

Service Connection

The Maine Drinking Water Program Newsletter

"Working Together for Safe Drinking Water"

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The New "Lead Free" Standard has Arrived... Now What?

Roger Crouse, Director

On January 4, 2014, the new "lead free" standard takes effect. Consequently, the lead content of all pipes, fittings and plumbing fixtures put into use after January 4th must have less than 0.25% lead.

This standard pertains to all components in contact with potable water. In December, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a revised "Summary of The Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act and Frequently Asked Questions." The final document can be found at: <http://water.epa.gov/drink/info/lead/upload/epa815s13003.pdf>.

According to the law, manufacturers and retailers cannot sell products intended for potable water use unless they meet the new lead free standard. Therefore, everything new purchased is likely to be in compliance with the law. However, to help ensure you don't purchase the wrong products, EPA has created a document entitled "How to Identify Lead-Free Certification Marks for Drinking Water System and Plumbing Materials" (found at: <http://nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyPDF.cgi?Dockey=P100GRDZ.txt>).

Existing stocks of material with more than 0.25% lead content are now obsolete and cannot be used in your water system. Congress has now created an exemption for fire hydrants so they will not need to meet the new "lead free" standard. Seasonal meters continue to be an area of concern. Feel free to contact me if you have questions about seasonal meters.

What is the new "lead-free" requirement?

In 2011, the Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act was signed into law. The Act has reduced the lead content allowed in drinking water system and plumbing materials by changing the definition of "lead-free" in Section 1417 of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

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Protect Your Public Water System: Be Alert, Report Suspicious Activity



Always be on alert for unusual or suspicious activity and encourage your

residents to report suspicious activity around your infrastructure to local law enforcement.

As a reminder, all public water systems reporting security breaches, tampering or other emergencies affecting water system components to law enforcement must also report the incidents to the Drinking Water Program. We use incident reports to see if a trend is developing, and notify public water systems if a threat is credible.

If you have any questions about incident reporting or water system security, contact Sara Flanagan at 287-5678 or sara.m.flanagan@maine.gov.



Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention

An Office of the Department of Health and Human Services

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DIRECTOR'S Corner



Greetings from Augusta. I hope your holiday season has been peaceful and enjoyable.

Of the 38 positions at the Drinking Water Program, 26 are funded by the federal government. Each time we hear of sequestration, budget cuts, rescissions, gridlock and government shutdown, we cringe a little and wonder what the impact will be on the Drinking Water Program. Fortunately, we have been creative enough to make the adjustments necessary to deal with the financial challenges faced thus far. Without the necessary funding from Congress, we could not successfully implement the Safe Drinking Water Act in Maine.

In recent years, the State of Oklahoma experienced a state funding shortage for their Drinking Water Program to the point that they decided they did not have the staffing necessary to implement all of the Safe Drinking Water Act regulations. Consequently, they let the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 Office in Dallas, TX directly implement three rules. When a small water utility in Oklahoma was experiencing compliance issues they asked to meet with EPA. EPA agreed to meet, provided the utility drove the five plus hours to Dallas. Clearly, federal implementation of the Safe Drinking Water Act would impose negative consequences. I hope you agree that the administration of the Safe Drinking Water Act by the Maine Drinking Water Program has proven to be beneficial to public water systems in Maine again and again.

At a recent meeting with EPA leadership from Washington DC, the message to drinking water administrators across the country was to expect future budget hits. If the budget decreases *do* occur, we will need to evaluate the services we provide and make adjustments to remain within budget while minimizing the impacts on public water systems.

Please feel free to let us and Congress know where the budget priorities should be.

Yours for safe drinking water,

Roger

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The Maine Drinking Water Program Newsletter

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2014 DWSRF Project Applications Update

Norm Lamie, Assistant Director & Chief Engineer

According to the EPA 2011 Needs Survey, transmission and distribution projects are the largest category of need at \$737 Million dollars over the next 20 years, representing 63% of the total need. This finding, although significant, is not surprising, given that many of the distribution lines in Maine are more than 100 years old.

