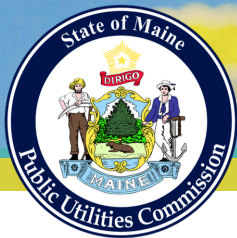


STRAIGHT FROM THE TAP

Quarterly Newsletter For Maine Water Systems

Created in partnership by:

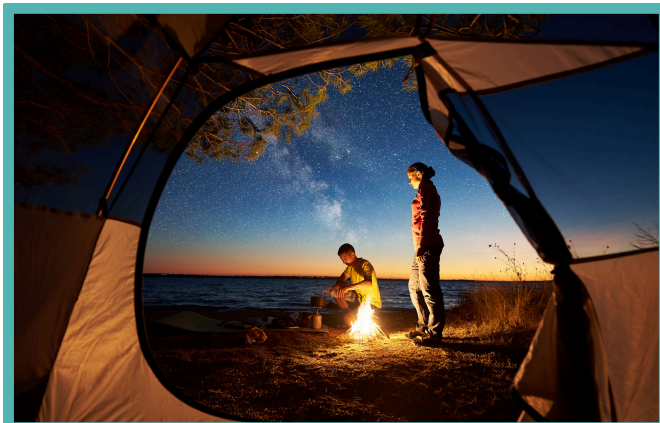


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Starting up: Seasonal Systems

As the days warm and we finally start seeing the sunshine again, seasonal public water systems are opening up. Seasonal water systems are required to follow an approved seasonal startup procedure (SSUP). Details of which can be found on the DWP's [Seasonal Water System page](#).



Seasonal systems are required to certify to the DWP that their seasonal startup procedure was completed each year. Both the seasonal startup and DWP certification are required before they

open to the public. The DWP has streamlined the certification process by developing an online SSUP certification form in an effort to save time, postage, and allowing systems to get an immediate confirmation email.

If you operate or help a water system with their SSUP process, make sure the certification occurs or the system will be issued a violation.

[Click here or scan the QR code for the link to the SSUP.](#)



Questions can be directed towards Mackenzie Bardelli or your inspector.



mackenzie.bardelli@maine.gov



207-441-9244

Bacteria Sampling

new


Effective: April 1, 2026

To ensure greater protection of public health, seasonal and community public water systems will no longer be eligible for quarterly bacteria monitoring. Under new Maine State Drinking Water Rules, they will be required to monitor monthly.



Community water systems serve customers on a year-round basis with individuals consuming large amounts of water from these sources. Based on the amount of water usage, it has been determined that community populations have a greater potential risk, and therefore these systems should monitor more frequently.



 Seasonal systems are not pressurized year-round, which increases their risk of potential bacterial contamination whenever the system is pressurized and/or de-pressurized. Therefore, it has been determined that these systems will be required to test in each month in which they are operating.



Data demonstrates that in 2025, seasonal transient systems in Maine were more likely to have positive bacteria results compared to non-seasonal transient systems (those transient systems that don't pressurize and de-pressurize).



Reach out to your laboratory if you need to get additional sample bottles.

The Latest PFAS Updates

Maine CDC's Drinking Water Program has amended their state drinking water rules in order to adopt the new Federal PFAS standard by reference.

Maine will align with the federal timeline of initial monitoring due April 26, 2027 and compliance with the rule by April 27, 2029.

Who is being regulated?

The new federal standards will regulate all community and non-transient non-community (NTNC) public water systems.

What is being regulated?

Six PFAS: PFOA, PFOS, PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, and mixtures containing PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, or PFBS.

How will it be regulated?

The MCLs will be based on a running annual average (RAA) with a combination of individual MCLs and Hazard Index calculations.

Why these types of PFAS?

PFOS was found in 16% of all initial samples, and PFOA was found in 23%. Monitoring these analytes follows the bulk of PFAS contamination observed Public Water System sampling so far.

If you have questions, reach out to:

- Court Hanley
Courtany.hanley@maine.gov or
- Jasmine Bouchard
Jasmine.Bouchard@maine.gov

Is funding available?

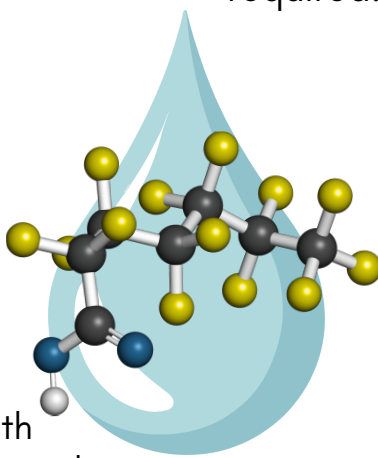
Limited assistance is currently available for installation of PFAS treatment through the Very Small System Compliance Loan (VSSCL) Fund.

This loan provides 100% principal forgiveness, meaning no repayment is required. Funds are finite, and early planning is critical to ensure access before available resources are exhausted.

For more information about the VSSCL program, please contact Sofia Licht at sofia.licht@maine.gov.

Larger utilities that have not yet pursued financial assistance are encouraged to apply for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) financing. The next open application period is in September 2026. The DWSRF program offers low-interest loans, including principal forgiveness for disadvantaged communities.

For information about the DWSRF program, please contact McKenzie Parker at Mckenzie.parker@maine.gov.





Dig Safe- Have you joined?

Who is digging near your underground facilities?

- Dig Safe offers a streamlined communication process to notify members of upcoming excavation projects in the area of their buried utilities, so they can respond in advance to mark out their facilities. This ensures you are protecting workers, property, and the community from the danger, cost, and disruption of services due to excavation accidents.

Your utility should become a member of Dig Safe for these reasons:

Small utilities pay only \$1.00 per notification.

