

Primary Drinking Water Standards

Caribou Utilities District 2016

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.

No violations in 2016	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	Maximum Contaminant Level	Actual Test Results (Average)	Actual Test Results (Range)	Source
Parameter	MCLG	MCL	(Average)	(Range)	
Microbiological					
Total Coliform Bacteria (1) (5/month)				5 tests/month distribution system	
# of samples positive	0	1.0	0	0 pos. of 60 tests	Naturally present in environment
Organic Chemicals/Disinfection					
Byproducts					
Total Trihalomethanes (9)	0 ppb	80 ppb	RAA 12.0 ppb	(1.0-11.0) 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	0.23 ppm	Average of all tests in 2016	
Inorganic Chemicals					
Arsenic	0 ppb	10 ppb	ND	02/24/15	natural erosion, orchards
Barium	2 ppm	2 ppm	0.034 ppm	02/24/15	drilling wastes; natural erosion
Chromium	50 ppb	50 ppb	3.1 ppb	02/24/15	natural, steel, pulp mills
Copper (4)	1.3ppm	AL 1.3ppm	0.17 ppm / 90th %tile	0 failed of 20 homes tested/7/23/15	corrosion of plumbing
Fluoride (3)	4 ppm	4ppm	0.8 ppm	annual average (16 tests/yr.)	Natural, fertilizer, additive
Lead (4)	0 ppb	AL=15ppb	0.62 ppb / 90th %tile	0 failed of 20 homes tested/7/23/15	corrosion of plumbing
Nitrate(5)	10 ppm	10ppm	2.9 ppm	04/19/16	Fertilizer, septic runoff
Sodium	100 ppm	none	13 ppm	02/24/15	Natural, road salt
Radionuclides					
Gross Alpha Screen (6)	0	15 pCi/L	0.296	02/15/06	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)					
Diquat		20 ug/L	0.42 ug/L 0.38 ug/L	6/23/15 11/24/15	

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 sample; ntu or NTU = nephelometric 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: Fluoride levels must be maintained between 1-2 ppm, for those water systems that fluoridate 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).

(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.

No Violations in 2016