I'm pleased to report that 30 applications for funding under the 2014 DWSRF Program were for water main replacement and rehabilitation projects representing \$13.5 Million dollars, or nearly 50% of all funding requests. Applications also included five water treatment projects representing \$2.2 Million, and five finished water storage tank replacement or painting projects, representing \$4.3 Million. The 2014 project applications also included three pump station upgrades, three new wells, one system-wide meter replacement, and one refinance project.

The following tables include the draft Primary and Backup Lists for the 2014 DWSRF construction projects. A total of 48 project applications were received, totaling nearly \$24 Million. The 2014 draft Primary List includes 28 projects with a total loan value of \$14.2 Million, leaving 20 projects on the Backup List. The 2014 Intended Use Plan was distributed in in late December, with a public comment meeting to be held in January 2014.

For questions or more information about the 2014 DWSRF, contact Norm Lamie at 287-2647 or norm.lamie@maine.gov.

2014 DWSRF Primary Project List (draft 11-26-2013)					
Project Number	Points	PWSID	PWS Name	Work Type	Requested Loan Amount
2014-03	94.0	ME0090050	Andover Water District	Treatment & Pumping	\$ 261,500
2014-20	92.0	ME0090330	Castine Water Department	Treatment	\$ 580,000
2014-05	87.5	ME0090060	Ashland Water District	Treatment	\$ 248,880
2014-23	81.0	ME0090660	Hampden Water District	Source - backup	\$ 360,000
2014-21	80.5	ME0090080	Greater Augusta Water District	Storage Tank Replacement	\$ 2,000,000
2014-30	78.0	ME0006735	Marshwood Estates MHP	Treatment	\$ 250,000
2014-22	77.0	ME0090640	Guilford-Sangerville Water District	Main Replacement - Dist.	\$ 650,000
2014-36	77.0	ME0091210	Orono-Veazie Water District	Source - additional	\$ 296,800
2014-17	75.5	ME0090230	Bridgton Water District	Source - additional	\$ 322,320
2014-01	75.0	ME0090020	Alfred Water District	Main Replacement - Dist.	\$ 64,734
2014-02	75.0	ME0090020	Alfred Water District	Main Replacement - Dist.	\$ 70,018
2014-10	75.0	ME0090110	Bangor Water District	Main Replacement - Dist.	\$ 161,497
2014-34	75.0	ME0090170	MWC - Biddeford-Saco Division	Treatment	\$ 1,020,000
2014-44	71.0	ME0091540	Van Buren Water District	Storage Tank Replacement	\$ 1,785,000
2014-32	70.5	ME0094457	MSAD 61 - Songo Locks Elem. School	Treatment	\$ 135,834
2014-48	70.5	ME0091670	Yarmouth Water District	Main Rehabilitation - Trans.	\$ 850,000
2014-45	70.0	ME0091560	Waldoboro Water Department	Main Replacement - Dist.	\$ 170,544
2014-24	68.5	ME0080730	Kennebunk, K & W Water Dist.	Main Replacement -- Trans.	\$ 470,220
2014-25	68.5	ME0080730	Kennebunk, K & W Water Dist.	Main Replacement -- Trans.	\$ 239,700
2014-26	68.5	ME0080730	Kennebunk, K & W Water Dist.	Main Replacement -- Trans.	\$ 156,060
2014-33	68.0	ME0090170	MWC - Biddeford-Saco Division	Pump Station Replacement	\$ 844,050
2014-35	68.0	ME0091200	Old Town Water District	Main Replacement - Dist.	\$ 210,844
2014-40	68.0	ME0091310	Presque Isle Water District	Main Replacement - Dist.	\$ 410,000
2014-38	67.5	ME0091300	Portland Water District	Main Replacement - Dist.	\$ 459,900
2014-19	66.5	ME0090320	Caribou Utilities District	Storage Tank Painting	\$ 335,000
2014-08	66.5	ME0090110	Bangor Water District	Main Replacement - Dist.	\$ 1,109,760
2014-14	66.0	ME0090200	Boothbay Harbor Region W.D	Main Replacement - Dist.	\$ 675,750
2014-29	66.0	ME0090890	Long Pond Water District	Main Replacement - Dist.	\$ 70,000
					\$ 14,208,410

