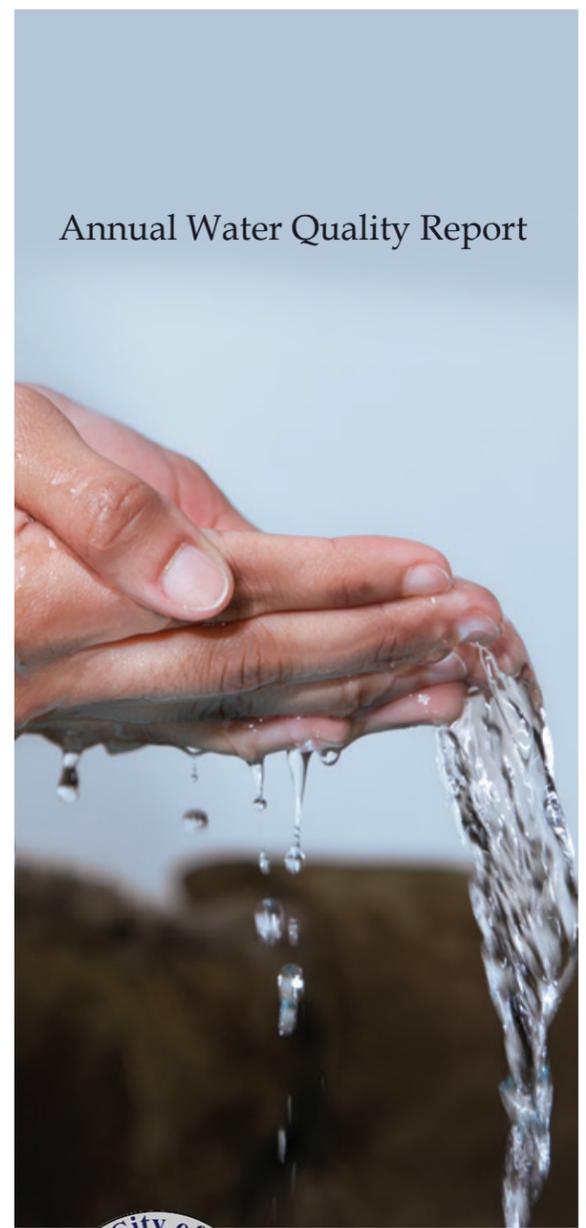




513-3003

FACTS:

- Lake Auburn has been Lewiston’s public water source since 1899.
- One dollar can buy an average of 233 gallons of water.
- Lewiston serves over 23,000 people with safe drinking water.
- Lake Auburn is the only source of public water available for the twin cities.
- Because of Lake Auburn’s exceptional water quality, the water is not filtered.
- Lewiston Water Division maintains over 160 miles of water mains and over 740 public fire hydrants. These water mains deliver water from the Lake to you.
- There are over 9,300 services connected to the public system.
- Lewiston withdraws an average of 4.4 million gallons of water per day from Lake Auburn.
- Auburn withdraws an average of 2.7 million gallons per day.



Annual Water Quality Report



Is my water safe?

We are pleased to present this year’s Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act. This report is a snapshot of last year’s water quality and is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

Where does my water come from?

Your drinking water comes from Lake Auburn. The source of Lewiston and Auburn’s public drinking water since 1875, Lake Auburn is fed by a mostly forested watershed extending from Buckfield to Turner to Hebron and Minot to East Auburn. Due to the high quality of Lake Auburn’s water the EPA has exempted the Lewiston Public Works Water Division and Lewiston Water Division from the requirement to filter the water prior to disinfection. This exemption reduces treatment costs while providing excellent, safe water to our consumers. To assure long-term protection of the water source, in 1993 the two Districts formed the Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission; empowered to protect the lake and surrounding watershed. The most effective, safest, and least expensive method for keeping Lake Auburn clean is to assure that water entering

the lake is from a protected, well managed watershed. For more information about watershed protection and how you can do your part; visit www.lakeauburnwater.org or call 207-784-6469.

Are there contaminants in my drinking water?

The sources of drinking water (tap water and bottled water) include 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, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Water can carry:

- microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife;
- 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;
- pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses;
- 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; and

- radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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 and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Do I need to take special precautions?

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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

Description of Water Treatment Process

Water from the intake pipes is screened prior to the addition of measured doses of chlorine. Chlorine is a disinfectant that kills harmful bacteria, viruses, and microbes. Fluoride is added for dental health benefits. Because some of our customers’ homes contain lead and/or copper plumbing, we add a blended phosphate to the water to stop lead corrosion. Finally, we reduce the pH of the water with sodium hydroxide to prevent copper corrosion. Our goal is to deliver safe drinking water to your tap; always. State Licensed Operators run your water system. The drinking water is tested 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We conduct thousands of water tests each year so that we are constantly monitoring water quality. In addition, we closely monitor the lake and contributing waters. Technology enables us to have safety systems in place to ensure that treatment continues to operate correctly.