You may receive all excavation notices that are located within your city or town limits. Or, reduce excess notices by submitting digital map data for only the areas you wish to be notified.

Electronic and voice-recorded data are stored for your legal protection.



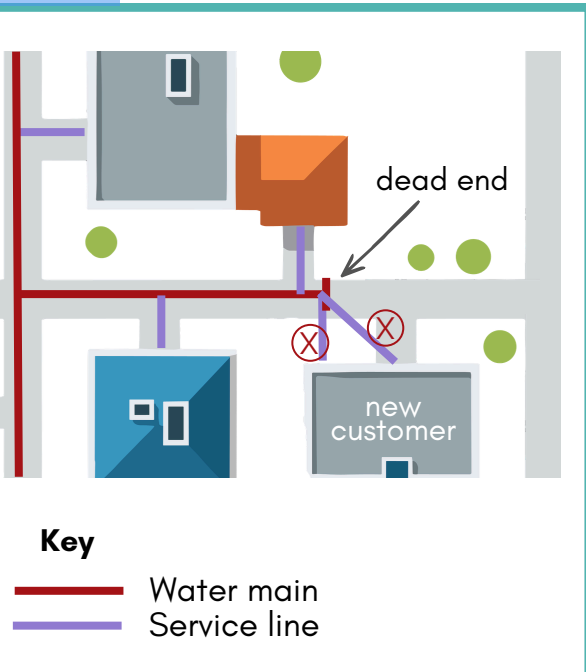
Reach out to DigSafe

1-877-344-7233

membership@digsafe.com



Proper Development of a Utility



When a customer is connecting to your water utility, the service line connecting to the water main should be perpendicular to the water main and go to the center of the building that is going to be served (Chapter 65 § 2H).

Customers often ask for a less expensive option that doesn't involve adding more water main. It is important to remember that the proper development of the utility is your responsibility and will benefit the system as a whole in the future.

Budgeting Basics

Purpose of a budget

- A Budget is a written tool that is used to keep track of expenses and income. It is the best way to understand and manage your utility's money.

Value of a budget

- Keeps a utility on track towards their goals to allow for proper prioritizing of utility needs.
- It can show customers where rates are going.
- Makes it easier to adjust and account for changes while keeping the big picture in mind.

Accuracy of a budget

- Budgets are based on past experience of income and expenses as well as what you expect to occur.
- The more accurate the budget the more resilient the utility.

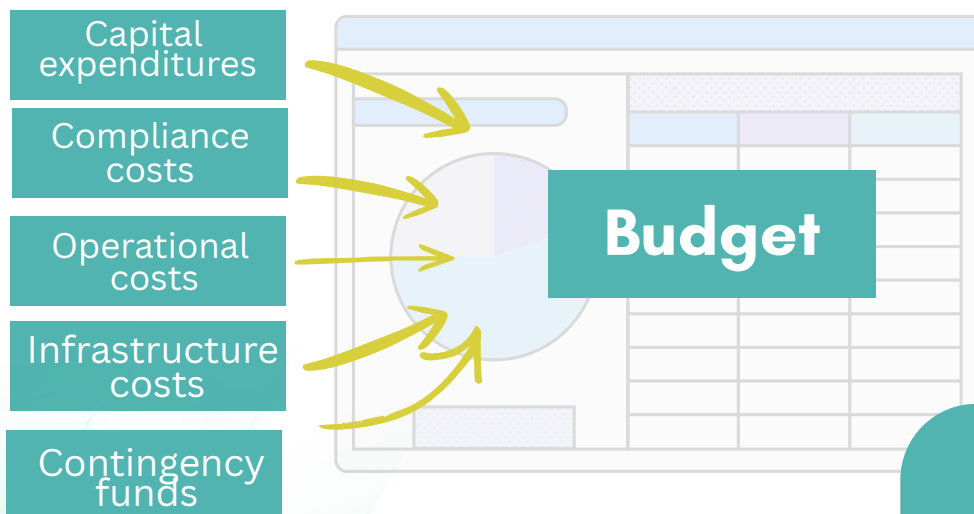
Steps to Budgeting

- **Assessment and planning**- Know your system
- **Cost estimation**- Historical info, consult experts, get bids for upcoming work
- **Create a detailed budget**- Make a line item budget and allocate funds while accounting for inflation
- **Efficiency measures**- Minimize waste
- **Long term planning**- Capital improvement plan
- **Monitoring and reporting**- Monitor expenses and compare to budget
- **Public communication**- Transparency and communication with stakeholders
- **Periodic review and adjustment** - Budgets need to be reviewed and should inform future decisions.



TO DO

Make an easy budget with these accounts:



RCAP Solutions has a financial management guide for small utilities
[Click here to check it out](#)



REMINDERS



Coffee and Tea with the PUC

Dates:

- May 12th
- July 16th
- September 22nd
- November 17th

Location:

Zoom

Time: 9-9:45

Link to be provided by MWUA – Reach out to Molly King for a link to the meeting at mking@mwua.org.



Annual Financial Reports

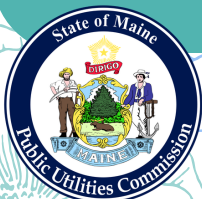
The PUC's annual financial reports are due by April 1 (for utilities with more than \$50,000 in revenue). The report templates are the same as last year and it can be found [here](#).

In addition to those reports, the annual revenues need to be reported to the PUC using CMS by April 1.

This newsletter has information for a variety of water systems and not all of them are regulated by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). Additionally, information provided doesn't necessarily apply to all water system types. It is intended for informational purposes only. This information is not legal advice and does not set any legal standard. Regulated public utilities must comply with Maine law and regulations and should consult with legal counsel for interpretation of laws and regulations.

Maine Public Utilities Commission

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Maine DHHS Drinking Water Program

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