

Dear Ellsworth Water Customer,

We are writing to inform you that the water department is engaged in an ongoing THM exceedance. This issue is in regard to the water quality in the High Street area near Myrick Street (see map of highlighted area on following page), where the level of total Trihalomethanes (THMs) has been found to exceed the allowable limit. **This exceedance does not extend to the whole city water supply.** Total THMs are a type of disinfection by-product (DBP) that occur at differing levels in all water systems treated with chlorine. Chlorine, added by the city's water department for disinfection, reacts with organic material naturally present in surface water and creates these disinfection by-products. Although this is **not an emergency**, we want you to know what has happened, what you can do, and what we are doing to correct the situation.

We were recently informed that the Maine Drinking Water Program (part of the Maine Department of Health and Human Services) did not notify us in a timely manner that total THM levels in the first two quarters of 2024 were also out of compliance. Although this delay in notification is unfortunate, we want to assure you that we are taking immediate steps to address the issue.

Due to the way total THM levels are calculated—by averaging the current quarter's sample with the three previous quarters—it may take a few more quarters to bring the average below the maximum contaminant level (MCL). Even if upcoming samples are within acceptable levels, the locational running annual average may remain elevated until consistent lower levels are achieved. If you would like more clarification on how this process works, please contact the Water Department.

What is included in this mailing:

- **Drinking Water Notices**
- **Copy of the Maine Drinking Water Program's Letter**

What You Should Do:

There is nothing you need to do at this time, this is not an emergency or immediate risk. Please be aware that the water in the High Street area near Myrick Street has total trihalomethanes above the allowable level. If you have any specific health concerns, we advise you to consult your doctor for further guidance. However, you do not need to boil your water or take any other corrective actions. If the situation ever arises where the water is unsafe to drink, you will be notified within 24 hours:

How are Disinfection Byproducts created in the water supply and what are they?

- **Trihalomethanes (THMs)** are formed when chlorine reacts with organic materials in surface water during the disinfection process.
- Disinfectants like chlorine are necessary to protect the public from harmful pathogens and viruses. Chlorination is the most widely used method for disinfecting water supplies in the United States.
- People are generally exposed to DBPs through the consumption of chlorinated water.

Corrective Actions:

We are taking several steps to resolve this issue:

- **Bleeding the line** for continuous water circulation and reducing stagnation.
- **More frequent flushing** of the system to improve water quality and reduce DBP formation.
- **Ultraviolet disinfection** has been installed as a method to reduce chlorine use and lower DBP levels.
- **Additional, non-required testing** will be conducted to verify that levels are decreasing, with more frequent data collection to closely monitor the progress of mitigation efforts.

Additionally, we are in the **preliminary planning stages** for the construction of a new water treatment plant that will further reduce DBPs by:

- Implementing treatment techniques that minimize organic materials in the water, which react with chlorine to form DBPs.
- Reducing chlorine doses needed at the plant to mitigate DBP formation.

Public Workshop:

We understand that you may have questions about this issue, and we are committed to providing you with the information you need. A **Public Workshop** will be held in December, where City staff, with staff from the Maine Drinking Water Program, and the consultants in charge of designing the new water treatment plant will discuss the situation in more detail. You will also have the opportunity to submit questions ahead of time for discussion at the workshop. Further details will be made available soon on our new dedicated webpage to this issue and the new water treatment plant: <https://www.ellsworthmaine.gov/watertreatment>

Lead and Copper Testing:

Additionally, the Water Department recently received notice of a missed submission for a water sample required for lead and copper testing. However, we want to reassure you that **lead and copper levels** in the water system remain well within compliance and are not a cause for concern.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work to resolve this issue. If you have any immediate concerns, please feel free to contact the Water Department directly at 207-667-8632.

