

Summer 7-1-2010

# Service Connection: The Maine Drinking Water Program Newsletter, Volume 18, Issue 2 (Summer 2010)

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention

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## Recommended Citation

Maine Department of Health and Human Services and Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, "Service Connection: The Maine Drinking Water Program Newsletter, Volume 18, Issue 2 (Summer 2010)" (2010). *Center for Disease Control Documents*. 23.  
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Maine Center for Disease  
Control and Prevention

An Office of the  
Department of Health and Human Services

John E. Baldacci, Governor

Brenda M. Harvey, Commissioner

# Service Connection

THE DRINKING WATER PROGRAM NEWSLETTER  
"Working Together for Safe Drinking Water"

Volume 18 Issue 2  
Summer 2010

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## No Power, No Water?

*Daniel Piasecki, Field Inspector & SRF Project Manager*

Do you remember the Patriot's Day Storm of 2007? Heavy rain. Extensive flooding. Power outages. Do you remember it now? Berwick Water Department Class IV operator Tyler Nodden recalls that day's events, "The water level was falling in our standpipe; it was getting to the point that if the power didn't come back on, people would be without water. It wasn't a good situation." Though power was restored before the town was without water, it was a close call and something the operators did not want to repeat.

Fast forward to February 25, 2010. Another massive storm hits southern Maine with near hurricane force winds. For the Berwick Water Department, this time was different, a lot different. Sure Berwick had flooding and sure they lost line power but thanks to their new 250 kW generator, the water treatment plant was operating like any other day.

The generator was one of several upgrades to the water system that were funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. Like many other water systems performing needed improvements in 2009,

the new generator became financially attractive to Berwick, due to the funding package made possible through the Drinking Water Program. "The generator was a \$100,000 dollar project," Chief Operator Chris Weismann said. "Before the federal economic stimulus program, we couldn't even afford to borrow that much. With the 30% grant, 70% loan at 0% interest that the stimulus funds made possible, we knew we could get important work done without breaking the bank."



*New Generator at Berwick Water Department*

While no one can predict when and for how long power outages will last, one thing will be certain – the loss of utility-supplied power will not affect the ability of the Berwick Water Department to provide reliable service to its customers.

*Caring.. Responsive.. Well-Managed.. We are DHHS.*

### Director's Corner

With the passage of Bond Question #5 on June 8th, the Drinking Water Program will receive \$3.4 million in "State Match" so we can access federal funds: \$13.5 million in 2010 and another \$3.5 million in 2011. The affirmative bond vote enables us to move forward with many construction projects and to remain focused on our core mission of protecting public health.

One area of public health protection that we have been working on recently is ensuring that all chemicals added to drinking water meet the health standards found in NSF/ANSI Standard 60 (Standard 60). This requirement was adopted in our drinking water rules in 2008 and represented an important step forward in our effort to increase public health protection. However, in recent weeks, we have discovered some confusion among water system personnel and chemical suppliers about the requirement. We have also learned that the process involved in determining if a particular product is actually certified can, in some cases, be complicated.

Using chemicals certified to meet Standard 60 is not only a legal requirement but also a way to be confident that the treatment chemicals used

are indeed making the water safer to drink. Here are a few simple steps you can take to ensure the chemicals you purchase meet Standard 60:

1. Ask your chemical supplier to provide documentation of Standard 60 certification before you place the order.
2. When the chemical arrives, do not allow it to be off-loaded from the truck until the appropriate paperwork has been reviewed and verified.
3. Inspect the chemical packaging to the appropriate labeling. Our Rules do not require that the certification be printed on the chemical packaging. However, the paperwork must be able to connect the bags/containers with the Standard 60 certification.

Please contact me or one of my staff if you have any questions about Standard 60.

Yours for safe drinking water,

*Roger*



## Service Connection

### THE DRINKING WATER PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

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## Collecting Samples within a Compliance Period

*Carlton Gardner, Compliance & Enforcement Team Leader*



Every public water system has water samples that must be collected during certain time periods. Some samples must be collected within a calendar year. Others need to be collected every 6 months, quarterly or monthly. Remember: a month is a month and a quarter is a quarter. Systems sampling outside of their compliance period will be issued a Failure to Monitor Violation.

