

## Where does my water come from?

In 2014, your drinking water came from one of the following wells in Augusta:

- Brookside Well, 206 MG (million gallons)
- Triangle Well, 149 MG
- South Well, 312 MG

In 2014, over 668 million gallons of water were supplied from the three wells. The average flow was 1.83 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 are designed to predict the likelihood of our drinking water sources being contaminated by human activities in the future. Assessments examine geology, hydrology, land uses, water testing information, and the extent of land ownership or protection by local ordinance. Results are available at public water suppliers, town offices, and the DWP. For more information about the SWAP, please contact the DWP at 287-2070.

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## Greater Augusta Utility District

12 Williams Street • Augusta, ME 04330

Phone: 207-622-3701

Email: [contact@greataugustautilitydistrict.org](mailto:contact@greataugustautilitydistrict.org)

[greataugustautilitydistrict.org](http://greataugustautilitydistrict.org)

## ENJOY WITH CONFIDENCE

Greater Augusta Utility District is pleased to present positive results from our 2014 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 well within our standards.

We hope you find this Report informative. Please contact us with any questions at 207-622-3701 or [contact@greataugustautilitydistrict.org](mailto:contact@greataugustautilitydistrict.org)

**Lead & Copper:** Elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. The primary source is materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing.

The District's lead and copper tests showed levels that were below the regulatory action levels. Some homeowners, however, found levels higher than desired. While we are responsible for delivering high quality drinking water to each property, we cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components on the property.

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. For more information, visit <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead/>

The District tests for lead and copper in accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. The next tests will be done in 2015.

## 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.

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 storm water 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 storm water 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 storm water 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. Calciquest 75/25 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 from the **Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791)**.

## Greater Augusta Utility District 2014 DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

Distribution system samples	Monitored Constituent	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)	Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)	Finished Water Quality	Major Sources in Drinking Water
	Total Coliform Bacteria	0	1 positive sample/month	321 samples collected, zero (0) positive samples	Naturally present in the environment.
	Haloacetic acids (ppb)	0	60	total Haloacetic acid <5 ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
	Trihalomethanes (ppb)	0	80	total Trihalomethanes 20.4 ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
	Copper, (ppm)	1.3	Action level = 1.3	90th percentile = 0.34 ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
	Lead, (ppb) - Note 1	0	Action level = 15	90th percentile = 3.8 ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
	Fluoride, (ppm) - Note 2	4	4	0.9 ppm	Water additive which promotes strong teeth.

Aesthetic constituents	Monitored Constituent	MCLG	MCL	Brookside Well	Triangle Well	South Well	Interpretation of water quality results
	Chloride (ppm)	n/a	250	32	32	32	Chloride is very low.
	Hardness (ppm as Ca)	n/a	500	124	124	124	The District's water is hard.
	Iron (ppm)	n/a	0.3	<.05	<.05	<.05	Iron is typically very low.
	Manganese (ppm)	n/a	0.05	<.0005	<.0005	<.0005	Manganese is typically very low.
	pH	n/a	6.5–8.5	7.9	7.9	7.9	pH is slightly basic.
	Sodium (ppm)	n/a	100	16	16	16	Sodium is very low.

Source Water Samples	Monitored Constituent	MCLG	MCL	Brookside Well	Triangle Well	South Well	Interpretation of water quality results
	Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	4.7	4.7	4.7	Possible sources include erosion of natural deposits and runoff from orchards.
	Nitrate (ppm) - Note 3	10	10	0.33	0.33	0.33	Sources include fertilizer, septic leaching and erosion of natural deposits.
	Herbicides	In 2014, the District was granted a "Synthetic Organics Waiver". This is a three year exemption from the testing/monitoring requirements for pesticides, herbicides, fungicides and other industrial chemicals. This waiver was granted due to the absence of these potential sources of contamination within a half mile radius of the water source.					
	Pesticides						
VOC (Volatile organic compounds)			none detected	none detected	none detected	Contact the District for more information about VOC testing.	

**PPB:** Parts per billion      **PPM:** Parts per million

**Action level:** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers other requirements which a water system must follow.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

1. Action levels are measured at consumer's tap. 90% of the tests must be equal to or below the action level. Data shown are from 30 samples collected from residential customers in August, 2014.

2. Fluoride levels are maintained at approximately 0.7 ppm, for those water systems that fluoridate water. Fluoride in drinking water at 2.0 ppm or more may cause mottling of children's teeth, usually in children less than nine years old. Mottling, also known as dental fluorosis, may include brown staining and/or pitting of the teeth, and occurs only in developing teeth before they erupt from the gums.

3. Nitrate is measured with all three wells running, prior to entering the distribution system.

### Greater Augusta Utility District

# 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 call us at 207-622-3701 (M–F, 7–4:00).

## ABOUT YOUR WATER 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 the water, sewer and storm water infrastructure in Augusta and the sewer system in Hallowell. We are proud to continue our long tradition of supplying our customers with clean water and state-of-the-art sanitation services. On behalf of all the employees, I thank you for your support!

— Brian Tarbuck, General Manager



## 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. The majority of the city council in each city must also affirm the Mayor’s appointment to the Board.

Trustees are appointed to three-year terms. The Board meets at least monthly. The date and time of the meeting is published in the legal section of the Kennebec Journal and online at [www.greateraugustautilitydistrict.org](http://www.greateraugustautilitydistrict.org), where you can also find minutes of each meeting.

The current Board members are:



Ken Knight, Chair  
KKnight@greateraugustautilitydistrict.org



Dave Bustin, Hallowell Ex-officio  
DBustin@greateraugustautilitydistrict.org



Don Roberts  
DRoberts@greateraugustautilitydistrict.org



David Smith, Vice Chair  
DSmith@greateraugustautilitydistrict.org



Lesley Jones, Augusta Ex-officio  
LJones@greateraugustautilitydistrict.org



Sukey Sikora  
SSikora@greateraugustautilitydistrict.org



Charlene Hamiwka, Treasurer  
CHamiwka@greateraugustautilitydistrict.org



Andy McPherson,  
Hallowell Voting Representative  
AMcPherson@greateraugustautilitydistrict.org



Kirsten Hebert  
KHebert@greateraugustautilitydistrict.org

## OTHER RESOURCES FOR WATER QUALITY INFORMATION

Maine Drinking Water Program: [www.medwp.com](http://www.medwp.com) • 207-287-2070

Environmental Protection Agency: [www.epa.gov/ogwdw](http://www.epa.gov/ogwdw) • Hotline 800-426-4791

Safe Drinking Water Hotline: 1-800-426-4791

National Center for Disease Control: 404-639-3311 • [www.cdc.com](http://www.cdc.com)

American Water Works Association: 303-794-7711 • [www.awwa.org](http://www.awwa.org)

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