Sincerely,



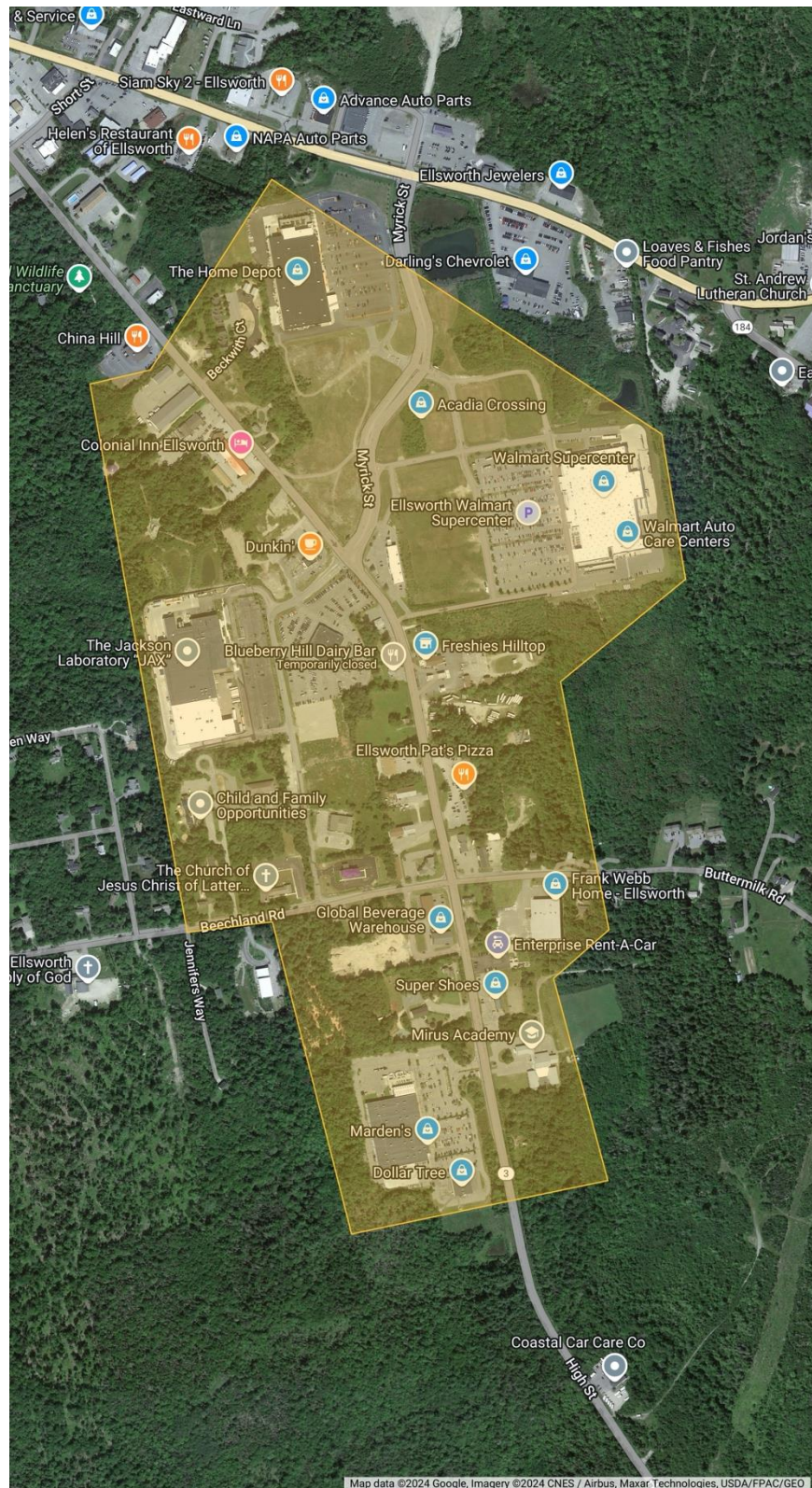
Reggie Winslow

Water Dept. Superintendent



Charlie Pearce

City Manager



Zone with higher test levels of Total THMS

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Sara Gagné-Holmes
Commissioner



Maine Department of Health and Human Services
Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention
11 State House Station
286 Water Street
Augusta, ME 04333-0011
Tel: (207) 287-8016; Fax: (207) 287-9058
TTY: Dial 711 (Maine Relay)

Oct 22, 2024

CITY OF ELLSWORTH
ELLSWORTH WATER DEPARTMENT
ONE CITY HALL PLAZA
ELLSWORTH, ME 04605

**SUBJECT: FAILURE TO SEND MCL VIOLATION LETTERS
ELLSWORTH WATER DEPARTMENT ME0090520**

Enclosed you will find violation letters for total trihalomethane maximum contaminant level (MCL) exceedances for the 1st and 2nd quarters of 2024 as well as for the most recent 3rd quarter exceedance, along with a combined operational evaluation level (OEL). The Drinking Water Program (DWP) failed to send you letters for the first and second quarter when these violations occurred. We apologize for this oversight.

Please review the letters and take the necessary steps to return to compliance.

If you have any questions about these violations, please contact me, at 207-287-6472 or at amilyn.stillings@maine.gov.

If you have any general questions about your system, please contact your Public Water System Inspector, Kelly Shores, at 207-944-3556 or at kelly.m.shores@maine.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amilyn Stillings".