See page 6 for 2014 DWSRF Backup Project List





ENFORCEMENT CORNER

Tera Pare, Enforcement & Rulemaking Coordinator

A Look at Consent Orders

What does it mean if your Public Water System received a Consent Order? You sign a receipt for certified mail from the Drinking Water Program (DWP), and you open the envelope..... The cover letter states that your Public Water System (PWS) has received an administrative consent order from the DWP. What? If this happens to you, read the cover letter very carefully, and then read this article for next steps and available options.

Why Did Your PWS Receive an Administrative Consent Order? Public water systems that missed deadlines and actions set by earlier Notices of Noncompliance (also known as violation letters) are eligible to receive Administrative Consent Orders. The DWP is showing a good faith effort to work with the PWS to negotiate a settlement.

What First? On the day that you or another representative of the PWS signs for this Order and acknowledges receipt, a 10-day window begins: if you want to negotiate the terms of this agreement, then you must contact the person who mailed the letter (either Dawn Abbott or Tera Pare) by email or telephone within 10 days.

If I Do Contact Dawn or Tera Within 10 Days, What Does That Mean? It means that you have a greater voice in deciding what the terms of the final Consent Order will look like. It also demonstrates your willingness to work toward a resolution. Therefore, Dawn or Tera will not move forward with a unilateral order which could include more costly enforcement remedies.

How Long Does the Negotiation Period Last? The time period depends on the complexity of the problem/solution. Maine statute and regulations allow as many as 30 days for simpler solutions, and 60 days for more complex violations.

What Happens During This Negotiation Period? You and other "Water Suppliers" (owners, operators, or managers) can use this time to review the draft Order to decide whether your PWS can meet the terms of the agreement proposed. If you want to change any terms or think of a different plan or a different schedule, then offer it to the DWP at this time. The DWP reviews any plans and schedules and, if your plan is reasonable, we will change the terms and dates to reflect what you proposed.

What Happens If No Agreement Is Reached Before the 30 or 60-Day Deadline? An agreement is reached when both the PWS and the DWP sign the final Consent Order within the designated negotiation period of 30 or 60 days. If the PWS does not contact Dawn or Tera within ten days OR the Order is not signed within that timeframe, then Dawn or Tera must issue a more severe administrative order that carries no negotiation period and possible financial penalties. This type of Order will be discussed in the next Enforcement Corner.

What If I Have More Questions? Please contact Tera Pare at tera.pare@maine.gov or 287-5680, if more questions arise.

New DWP Staff

Michael Abbott



Michael Abbott joins the Drinking Water Program as the new Hydrogeologist and Water Resources Team Leader. Prior to joining the DWP, Mike worked for Ransom Consulting, Inc. as a Senior Engineer/Geologist and Senior Project Manager specializing in water supply development and protection, groundwater and surface water modeling, and investigation of contaminated groundwater sites. Mike began his career with the U.S. Public Health Service in 1991 and has worked in the drinking water profession for 23 years, most of that time as an environmental consultant in the private sector. Mike earned his B.S. in Civil Engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute and M.S. in Geology at the University of Vermont. Mike is a Certified Geologist in Maine and New Hampshire, and holds a Maine Professional Engineer's license. You can contact Mike at 287-6196 or Michael.Abbott@maine.gov.

Working Together For Safe Drinking Water

*Andy Tolman, Hydrogeology Consultant, NEWIPCC and
Former Drinking Water Program Hydrogeologist & Assistant Director (Retired)*

"Working Together for Safe Drinking Water" -what does that mean? It's the vision at the DWP, and all of us see it slightly differently. From a drinking water protection perspective, it has some interesting connotations. As most all of our readers know all too well, public water systems possess limited tools and resources to protect their water sources and infrastructure. Realizing this fact, earlier generations of drinking water folks chose the best quality and least developed aquifers and surface waters as their sources. This strategy led to inexpensive, clean and tasty drinking water for a long time. For the last several decades, more and more of us have chosen to move from towns and cities into the country, often to the same places our town relied on for its water supply.