PROTECTIONS

Maintaining the lake and watershed requires an array of protections. Utility staff keeps a watchful and practiced eye on activities while state and local agencies assist by enforcing regulations governing how the land in the watershed is used. Critical to the future of water quality is education and outreach to watershed residents and support for those activities which promote clean water. The Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission invites your partnership; find out more at www.lakeauburnwater.org.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT AVAILABILITY.

Recently a study of the watershed was completed, indicating potential sources of contaminants to the lake. A copy of the report, called The Lake Auburn Diagnostic Study, is available on the LAWPC website at www.lakeauburnwater.org.

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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. The utilities also partnered to construct a chloramine disinfection facility off Turner Street. Work was completed in 2012.

WATER METERS

Lewiston's annual water meter testing and replacement continued testing and replacing approximately 950 water meters in 2012.

WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT

Major projects that were completed in 2012 included the replacement of 550 feet of 6 inch (installed 1878) with new 8 inch water main on Holland Street, replacement of 1,180 feet of 6 inch (installed 1960) with new 8 inch water main on Simard Avenue, replacement of 625 feet of 6 inch (installed 1960) with new 8 inch on Bolduc Street, replacement of 850 feet of 6 inch (installed 1968) with new 8 inch on Montello Street, replacement of 590 feet of 6 inch (installed in 1965) with new 8 inch on Bailey Avenue, replacement of 875 feet of 6 inch (installed 1925) with new 8 inch on Lafayette Street;

replacement of 1,650 feet of 6 inch (installed 1930's) with new 8 inch on Montello Street (Fair to Buttonwood); replacement of 635 feet of 10 inch (installed 1962) with new 8 inch on Oak Street and replacement of approximately 200 feet of 2 inch with new 4 inch on Jack Court.

WATER RATES

Water rates did not increase in 2012. There is a proposed 20% rate increase for 2013.

What's in Your Water?

This table provides Lewiston Public Works Water Division's 2012 Water Quality sampling results for the public water supply

SUBSTANCE	Units of measure	Violation	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)	Lewiston Water Highest Detected Level	Range of Detections	How it gets in the water
Total Coliform	Per 100 milliliters	NO	5%	0 positive	3 pos (August)		Naturally found in environment
Chloramine	Parts per million	NO	MRDL= 4	MRDLG= 4	2.3	1.92-2.69	Water additive for disinfection
Turbidity	NTU NO		5	NA	3.55	.55-3.55	Soil pollution
Copper	Parts per million	NO	AL= 1.3	1.3	0.08(1/1/11-12/31/11)	.05-.20	Corrosion of household plumbing
Fluoride	Parts per million	NO	4	4	0.8		Water additive promoting strong teeth
Lead	Parts per billion	NO	AL= 15	0	4 (1/1/11-12/31/11)	1-7	Corrosion of household plumbing
Radium-228	Pico curies per liter	NO	5	0	0.485 (10/17/11)		Erosion of natural deposits
Haloacetic acids	parts per billion	NO	60	0	34.38	22.5-46.75	By-product of chlorination
Total Trihalomethanes	parts per billion	NO	80	0	39.09	26.45-62.70	By-product of chlorination
Arsenic	Parts per billion	NO	10	0	0.55 (3/20/12)		Erosion of natural deposits. Runoff from orchards, glass and electronics production wastes.
Barium	Parts per million	NO	2	2	.0008 (3/20/12)		Erosion of natural deposits. Discharge of drilling wastes. Discharge from metal refineries.
OTHER INFORMATION							
Chloride	Parts per million	NO	250	NA	11		
Iron	Parts per million	NO	0.3	NA	<.05		
Magnesium	Parts per million	NO	NA	NA	0.77		
Manganese	Parts per million	NO	0.05	NA	0.0055		
Sodium	Parts per million	NO	NA	NA	8		
Sulfate	Parts per million	NO	250	NA	3		
Zinc	Parts per million	NO	5	NA	<.002		
Nitrate	Parts per million	NO	10	NA	<.05		

There were no violations in 2012. There were no waivers from testing granted in 2012

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). pCi/L = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity).

ppb = parts per billion or micrograms per liter (µg/L). pos = positive samples.

NOTES:

1) Total Coliform Bacteria: Reported as the highest monthly number of positive samples, for water systems that take < 40 samples per month. 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. E.coli bacteria were not detected in the treated drinking water.

2) Arsenic: The U.S. EPA adopted the new MCL standard in October 2001. Water systems must meet this new standard by January 2006.

3) Fluoride: Fluoride levels must be maintained between .5-1.0 ppm, for those water systems that fluoridate the water.

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) Gross Alpha: Action level over 5 pCi/L requires testing for Radium. Action level over 15 pCi/L requires testing for Radon and Uranium.

7) Uranium: The U.S. EPA adopted the new MCL standard of 30 µg/L(ppb), in December 2000. Water systems must meet this new standard after December 2003.

8) Radon: The State of Maine adopted a Maximum Exposure Guideline (MEG) for Radon in drinking water at 4000 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. The U.S. EPA is proposing setting federal standards for Radon in public

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.

All other regulated drinking water contaminants were below detection levels.