This requirement means that if you must sample in July, but you collect your sample August 1st, you have sampled outside of the compliance period, and you will be issued a Failure to Monitor Violation for July. The same result applies to a system required to collect Lead & Copper samples in June, July, August or September. If the sample is not collected until October 1st, the sample was collected outside of the compliance period, and the system will be issued a Failure to Monitor Violation.

### We advise systems to:

- ✓ Use your Annual Required Testing Sheets to keep track of your sampling schedule. These sheets were mailed out early this year, and include how often samples must be collected and in which months for Lead and Copper and DBP samples.
- ✓ Sample early in the compliance period. Do not wait until the last moment to collect and mail samples. Keep track of when you mail in samples and when you receive the results.
- ✓ Ensure that your lab is sending all compliance results directly to the Drinking Water Program. (See article on Electronic Transfer of Laboratory Results.)
- ✓ All laboratory results and Monthly Operating Reports (MORs) must be received at the Drinking Water Program by the 10th day of the following month. Sample results received after the 10th will result in a Failure to Report Violation.

If you have questions, please call your compliance officer at 287-2070. 💧

## Receive Your Service Connection Newsletter by Email!

The **Service Connection** is transitioning to an electronic newsletter! If you would like to receive the Service Connection via email, rather than a hardcopy, please send an email to:

**[erika.bonenfant@maine.gov](mailto:erika.bonenfant@maine.gov)**

and include:

- 💧 Your Name
- 💧 Your Public Water System or Organization Affiliation
- 💧 Any additional email addresses you'd also like to add to receive the Newsletter





## Overview of the Maine Public Drinking Water Commission

The Maine Public Drinking Water Commission (DWC) was created by the Legislature in 1993. At that time, due to resource limitations, the Maine Drinking Water Program was not fully meeting the primacy expectations of the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In order to fund additional positions at the Drinking Water Program, the legislature determined that each public water system should be assessed an annual fee, to cover the cost of additional necessary staff positions.

The DWC was formed as an oversight board to review the Drinking Water Program funding and determine the appropriate fee structure for each type of public water

system. Annually, the DWC reviews the fee structure and the Drinking Water Program's expenses to determine if adjustments in the fee are needed.

The Drinking Water Fee for State Fiscal Year 2011 (July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011) was raised approximately 12 percent and includes a base fee of \$50 and a per capita fee of \$0.45. The fees were last raised in State Fiscal Year 2008.

The DWC is made up of nine members, eight of whom are appointed by the Governor.

*Following are the positions and the current members:*

Name	Statutory Provisions for Seat
Roger L. Crouse Director, Drinking Water Program	Designee of DHHS Commissioner
Rebecca Laliberte Owner, The Meadows- Senior Living Center	Represent the water purveying community and be associated with a public water system serving a population of not more than 1,000
Thomas J. Brennan, C.G. <u>DWC Chairperson</u> Nestle Waters North America- Poland Springs	Must represent the drinking water public
Robert N. MacKinnon, Jr. Superintendent, Yarmouth Water District	Represent the water purveying community and be associated with a public water system serving a population of at least 1,001, but not more than 10,000
Vacant	Represent the water purveying community and be associated with a public water system serving a population greater than 10,000
Allen York, Yonder Hill Campground	Must be a user of a transient, non-community water system
Harvey A. Chesley, Jr. Director of Facilities, Pine Tree Camps	Must be a user of a non-transient, non-community water system
George Dugovic	Must represent the drinking water public
Vacant	Must represent the drinking water public



## ENFORCEMENT CORNER

*Tall Barney's Restaurant, Jonesport, Maine*

On May 26, 2010 a contempt hearing was held in the Maine District Court in Machias.

An agreement was negotiated between Tall Barney's Restaurant, the Maine Drinking Water Program (DWP), and the Health Inspection Program (HIP). The agreement required Tall Barney's to pay a \$3,000 penalty assessment to the Health Inspection Program, a \$2,500 penalty assessment to the Maine Drinking Water Program and legal expenses to both programs, in the amount of \$1,695. Satisfactory water quality sampling has occurred and Tall Barney's Restaurant is returning to compliance with DWP Rules and Regulations. A 90-day conditional license has been issued by HIP contingent upon Tall Barney's Restaurant meeting the requirements of the Maine Food Code.

