

Primary Drinking Water Standards

Caribou Utilities District 2017

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 2017		Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	Maximum Contaminant Level	Actual Test Results (Average)	Actual Test Results (Range)	Source
Parameter	MCLG	MCL				
Microbiological						
Total Coliform Bacteria (1) (5/month)					5 tests / month distribution system	
# of samples positive	0 pos	1 pos / mo or 5%		0 pos	0 pos. of 60 tests	Naturally present in environment
Organic Chemicals / Disinfection Byproducts						
Total Trihalomethanes (9)	0 ppb	80 ppb	LRAA 9.00 ppb	(9.2 - 9.2) LRAA, Locational Running Annual Avg.		Disinfection By-product
Total Haloacetic Acids (9)	0ppb	60ppb	LRAA 0.00 ppb	(0.0 - 0.0) LRAA, Locational Running Annual Avg.		Disinfection By-product
Chlorine Residual	4ppm	4ppm	0.22 ppm	0.17 - 0.29 ppm		Disinfection By-product
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 12/12/17	corrosion of plumbing
Fluoride (3)	4 ppm	4ppm	0.7 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 12/12/17	corrosion of plumbing
Nitrate(5)	10 ppm	10ppm	2.3 ppm		04/18/17	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 11/25/2006	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 which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements a water system must follow.

Running Annual Average (RAA): A 12 month rolling average of all monthly or quarterly samples at all locations. Calculation of RAA may contain data from the previous year.

Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA): A 12 month rolling average of all monthly or quarterly samples at specific sampling locations. Calculation of LRAA may contain data from the previous year.

ppm = parts per million or mg/L = milligrams per Liter

ppb = parts per billion; ppt = parts per trillion; ppq = parts per quadrillion

pCi/L- picocuries 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) E. Coli: E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Human pathogens in these wastes can cause short term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a greater health risk for infants, young children, the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems.

(3) Fluoride: Fluoride levels must be maintained between 0.5 - 1.2 ppm, for those water systems that fluoridate the water. Optimum level is 0.7 ppm

(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 time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.

(6) Arsenic: While your drinking water may meet EPA standards for arsenic, if it contains between 5 to 10 ppb you should know the standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the cost of removing it from drinking water. The EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems. Quarterly compliance is based on running annual average.

(7) Gross Alpha: Action level over 5 pCi/L requires testing for Radium 226 & 228. Action level over 15 pCi/L requires testing for Uranium. Compliance based on Gross Alpha results less Uranium results = Net Gross Alpha.

(8) Radon: The State of Maine adopted a Maximum Exposure Guideline (MEG) for Radon in drinking water at 4000 pCi/L, effective 1/1/2007. 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. Compliance based on running annual average.