

# Oversight & Regulation of Water Resources

## Maine CDC Drinking Water Program

**Amy Lachance, Program Manager**

Maine CDC Drinking Water Program

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# Presentation Outline

- Drinking Water Program:
  - Mission & Responsibilities
  - Regulations Pertaining to Public Water Systems
  - Maine's Public Water Systems
- Requested Topics:
  - Protection and Regulation of Drinking Water Sources
  - Extraction of Drinking Water
  - Restrictions on Transport of Extracted Water

# Our Mission Statement

*The Drinking Water Program works to ensure safe drinking water in Maine and protect public health by administering and enforcing drinking water and subsurface wastewater regulations, providing education, and technical and financial assistance.*

# Maine Public Drinking Water Program

- Public Water System Supervision Program
- State Revolving Fund for Infrastructure Improvements
- Subsurface Wastewater – Septic Systems
- Miscellaneous: Swimming Pools, Cemeteries, Crematoria, Cannabis Testing Facility Certification, Technical Assistance to Private Well Owners, etc.



# Public Water System Supervision

Supported by Federal PWSS Grant, Alternative Funding Mechanism Fees & State Revolving Fund Set-Asides

- Public Water System Inspection
- Data Management – Inventory & Monitoring
- Technical Assistance
- Compliance & Enforcement
- Engineering Approvals
- Source Water Protection Activities
- Laboratory Accreditation

# Relevant Regulations

- Federal Statute:
  - Safe Drinking Water Act (40 CFR 141-143)
- State Statute:
  - Water for Human Consumption Act (Title 22, Chapter 601)
- State Rules:
  - Rules Related to Drinking Water (10-144 CMR Chapter 231)
  - Rules Relating to Bulk Water (10-144 CMR Chapter 235)

# Maine Public Drinking Water Systems

## 1,862 Public Water Systems

- 384 Community Water Systems (60% of Maine residents)
- 374 Non-Transient, Noncommunity Systems (Schools, Childcares, Offices)
- 1,105 Transient Noncommunity Systems (Restaurants, Campgrounds, Hotels)
- 21 Water Bottlers
- 26 Water Vending Systems

# Maine Private Drinking Water Wells

40% of Maine Citizens on Private Wells (not regulated by DWP)

Can assist residential well owners with:

- Best practices and construction standards
- Sampling and Water Quality Review
- Treatment/Disinfection
- And more!



# Protection and Regulation of Drinking Water Sources

**Source Protection more effective & less costly than remediation or new source**

## Program Activities:

- Technical assistance to PWS - source water protection from contaminants
- Physical security – grants available
- Hydrogeological Report Review
- New Well Approvals – location, construction, sustainable yield, wellhead protection
- Municipal Comprehensive Plan Reviews to ensure source protection
- Emergency response – spills impacting source water
- Annual Filtration Avoidance Waiver Evaluations
- Education/Outreach/Stakeholder Involvement

# Extraction of Drinking Water

- Few issues with water quantity at Maine PWSs compared to other parts of the country – isolated or short-lived
- Drinking Water Regulations address groundwater quantity issues by requiring that sufficient volume must be produced to maintain adequate pressure throughout the distribution system.
- “Significant Groundwater Well” does not apply to Public Water System wells, except for those solely bottling water for sale.

# Bottled Water Systems

- DEP Permit required if volume exceeds significant quantity designation
- Drinking Water Program Approves/Oversees:
  - Source
  - Treatment
  - Water Quality Requirements
    - Similar monitoring and limits to a Community Water System
  - Inspections – every three years
- Oversight of bottling operation performed by DACF (MOU)

# Restrictions on Transport of Extracted Water

Transport of water for commercial purposes by conduit, tanker, or container >10 gallons is prohibited, except for: (Title 22, Chapter 601, §2660-A)

- Water produced by a utility
- Water hauled pursuant to a Bulk Water Permit
- Water withdrawn pursuant to a DEP or LUPC permit
- Other miscellaneous exemptions

# Bulk Water Transport Permits

No bulk transport permit required if well exceeds significant quantity designation, since DEP permit in place.

Drinking Water Program administers:

- Minor Bulk Water Transport Permit (currently two)
  - Renewal every three years
  - Annual pumpage reports
- Emergency Bulk Water Transport Permit

# Questions?

**Amy Lachance**

Maine CDC Drinking Water Program Manager

[amy.lachance@maine.gov](mailto:amy.lachance@maine.gov)

207-557-2380