## Working Across State Lines to Protect Drinking Water

*Andrews L. Tolman, Assistant Director*



Rochester, New Hampshire and Berwick, Maine, along with twenty-six other towns in two states, share the Salmon Falls watershed. Berwick and Rochester both use the river as their drinking water source, and the other towns utilize the basin's ground water for both private and public supplies. The Maine and New Hampshire Drinking Water Programs have been looking for opportunities to bring these diverse communities together to maintain and improve water quality and drinking water security for the people on both sides of the river.

Last fall, we identified both an opportunity and an ally. The Piscataqua Regional Estuarine Partnership (PREP), a federally-funded group, recently expanded from its New Hampshire base to include the towns on the Maine side of the river. At about the same time, the EPA's National Sourcewater Collaborative requested expressions of interest concerning scheduling a meeting of national experts to discuss issues in a particular area. Paul Susca, the Sourcewater Protection Coordinator for the NH Department of Environmental Services (NH DES) and I approached PREP, who agreed to lead the group in attempting to secure national assistance.

We were successful in attracting the Collaborative, and the meeting is scheduled for October 27th. The group, with funding from NH DES, the Trust for Public Land, and the Maine CDC Drinking Water Program, worked to organize a group of local decision makers who participated in a watershed tour on June 23rd, as well as in the planning meeting this fall. We have enlisted the regional planners in both states, the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve, public water system operators, Maine and New Hampshire Rural Water Associations, and Maine Non Point Education for Municipal officials, among others, in the process. The goal of the project is to identify specific actions and projects that will benefit drinking water supplies in the short-term, and to build capacity among the towns to work together for safe and secure drinking water.

This group may serve as a pilot to help us discover what works in bringing towns together to work on common issues. By focusing on sustaining drinking water, the group can identify activities that will maintain and improve water quality and availability for many uses.

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## 2011 DWSRF Is Just Around The Corner...

Even though the Maine DWP is still in the midst of the 2010 DWSRF Program, the request for applications for funding under the 2011 DWSRF will be on its way to public water systems in August. The 2011 Intended Use Plan will likely include provisions to encourage "Green" or "Energy Efficiency" projects.

The current program includes a \$200,000 set-aside to fund Capacity Development Grants. Grants up to \$10,000 but no more than 50 percent of the actual cost, will be made available to eligible systems. Studies include Comprehensive System Facility Plan, Capital Improvement Plan, System Hydraulic Model Report, Management Review Report, System Vulnerability Assessments, Emergency Response Plan, Comprehensive System Operations and Maintenance Manual, and Energy Audits.

If you don't have one, an Energy Audit for your system would be a great lead-in opportunity for a 2011 construction project. Don't miss out on 2011 funds. Questions? Contact Norm Lamie at 287-2647 or [norm.lamie@maine.gov](mailto:norm.lamie@maine.gov).



## Service Connection

# Private Laboratories to Begin Submitting Sample Results Electronically

*Carlton Gardner, Compliance & Enforcement Team Leader*

*Robin Frost, SDWIS Administrator*



Beginning this summer and fall, the Maine Drinking Water Program will start receiving sample results electronically from private labs. In the past, only the Health and Environmental Testing Lab has had the ability to transfer laboratory results electronically. The DWP is now in a testing phase with several private labs and water utilities, which will allow them to do the same thing.

What will this mean for you as a public water system? Maine Drinking Water regulations require results to be reported directly to the DWP from the certified lab. Your lab will package your system's information and test results into a file and that file will be transferred directly into the DWP's database. As long as the lab has your correct information, the data transfer will be seamless. This change in process will reduce the possibility of lost sample reports, data entry errors, and eliminate issues with fax machines and the postal service.

As a water system, you must inform your laboratory that your samples are for compliance purposes. You

must fill out the lab's chain of custody (sample sheet) and provide your water system's public water system ID (PWSID). If you have more than one source, you must also indicate the source from which the sample was collected. Please note that samples labeled as "not for compliance" or as "O&M" (operation & maintenance) cannot be used as compliance samples. Once a sample is labeled as O&M, you can't reverse that decision. Incomplete or incorrect information may result in data not properly transferring to the DWP.

Sample results must be received by the DWP by the 10th day of the month following the compliance period. Please ensure samples arrive at your lab early enough to be analyzed, so that the results are transferred to the DWP on time. If your sample results do not arrive by the 10th, your system will likely receive a Failure to Report Violation.

The new transfer process will improve data reliability and compliance reporting for the hundreds of water systems using utility or private laboratories in Maine.