Amilyn Stillings
Rules Administrator
Maine Drinking Water Program

DRINKING WATER NOTICE

(with Certification)

ELLSWORTH WATER DEPARTMENT (PWSID# ME0090520) LEVEL OF TOTAL TRIHALOMETHANES IN THE DRINKING WATER EXCEEDS FEDERAL DRINKING WATER STANDARD for the period 1/1/2024 to 3/31/2024

Water tests recently conducted show that the average level of total trihalomethanes in the water system at 368 HIGH ST is **95.3 parts per billion (ppb)**. This is above the maximum contaminant level (MCL) allowed for total trihalomethanes in drinking water which is **80 ppb (0.080 ppm)**.

What You Should Do:

There is nothing that you need to do at this time other than to be aware that the water has total trihalomethanes above the allowable level and to take any precautions your doctor advises if you have specific health problems.

Possible Health Effects:

Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years could experience liver, kidney and central nervous system problems and an increased risk of cancer.

Consult your doctor if you have any specific health concerns.

What is Being Done:

Corrective Action: To correct the problem we are going to:

A BLEEDER LINE IS BEING UTILIZED FOR CONTINUOUS CIRCULATION IN CONJUNCTION
WITH MORE FREQUENT FLUSHING.

We anticipate resolving the problem by 11/30/2024. We will inform you when this problem has been corrected.

For more information, please contact:

REGGIE WINSLOW (PRINT PWS CONTACT NAME)

667-8632 (PHONE #)

1 CITY HALL PLZ (LOCATION/ADDRESS)

**Please share this information with all other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.*

CERTIFICATION: By signing below, you certify and attest that you have notified consumers about the above listed violation in accordance with the delivery, content, format requirements, and deadlines, as specified in 40 CFR 141, Subpart Q and 22 M.R.S. § 2615.

Method Used: ☒ Mail ☐ Hand-deliver ☐ Newspaper ☐ Postings (cannot be sole method of distribution)


(SIGNATURE OWNER/OPERATOR)

11/19/2024
(DATE NOTICE DISTRIBUTED)

***Return a copy of this completed/signed notice to the Maine DWP at the following address:**
Maine Drinking Water Program, 11 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0011

DRINKING WATER NOTICE

(with Certification)

ELLSWORTH WATER DEPARTMENT (PWSID# ME0090520) LEVEL OF TOTAL TRIHALOMETHANES IN THE DRINKING WATER EXCEEDS FEDERAL DRINKING WATER STANDARD

for the period 4/1/2024 to 6/30/2024

Water tests recently conducted show that the average level of total trihalomethanes in the water system at 368 HIGH ST is **109.5 parts per billion (ppb)**. This is above the maximum contaminant level (MCL) allowed for total trihalomethanes in drinking water which is **80 ppb (0.080 ppm)**.

What You Should Do:

There is nothing that you need to do at this time other than to be aware that the water has total trihalomethanes above the allowable level and to take any precautions your doctor advises if you have specific health problems.

Possible Health Effects:

Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years could experience liver, kidney and central nervous system problems and an increased risk of cancer.

Consult your doctor if you have any specific health concerns.

What is Being Done:

Corrective Action: To correct the problem we are going to:

BLEEDER LINE IS BEING UTILIZED FOR CONTINUOUS CIRCULATION IN CONJUNCTION WITH MORE
FREQUENT FLUSHING

We anticipate resolving the problem by 11/30/2024. We will inform you when this problem has been corrected.

For more information, please contact:

REGGIE WINSLOW (PRINT PWS CONTACT NAME)

207-667-8632 (PHONE #)

1 CITY HALL PLZ (LOCATION/ADDRESS)

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(with Certification)

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for the period 7/1/2024 to 9/30/2024

Water tests recently conducted show that the average level of total trihalomethanes in the water system at 368 HIGH ST is **102 parts per billion (ppb)**. This is above the maximum contaminant level (MCL) allowed for total trihalomethanes in drinking water which is **80 ppb (0.080 ppm)**.

What You Should Do:

There is nothing that you need to do at this time other than to be aware that the water has total trihalomethanes above the allowable level and to take any precautions your doctor advises if you have specific health problems.

Possible Health Effects:

Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years could experience liver, kidney and central nervous system problems and an increased risk of cancer.

Consult your doctor if you have any specific health concerns.

What is Being Done:

Corrective Action: To correct the problem we are going to:

BLEEDER LINE IS BEING UTILIZED FOR CONTINUOUS CIRCULATION IN CONJUNCTION WITH MORE
FREQUENT FLUSHING

We anticipate resolving the problem by _____. We will inform you when this problem has been corrected.

For more information, please contact:

REGGIE WINSLOW (PRINT PWS CONTACT NAME)

207-667-8632 (PHONE #)

1 CITY HALL PLZ (LOCATION/ADDRESS)

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