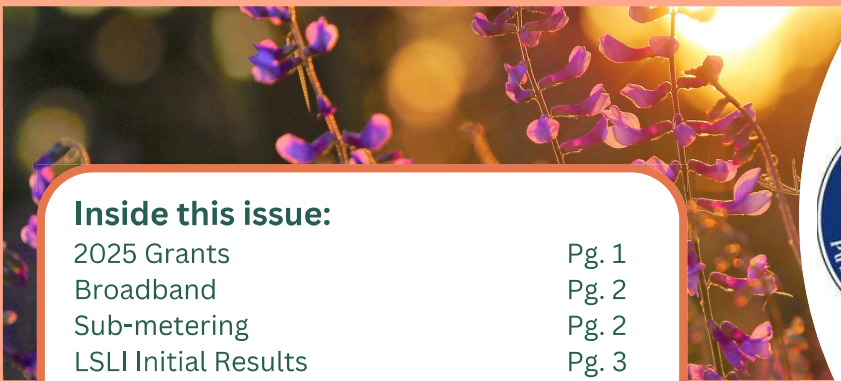




# STRAIGHT FROM THE TAP

Quarterly Newsletter For Maine Water Systems



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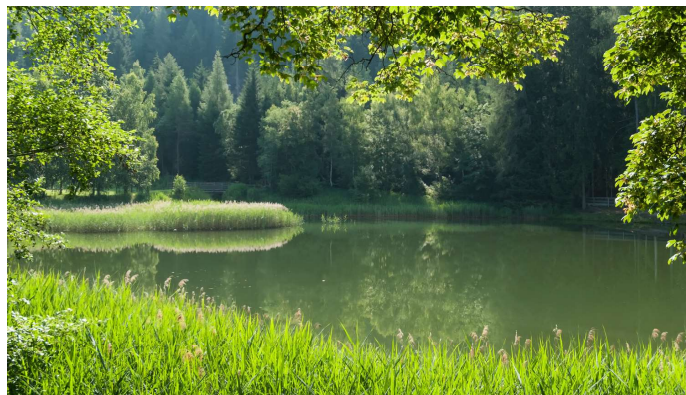


## 2025 DWP Grants

Maine Drinking Water Program's

- **Source Protection,**
- **Water System Asset Security,** and
- **Capacity Development Grants**

are now open for applications. These grants are open to all Community Water Systems, and non-profit Non-Community Water Systems. If you are looking to initiate source protection measures, increase your water system's



physical or cyber-security, or create a plan for water system improvement, please take a look at the DWP website's [financial page](#). If you have any questions about these grant programs, please reach out to Sofia Licht.



**Sofia Licht**  
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Read More

## Broadband Towers

If you decide to allow broadband towers on water utility property, your utility will need to register with the PUC using the Commission's Case Management System.

A law now requires that consumer-owned water utilities register with the Commission prior to exercising any authority they may have to directly or indirectly own, lease, construct, maintain or operate broadband or other Internet access systems or to provide broadband or other Internet access services to the public.

For more info see:  
Public Law 2021, Chapter 616 (LD1894)

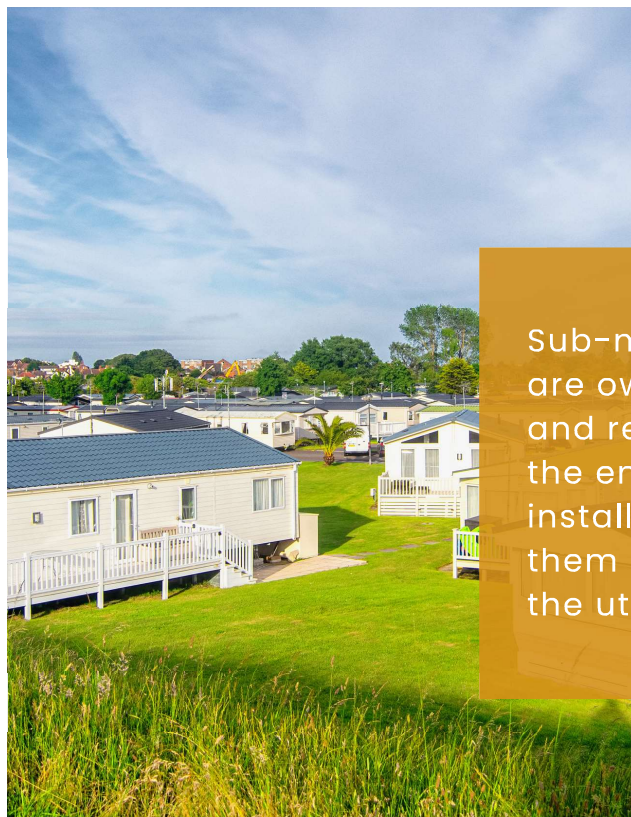
See Public Law 2021 Chapter 616



## Customers: Thinking About Sub-metering

If a customer of a public water utility wants to add additional meters past the master meter, this would be called sub-metering. If a customer does this and charges people on those sub-meters for water, there are some things they should consider.

The customer that is doing the sub-metering may now be considered a water utility. If that is the case, they will be required to comply with PUC rules and laws for reporting, setting rates and more. If they have questions, they can reach out to the PUC to see if they would be regulated.