## Water Operator Board News: Class III Operator Seat Vacancy

The Water Operator Board works with the Drinking Water Program to classify systems and assure that persons operating these systems are knowledgeable in source water protection, treatment, and distribution expertise. The Board makes certain operators have education, related water system experience and a base knowledge of water treatment and distribution principles. The initial licensing process includes exam questions that measure the knowledge needed for each classification of system. The second process is the approval of training necessary to renew a license. This training assures that operators stay current on advances in the field or in their individual professional development.

Board members are appointed by the Governor and consist of an engineer, educator, water systems manager, an owner or manager of a non-transient non-community water system, and representatives of various sizes of water systems. There is presently one vacancy on the Board for a Class III operator. A person interested in serving on the Board must hold a Class III Water Treatment or Distribution license. Letters of interest, a resume and application should be submitted to the Governor's office. More information may be found at <http://www.maine.gov/governor/baldacci/cabinet/boards/index.shtml> or you may contact Jessica Bishop, 287-5699, for assistance.

## Drinking Water Week 2010

Maine celebrated National Drinking Water Week May 2-8, 2010. Many water utilities throughout the



*Governor Baldacci signs Drinking Water Week Proclamation*

State opened their doors to the public for tours of drinking water treatment plants, offered educational and fun activities for families, and conducted classroom presentations about water treatment and the importance of source water protection. Governor Baldacci also recognized Drinking Water Week by signing a Proclamation designating the week of May 2-8, 2010 as Drinking Water Week in Maine. The Proclamation recognized the importance of drinking water protection and conservation and urged all Mainers to take an active role in protecting and conserving our water resources.

As part of the weeklong celebration, the Maine CDC Drinking Water Program also sponsored performances by the National Theatre for Children. The program educates students through grade six about the importance of safe and secure drinking water. Performances were held in schools within the Limestone Water District, Eagle Lake Water & Sewer District, Brownville Water District, Aqua Maine, Inc. Camden/Rockland Division and the Morrill Village Water District.

## THE DRINKING WATER PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

### Subsurface Wastewater News: Subsurface Permit Surcharge

All municipalities must assess a \$15.00 surcharge on all non-engineered subsurface wastewater system permits. This surcharge is in addition to the existing permit fee. The \$15 is for the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Water Quality Improvement Fund.



Although the surcharge payment is submitted with your permit fee to the Subsurface Wastewater Unit, it must be paid with a separate check. The Subsurface Wastewater Unit will forward all surcharge payments to the DEP. Because the law regarding the surcharge fee (MRSA 30-A §4211 Section 5) requires the municipality to make the payment, **please do not forward personal checks.** Municipalities are still responsible for submitting 25 percent of the permit fee for internal and subsurface plumbing permits to the Subsurface Wastewater Unit. All checks need to be made payable to "Treasurer, State of Maine." All submittals, financial or otherwise, should be sent to:

Division of Environmental Health  
Subsurface Wastewater Unit  
11 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0011



### EPA Method 334.0 and Online Chlorine Analyzers

*Matt Sica, Laboratory Certification Officer*

EPA Method 334.0, "Determination of Residual Chlorine in Drinking Water Using an On-line Chlorine Analyzer" (USEPA 2009b) establishes quality control (QC) criteria for on-line chlorine analyzers such that the analyzers provide data equivalent to the grab sample methodologies that are already approved in the regulations.

Prior to the approval of EPA 334.0, continuous monitoring instruments that used N,N-Diethyl-p-phenylenediamine (DPD) chemistry were the only on-line chlorine analyzers that met the drinking water regulatory requirement to use the same chemistry as an approved method. EPA Method 334.0 now allows the use of "any type of on-line chlorine analyzer (e.g., amperometric, DPD, etc.) for compliance monitoring when used in conjunction with a grab sample reference method that is approved for drinking water compliance monitoring." As long as the on-line analyzer meets the QC criteria in EPA Method 334.0, the data are deemed equivalent to data obtained using the approved grab sample methods.

If your public water system is, or will be using, an on-line chlorine analyzer not based on DPD, you may request a copy of EPA Method 334.0 by emailing Matt Sica, the Lab Certification Officer, at [matthew.sica@maine.gov](mailto:matthew.sica@maine.gov).







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Safe, Healthy and Productive Lives*

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