

Primary Drinking Water Standards

Caribou Utilities District 2008

The following contaminants were detected in Caribou's drinking water. All those indicated below are below the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) allowed by the US EPA and Maine Department of Human Services, Drinking Water Program. Not shown are nearly 100 other contaminants for which we tested, but were not detected. These included pesticides, herbicides, and many other agricultural and industrial chemicals. A complete listing of all tests and results is available at the Caribou Utilities District office.

| Parameter | Maximum Contaminant Level Goal | Maximum Contaminant Level | Actual Test Results (Average) | | Actual Test Results (Range) | | Source |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|----------|--|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| | MCLG | MCL | Wells#1 | #2 | Wells#1 | #2 | |
| | Microbiological | | | | | | |
| Total Coliform Bacteria (1) (5/month) | | | | | | | |
| # of samples positive | 0 | 1.0 | 0 | 1 | 1 pos. of 63 tests; 7/24/2008 (of 1 pos., 3 retests next day OK) | | Naturally present in environment |
| Organic Chemicals/Disinfection Byproducts | | | | | | | |
| Total Trihalomethanes (9) | 0 ppb | 80 ppb | RAA 5.50 ppb | | (1.5-8.9) RAA=Running Annual Avg. | | Disinfection By-product |
| Total Haloacetic Acids (9) | 0ppb | 60ppb | RAA 0.00 ppb | | (0-0) Running Annual Average | | Disinfection By-product |
| Chlorine Residual | 4ppm | 4ppm | 0.22 ppm | | Average of all tests in 2008 | | |
| Inorganic Chemicals | | | | | | | |
| Barium | 2 ppm | 2 ppm | 0.22 ppm | 0.32 ppm | 2/15/2006 | 2/14/06 | drilling wastes;natural erosion |
| Chromium | 50 ppb | 50 ppb | 2.2 ppb | 4.7 ppb | 2/15/2006 | 2/14/06 | natural, steel, pulp mills |
| Copper (4) | 1.3ppm | AL 1.3ppm | 0.15ppm/90th%tile | | 0 failed of 20 homes tested/1-12/08 | | corrosion of plumbing |
| Fluoride (3) | 4 ppm | 4ppm | 1.4 ppm (avg. 1.23ppm) | | 2/20/2008(12 tests/yr) | | Natural, fertilizer, additive |
| Lead (4) | 0 ppb | AL=15ppb | <3 ppb/90th%tile | | 0 failed of 20 homes tested/1-12/08 | | corrosion of plumbing |
| Nitrate(5) | 10 ppm | 10ppm | 2.69 ppm | 2.24 ppm | 7/23/08 | 8/21/2008 | Fertilizer, septic runoff |
| Radionuclides | | | | | | | |
| Gross Alpha Screen (6) | 0 | 15 pCi/L | 0.27 | 0.296 | 2/15/2006 | 2/10/2006 | Naturally occurring radioactivity |
| Gross Alpha Particle ACT (6) | 0 | 5 pCi/L | 0.10 pCi/L | | 01/18/06 | | Naturally occurring radioactivity |
| Radon Screen (8) | NA | 4,000 pCi/L | 431 pCi/L 297pCi/L | | 2/15/2006 | 11/25/06 | Naturally occurring radioactivity |
| Synthetic Organics (Waiver) | | | | | | | |
| Definitions and Footnotes | | | | | | | |
| Maximum Contamination Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. | | | | | | | |
| Maximum Contamination Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. | | | | | | | |
| Variance or Waiver: State or US EPA permission not to meet an MCL, testing requirement, or a treatment technique under certain conditions (e.g. waiver to Dioxin testing). | | | | | | | |
| Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water (e.g. treatment technique for turbidity). | | | | | | | |
| Action Level: (AL): The concentration of a contaminant, that if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow . | | | | | | | |
| Running Annual Average (RAA): The average of all monthly or quarterly samples for the last year at all sample locations. | | | | | | | |
| ppm=parts per million or mg/L = milligrams per Liter | | | | | | | |
| ppb = parts per billion; ppt = parts per trillion; ppq = parts per quadrillion | | | | | | | |
| pCi/L-Pico curies per liter, a measure of radioactivity. | | | | | | | |
| ND = None detected or detected below the reporting level | | | | | | | |
| pos=positive samplea; ntu or NTU=mephelometric turbidity units | | | | | | | |
| (1) Total Coliform Bacteria: Reported as the highest monthly number of positive samples, for water systems that take less than 40 samples per month. | | | | | | | |
| (2)Arsenic: The USEPA adopted the new MCL standard in October 2001. Water systems must meet this requirement by January 2008. | | | | | | | |
| (3) Fluoride: Flouride levels must be maintained between 1-2 ppm, for those water systems that flouridate the water. | | | | | | | |
| (4) Lead/Copper levels are measured at consumer's tap. 90% of tests must be equal to or below the action level (AL). Lead/copper testing performed in homes 2008. | | | | | | | |
| (5) Nitrate: Nitrate in drinking water above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider. | | | | | | | |
| (6) Gross Alpha: Action level over 5 pCi/L requires testing for Radium. Action level over 15 pCi/L requires testing for Radon and Uranium | | | | | | | |
| (7) Uranium:The USEPA adopted the new MCL standard of 30 ug/L or 30 ppb, in December 2000. Water systems must meet this new standard after December 2003. | | | | | | | |
| (8) Radon: The State of Maine adopted a Maximum Exposure Guideline (MEG) for Radon in drinking water at 4000 pCi/L, effective 1/1/2008. If Radon exceeds the MEG in water, treatment is recommended. It is advisable to test indoor air for Radon. The USEPA is proposing setting Federal standards for Radon in public drinking water. The U.S. EPA is considering setting lower standards for Radon in drinking water. | | | | | | | |
| (9) TTHM/HAA5: Total Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids (TTHM and HAA5) are formed as a byproduct of drinking water chlorination. | | | | | | | |
| This chemical reaction occurs when chlorine combines with naturally occurring organic matter in water. | | | | | | | |