Participants do table work at the Salmon Falls Watershed Collaborative Kick-off Workshop

Ten years ago, the DWP completed source water assessments for more than 2,300 drinking water sources. That systematic evaluation led us to the realization that, while the strategy of earlier generations had served us well, it was being compromised by continued development on aquifers and in the watersheds used for public water supplies. The DWP broadened its focus from working primarily with water systems to seeking partners who could help to manage growth and development near water sources. Many larger water systems also realized this need to work with municipalities and other groups, and those alliances have slowly but steadily helped reduce the risk to water systems.

In the past several years, both water systems and the DWP have worked to become more systematic about creating alliances and organizations that have a common goal of managing water resources for a number of allied uses. Examples include the Southern Maine Water Council, the Salmon Falls Watershed Collaborative, and the Kennebec Woodland Partnership. All focus on multiple goals and are organized so that all members see a benefit in contributing to the common effort. Forming groups like these requires operating outside our normal frame of reference, and often far from our comfort zone. Perhaps the largest barrier is the need to admit that we don't control all the activities we'd like to manage, and that we require assistance from individuals and groups who may not feel that drinking water protection is 'their job.'

When we are willing to admit that we need to work together (we need help) and are able to explain how and why others should care about drinking water protection, great things can happen. It takes time to build the relationships and gain the trust of partners, and even more time for them to adjust their focus to include drinking water. Once that is done, there is a good foundation for real collaboration. Make a quick list of the risks you face and cannot control. Think about who could help to reduce those risks. Ask yourself why those groups might find it in their interest to help. Go and talk to them. You're on your way.

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Continued from page 3...

2014 DWSRF Backup List (draft 11-26-2013)					
Project Number	Points	PWSID	PWS Name	Work Type	Requested Loan Amount
2014-31	65.0	ME0090970	Mexico Water District	Main Replacement - Dist.	\$ 103,020
2014-43	65.0	ME0091330	Rangeley Water District	Main Replacement - Dist.	\$ 424,570
2014-37	64.5	ME0090510	Passamaquoddy Water District	Main Replacement - Dist.	\$ 1,756,218
2014-27	64.0	ME0080730	Kennebunk, K & W Water Dist.	Main Replacement - Dist.	\$ 400,860
2014-28	64.0	ME0080730	Kennebunk, K & W Water Dist.	Main Replacement - Dist.	\$ 342,720
2014-18	63.0	ME0090320	Caribou Utilities District	Main Replacement - Dist.	\$ 180,000
2014-41	63.0	ME0091310	Presque Isle Water District	Main Replacement - Dist.	\$ 550,000
2014-07	61.1	ME0090110	Bangor Water District	Main Replacement - Dist.	\$ 100,705
2014-12	61.0	ME0090140	Belfast Water District	Main Replacement - Dist.	\$ 320,000
2014-46	61.0	ME0091630	Winter Harbor Water District	Main Replacement - Dist.	\$ 841,500
2014-15	60.0	ME0090200	Boothbay Harbor Region W.D	Storage Tank Painting	\$ 112,710
2014-16	59.0	ME0090230	Bridgton Water District	Main Replacement - Dist.	\$ 377,400
2014-06	58.5	ME0090110	Bangor Water District	Main Rehabilitation - Trans.	\$ 359,321
2014-39	58.5	ME0091300	Portland Water District	Main Replacement - Dist.	\$ 1,088,080
2014-04	58.0	ME0090060	Ashland Water District	Main Replacement - Dist.	\$ 507,960
2014-09	56.5	ME0090110	Bangor Water District	Main Replacement - Dist.	\$ 435,540
2014-13	56.0	ME0090160	Bethel Water District	Water Meter Replacement	\$ 267,295
2014-11	51.0	ME0090110	Bangor Water District	Storage Tank Rehab.	\$ 99,552
2014-42	51.0	ME0091310	Presque Isle Water District	Pump Station Rehabilitation	\$ 250,000
2014-47	49.5	ME0091660	Wiscasset Water District	Refinance	\$ 1,272,902
					\$ 9,790,351

How Long Should I Keep That?

