INTRODUCTION

This is the eighteenth annual water quality report of the Rumford Water District serving Rumford, Maine. This annual report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water. We know that you count on us for a safe and reliable supply of water every day, and we are dedicated to providing the highest quality of service to you.

THE CONTENTS OF THIS REPORT

The Safe Drinking Water Act mandates the State of Maine, along with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), to establish and enforce minimum drinking water standards. These standards set the limits on certain biological, radioactive, organic and inorganic substances sometimes found in drinking water. The limits set on these standards are known as MCLs, Maximum Contaminant Levels. Two types of standards have been established. Primary Standards set achievable 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. All substances tested met both Primary and Secondary Standards within the levels established by the EPA and the State of Maine.

WATER QUALITY

We ensure that your water is safe through regular monitoring and testing of water quality. These tests are conducted by Maine State Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory which is a State certified testing laboratory. This report shows a comprehensive summary of the laboratory test results for the constituents we regularly monitor in your water supply. Responsibility for maintaining water quality resides with our staff of certified water treatment plant operators, licensed by the State of Maine Department of Human Services.

All 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 health risk. However, some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 some advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control) has guidelines on the appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants. More information about waterborne contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

In 2014, 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): HERBICIDES, CARBAMATE PESTICIDES, TOXAPHENE/CHLORDANE/PCB, 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.

WATER SUPPLY SOURCES

The Rumford Water District has two locations of water supply source. The primary source is the Milligan Wells located off Route 5 in Rumford. The #1 well can produce up to 1,035 gallons per minute and the #2 well can produce up to 700 gallons per minute. Both are drilled, gravel packed wells. The secondary source has two wells located on the Swift River Road in Rumford, called the Scottie’s Wells. The #1 well produces 400 gallons per minute, and the #2 well can produce 180 gallons per minute.

Sodium Hypochlorite is used as a disinfectant at both Milligan’s and Scottie’s Wells. The levels of this disinfectant are continuously monitored and controlled to ensure adequate disinfection has occurred prior to delivery to you. At our Milligan and Scotties well sites, Aeration is used to remove radon and to elevate pH levels. The pH level is an important part of corrosion control, helping to keep lead and copper levels down. Sodium Fluoride is added to the water to promote dental health. Fluoride has been proven to reduce rates of tooth decay, especially in children.
SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT

Sources of drinking water include rivers, lakes, ponds, and wells. As water flows either on the surface or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and radioactive materials. Naturally occurring minerals and radioactive materials can also accumulate substances resulting from human and 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 be contaminated by human activities in the future. Assessments results are available at public water suppliers, town offices, and the DWP. For more information on the SWAP, you may contact the DWP at telephone (207) 287-2070.

The Rumford Water District, in conjunction with the Town of Rumford, has in effect a zoning ordinance passed by voters to protect the drinking water supply. Copies of the Well Head Protection Plan may be obtained at the Rumford Water District office.

WATER SYSTEM DATA

Your water supply and distribution system includes over 42 miles of water mains. The system served 4,500 people in 2015 and provides fire protection services through 213 hydrants. In the last 12 months we have produced and delivered over 220 million gallons of water. That is an average of 604,506 gallons each day. The system also maintains one (1) million gallons in each of our two (2) covered storage reservoirs. This storage allows us to meet peak system demand periods and maintain an adequate supply during fire fighting activities.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2015

In June of last year the physical disconnection of the East Rumford River Crossing was completed. The river crossing is no longer used and the three homes that were being fed by the crossing now each have individual residential wells.

In July the District refinanced a 2008 Bond through the Maine Municipal Bond Bank. The bond was purchased for the amount of $796,155. The money was used for water line replacement, rebuilding the Milligan Well Road, and to purchase needed equipment.

Also in July, the District received a refund from Maine Municipal Association Workers Compensation and Property and Property and Casualty Pool insurances for its good loss experience. The refund was for the amount of $1,269.00.

Last year the District had asset management work done by RCAP Solutions of Worcester, Massachusetts. This work provided an inventory of the Districts assets and a replacement schedule. The work was funded by a grant from the State of Maine Drinking Water Program at no cost to the District.

In September, the District’s crew worked on two separate culvert projects with contractors for the State of Maine Department of Transportation. This work took place on the Andover Road and at Meadow Brook and Split Brook. On both of these jobs sheet piling had to be used to protect the District’s water main from the construction work because of the west and unstable ground. Many hours of preventive standby were required from our crew due to both of these projects.

Also in September, the crew worked on Maine Avenue from Spruce Street to Rumford Avenue raising valve boxes for an overlay paving project by the Town of Rumford. This work consisted of exposing, cleaning out and raising 31 valve boxes.

In the fall the District’s crew worked along with the Town of Rumford Public Works Department on a sewer reconstruction project on Linnell Street. One service was renewed from the main to the curb.

During 2015 there were 28 new residential meters installed.

FUTURE PLANS AND NEEDS

This year the Water District’s crew will be working on the demolition of an old, no longer used, pump house located on Crescent Avenue. The project will also involve installing new valves and disconnecting old pipe that went to the pump station.

The District crew will also be rebuilding and painting hydrants this summer. The rebuilding work consists of replacing the inner working parts of the hydrants with new parts. This preventive maintenance work will eliminate the need to replace entire hydrants.

The District’s meter program is ongoing. We appreciate our customers willing response when contacted by the District in regards to changing the water meters.

HEALTH INFORMATION

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. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:
Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewerage 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 storm runoff and septic systems.

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

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. Rumford Water 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.

The highest Radon levels for our system were 1,638 pCi/L, taken on March 24, 2007. Radon is found in the soil and bedrock formations and is a water soluble, gaseous by-product of Uranium. Most Radon is released into the air, moments after turning on the tap. Only about 1-2 percent of Radon in the air comes from drinking water. The U.S. EPA is proposing setting lower standards for public drinking water. The State of Maine currently requires follow-up action (or treatment) for Radon levels in drinking water above 4,000 pCi/L. Breathing Radon released into the air from tap water increases the risk of lung cancer over the course of your lifetime. If you seek more information about Radon, please contact this office or the State of Maine Drinking Water Program and request a Radon “Fact Sheet”.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

This report is only a summary of our 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 us at our business office at (207) 364-8531 or the Superintendents office at (207) 364-2891. Office hours are Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and 12:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. The Board of Trustees Meeting is open to the public and is held on the first Wednesday of each month at 3:00 p.m. in the Water District’s Board Room. You may also direct questions to the Maine Department of Human Services Drinking Water Program at (207) 287-2070 or the Environmental Protection Agency’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

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