Sub-meters are owned and read by the entity installing them (not the utility).



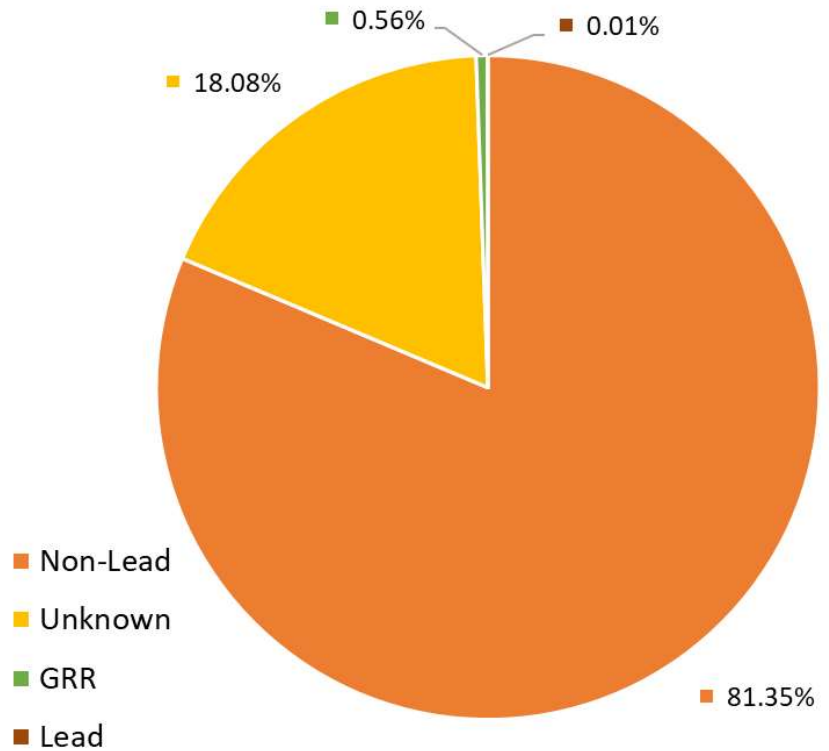
# Service Line Inventory Results

The Maine Drinking Water Program is very happy to report that we have received 100% of the Lead Service Line Inventories at all 763 Maine Public Water Systems subject to the federal Lead and Copper Rule Revision/Improvements. These inventories are currently under review.

Based on the initial submittals (numbers could change), we have determined that out of approximately 290,000 service lines in Maine, 81% were reported as Non-Lead, 18% were reported as Unknown, less than 1% were reported as Galvanized Requiring Replacement (GRR), and only 29 lead service lines were initially reported.

While there is still much to do as we work toward LCRI implementation, this was a huge step toward reducing the lead exposure for Maine citizens. We are grateful that each and every regulated Public Water System put significant effort toward completing their inventories.

Initial LSLI Results for Maine



## PUC Perspective on Private Line Replacement

If a utility would like to replace a private service line for a homeowner at the expense of the utility, the utility will need to ask the PUC for a waiver from a portion of the requirements of Chapter 65 of the PUC Rules.

Also, consider that this may require a new vote to invest if the utility has previously voted no (see 35A-MRS §6106).



# Seasonal System Reminders

Start preparing your water system early. The DWP recommends starting at least one month before opening. You will need this time to evaluate the condition of your water system, make repairs, flush, disinfect, and ensure the water system is free of coliform bacteria.

## **BEFORE opening to the public you must:**

- 🔴 Run the well to flush and fill the system.
- 🔴 Inspect the well and the rest of the water system.
- 🔴 Walk the entire system.
- 🔴 Disinfect the water system.
- 🔴 Flush the chlorine out of the piping.
- 🔴 Flush the tanks.
- 🔴 Inspect and startup any treatment.
- 🔴 Take Operations & Maintenance (O&M) samples.
- 🔴 Certify completion of your annual startup procedure and send in to DWP.

**FREE**

**TRAININGS**



### **MRWA/DWP Opening for the Season Training**

Winthrop - May 1st  
Millinocket - May 7th  
Harrison - May 21st



**NEW**

Maine DWP is now offering an online form to submit the required seasonal start-up certification.

The online form as well as the printable version can be found on our [website](#) along with guidance for seasonal systems.





## State of Maine PFAS Rule

The draft PFAS rule be made available shortly and information on how to make a public comment will be announced soon after. Interested parties are encouraged to review the draft and take the opportunity to engage with upcoming regulation changes.



## Maine Water Utilities Association Scholarship Fund

As a water utility, getting a intern can be a useful way to get people into your industry and a scholarship can be a great incentive. MWUA has a scholarship fund set up for students in post secondary education working in the water utility industry. There is up to \$1,000 available to interns. [Click here to learn more.](#)



## International Drinking Water Week

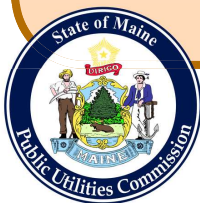
International Drinking Water Week is a great time to post on social media and share positive things about your utility. It is also a great time to offer tours of your treatment facility to the public so they can understand more about the work that goes into their water.

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 by the Drinking Water Program (DWP) doesn't necessarily apply to all water system types.

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