Jennifer Grant, Compliance Officer



We often get questions from public water systems regarding how long records (water test results, correspondence from the Drinking Water Program, etc.) should be kept. Below is a summary of the most common public water system records and how long the public water system is required by law to keep them. According to the Maine Rules Relating to Drinking Water at 10-144 CMR, Chapter 231 Section 5: Any owner or operator of a system shall retain on his premises, or at a convenient location near his premises, the records as indicated below. Such records must be made available to the public upon request.

Record	Retention Time
Bacteria Test Results	5 years
Sanitary Survey	10 years
Variations and Exceptions	5 years
Daily Operational Records	7 years
Disinfectant Residual Records	10 years
Chemical Test Results	10 years
Lead/Copper Test Results	12 years
Violations	3 years

While conducting a sanitary survey, the Field Inspector may ask to see any or all of these records, so please be aware that these records need to be made available to our staff as well as the general public within a reasonable timeframe. Please contact the Drinking Water Program at (207) 287-2070 if you are unsure if this retention schedule applies to a specific record. When in doubt, retain it!

Water Operator Board News

Teresa Trott, Licensing Officer



License Renewal Update: Save Time, Money and Violations

The renewal process is getting smoother. The Board had training contact hours (TCHs) records that were submitted by providers, allowing for a streamlined renewal process of sign, pay, and operate. [OK, it's not a "sign then drive" but they don't mention the years of payments with that commercial!]

Some operators noticed that the "TCH Required Line" on the renewal notices that were sent out defaulted to "6 TCH" when, in fact, it should have been more for those holding a higher level of license. We corrected the report calculations and hopefully all will be even smoother next year. Thank you for bringing this to our attention.

If you attend training late in the year and are awaiting a training certificate, you may send in your renewal form and note your attendance at the training session. The training provider will send us an attendance list after the training, and we will process the renewal when we receive the list.

The following table outlines the license status with corresponding actions required to maintain or reinstate the license, based on the dates indicated:

Renewal Date	License Status	Action Needed
12/31/2014 and later	Active	Attend training
12/31/2013	Active- will become inactive as of 3/2/2014	Renew before 3/2/2014
12/31/2012	Inactive- Cannot be in responsible charge of PWS. If operating, may be cited as operating without a license.	Attend Training, \$75 renewal fee + \$50 reinstatement fee
12/31/2011	Expired	Retest and \$75 licensing fee

WANTED

WATER OPERATOR BOARD MEMBERS

WHO: Licensed operators willing to volunteer to serve on the Board of Licensure of Water System Operators. The Class III Seat and the Very Small Water System Seat are presently open.

WHAT:

- Participate in four meetings per year, many tasks completed by email between meetings;
- Help steer the water profession in the future;
- Build the future of the profession;
- Help assure training is available;
- Maintain the integrity and knowledge base of operators.

REQUIREMENTS: Hold either an active Class III Treatment or Distribution License, or Represent a Very Small Water System.

CONTACT: Doris Labranche 287-5699 for an application to submit to the Governor's office.



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and Human Services

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Wellhead Protection Coordinator, SWP
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Field Inspector
Compliance Officer
Drinking Water Program Director
Field Inspector & SRF Project Manager
Field Inspector
Capacity Development & Security Coordinator
SDWIS Administrator
Compliance and Enforcement Team Leader
Field Inspector & SRF Project Manager
Compliance Officer
Project Manager/Webmaster
Laboratory Certification Officer
Assistant Director & Chief Engineer
State Plumbing Inspector
Data Management
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Compliance Officer
Assistant Information Analyst
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