

# 2022 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

## Island Falls Water Department

Island Falls, ME  
PWSID ME0090720

We are pleased to present to you our Annual Drinking Water Quality Report, also known as the Consumer Confidence Report. This report, a requirement of the 1996 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act, is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

### WATER SOURCE

Our water is drawn from four drilled wells located 60 Willis Lane/130 Houlton Road. The water from all four is treated with chlorine to protect against bacteriological contaminants, fluoride to promote dental health. The Pump House #2 is receiving arsenic treatment and was not used in 2022.

We maintain 182 service connections that serves a population of approx. 400 (only portion of town is connected to water system).

### SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT

The Maine Drinking Water Program (DWP) has evaluated all public water supplies as part of the Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP). The assessments included geology, hydrology, land uses, water testing information, and the extent of land ownership or protection by local ordinance to see how likely our drinking water source is to being contaminated by human activities in the future. Assessment results are available at public water suppliers, town offices, and the DWP. For more information about the SWAP, please contact the DWP at telephone 207-287-2070.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water system, please contact Kelly Ripley or Brian MacDonald at telephone number 207-463-2246, email address [ifwater@fairpoint.net](mailto:ifwater@fairpoint.net), or mailing address P.O. Box 100 Island Falls, Maine 04747. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water system. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. Please contact our office for specific times and locations.

### WATER QUALITY

The Island Falls Water Department routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The following table shows any detection resulting from our monitoring for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

In 2022, as a result of efforts to protect the water supply, our system was granted a 'Synthetic Organics Waiver.' This is a three-year exemption from the monitoring/reporting requirements for the following industrial chemical(s): herbicides, carbamate pesticides, toxaphene/chlordane/PCB and semi volatile organics. This waiver was granted due to the absence of these potential sources of contamination within a half-mile radius of the water source.

The sources of drinking water include rivers, lakes, ponds and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and radioactive material and can pick up substances resulting from human or animal activity. All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man-made. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

**Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

**Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

**Pesticides and herbicides** may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.

**Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected through our water quality monitoring and testing. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

### Island Falls Water Department

<b>TEST RESULTS</b>					
Unless otherwise noted, testing was done in 2022.					
Contaminant	Level Detected	Unit Measurem	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>					
Total Coliform Bacteria	0 positive	Highest monthly # of positive samples	0 positive	1 po/mo or 5% (e.coli)	Naturally present in the environment.
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>					
Combined Radium (-226 & -228) (6/7/18)	0.868	pCi/l	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits.
Radium -226 (6/7/2018)	0.659	pCi/l	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits.
Radium -228 (6/7/2018)	0.209	pCi/l	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>					
Arsenic (12/19/22)	2.4	ppb	0	10	Erosion of natural deposits. Runoff from orchards, glass and electronics production wastes.
Barium (10/17/22)	0.0018	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes. Discharge from metal refineries. Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper* (1/1/19-12/31/21)	0.31	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Fluoride (11/9/22)	0.7	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits. Water additive which promotes strong teeth. Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Lead* (1/1/19-12/31/21)	8.4	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Nitrate (10/17/22)	1.3	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use. Leaching from septic tanks, sewage. Erosion of natural deposits.
* = Reported results are the 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile value (the value that 90% of all samples are less than).					
<b>Disinfection By-Products</b>					
TTHM (8/16/2022) Total Trihalomethanes	6	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination.

**Note:** The state allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Not all contaminants are tested for every year due to monitoring waivers and therefore we must use the most recent round of sampling. Some of our data is more than one year old, however, is limited to no older than 5 years.

**Definitions:**

Action Level (AL) - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

contaminants. However, some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Center of Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or at <https://www.epa.gov/ccr/forms/contact-us-about-consumer-confidence-reports>.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. We are responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for thirty (30) seconds to two (2) minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

We, at Island Falls Water Department, work hard to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect and preserve our drinking water resources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life, and our children's future. Please contact us with any questions. Thank you for working together for safe drinking water.

# Maine Drinking Water Program

## Consumer Confidence Report Certification Form

PWSID#: 0090720 Water System Name: Island Falls Water Dept.

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Distribute copies of your Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) to all users served by your public water system by **JULY 1<sup>ST</sup>**.
2. Use the checklist below to check off which methods you use to distribute your CCR- you **MUST** select **AT LEAST ONE** option from **EACH** of the two columns below.
3. Please complete the certification section below and submit it, along with a copy of the CCR you distributed to customers, to the Maine Drinking Water Program before **OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup>**.

**Primary Method of Distribution** (you MUST use at least one (1) of these methods)

**Direct Delivery Method- to get report to each customer**

CHECK IF USED	METHOD	ADDITIONAL INFO
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mail hard copy	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hand deliver	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mail notice that CCR is available on website- <b>MUST</b> include a direct URL (CCR <b>MUST</b> open when url is clicked)	Provide url: <hr/> <b>Attach copy of notice (i.e. bill)</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Email the direct URL	<b>Attach copy of email</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Email the CCR as a file attachment	<b>Attach copy of email</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Email CCR in message	<b>Attach copy of message</b>

**AND**

**Secondary Method of Distribution** (you MUST use at least one (1) of these methods\*)

**Good Faith Effort to reach non-bill-paying consumers**

CHECK IF USED	METHOD	ADDITIONAL INFO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Do a postal patron mailing with service area	<b>Provide zip codes used in postal patron mailing</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Deliver multiple copies to single bill addresses serving several people- i.e. apartment buildings, businesses, large private employers	<b>Provide list of business/facilities receiving copies</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Posting on internet at URL	Provide url: <u>www.islandfallsme.us</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Post the CCR in public places	<b>Provide a list of where posted</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Publication of CCR in local newspaper	<b>Provide copy of newspaper notice</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Advertising availability of CCR in news media	<b>Provide copy of announcement</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Deliver to community organizations	<b>Provide list of facilities</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Availability of paper copy	<b>Provide method of sharing this info</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Population <500-complete delivery by 1 <sup>st</sup> method	Only if you provided 100% distribution to all consumers by your 1 <sup>st</sup> method & population served is below 500

**Certification of Distribution and Accuracy of Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)**

I certify that the information in the attached CCR contains all data and required language found in the Fillable CCR provided by the Drinking Water Program and that the CCR was distributed by July 1<sup>st</sup> by the methods noted above.

Name of licensed designated operator: Brian MacDonald

Signature: *Brian MacDonald* Please print Date: 4/5/23 (DO NOT PRE-DATE)

Date CCR distribution completed: 4/5/23 (DO NOT PRE-DATE)

EMAIL COPY OF CCR, COMPLETED CERTIFICATION & ACCOMPANYING DOCS TO DWPMOR@maine.gov OR MAIL TO: MAINE DRINKING WATER PROGRAM, 11 STATE HOUSE STATION, 286 WATER STREET, AUGUSTA, ME 04333-0011