

**TOWN OF BROWNVILLE WATER DEPARTMENT  
ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR 2004  
Brownville Junction Water System  
PWSID #ME0090240**

The Brownville Water Department is pleased to present you our annual water quality report. This report is a requirement of the 1996 Amendment to the Safe Drinking Water Act and is designed to inform you about the quality of your water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you, our customer, with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand our efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect your water resources.

**Water Quality:** The Town of Brownville Water Department routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water. As required by federal and state laws, the attached table illustrates monitoring results for the year 2004. We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all federal and state requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected. The EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels.

**2004 Water Test Results – Brownville Junction System**

Contaminant	Date	Results	MCL	MCLG	Source
<b>Microbiological</b>					
TOTAL COLIFORM (1)		<b>0 pos</b>	1 pos	0 pos	Naturally present in the environment.
<b>Inorganics</b>					
Arsenic (2)	2/20/2002	<b>1.7 ppb</b>	10 ppb	0 ppb	Erosion of natural deposits. Runoff from orchards, glass and electronics production wastes.
Copper 90 <sup>th</sup> % Value (8)	12/31/2004	<b>0.39pm</b>	AL=1.3ppm	1.3 ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead 90 <sup>th</sup> % Value (8)	12/31/2004	<b>11 ppb</b>	AL=15 ppb	0 ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Nitrate Nitrogen	02/17/2004	<b>0.26 ppm</b>	10 ppm	10 ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use. Leaching from septic tanks, sewage, and erosion from natural deposits.
<b>Radionuclides</b>					
Gross Alpha Screen (6)	02/20/2002	<b>0.02 pCi/l</b>	15 pCi/l	0 pCi/l	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228	2/24/2003	<b>0.01 pCi/l</b>	5 pCi/l	0 pCi/l	Erosion of natural deposits
Radon Screen (5)	02/10/2003	<b>31 pCi/l</b>	2000 pCi/l	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits

**Definitions:**

MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.

MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

AL= Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

**Units:**

pos = positive samples

ppb = parts per billion or micrograms per liter (µg/L)

ppm = parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

pCi/L = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity).

**Notes:**

- 1) Total Coliform Bacteria: Reported as the highest monthly number of positive samples, for water systems that take <40 samples per month.
- 2) Arsenic: The US EPA adopted the MCL standard in October 2001. Water systems must meet this new standard by January 2006.
- 3) Lead/Copper: Action levels (AL) are measured at consumer's tap. 90% of all the tests must be equal or below action level.
- 4) Gross Alpha: Action level over 5pCi/L requires testing for Radium. Action level of over 15 pCi/L requires testing for Radon and Uranium.
- 5) Radon: The State of Maine Currently requires testing for Radon levels in drinking water above 20,000 pCi/L. The US EPA is considering setting lower standards for Radon in drinking water.
- 6) Gross Alpha: Action level over 5 pCi/L requires resting for Radium. Action level over 15 pCi/L requires testing for Radon and Uranium.

**Water Source:** This water supply is a drilled well approximately 50 feet deep and sits approximately 150 feet from the west side of Front Street. The water that supplies this well is pumped from an underground aquifer. This water is then aerated and pumped to the system via a high lift pump. This aeration removes carbon dioxide from the water, which adjusts the pH and alkalinity of the raw water. This is necessary due to the corrosive nature of water. We also disinfect the water with chlorine.

**Source Water Assessment:** The sources of drinking water include rivers, lakes, ponds, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and radioactive material and can pick up substances resulting from human or animal activity. 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 at the DWP. For more information about SWAP, please contact the DWP at 287-2070.

**Health Information:** All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by constituents that are naturally occurring or are man made. Those constituents can be microbes, organic or inorganic chemicals, or radioactive materials. All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Contaminants that may be present in source water include: Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacterial, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife. Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming. Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses. Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes, and petroleum production and can also come from gas stations, urban runoff, and septic systems. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

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 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/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. MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water everyday at the MCL for a lifetime to have a one in ten thousand chance of having the described health effect.

**For More Information:** If you have any questions regarding this report please contact the Brownville Water Department by calling Sophia Wilson (Town Manager) at 965-2561 or Steven Jay (Chief Operator) at 965-8374. Letters and written complaints can be sent to our attention at P.O. Box 659, Brownville, Maine 04414. We will be happy to answer all of your questions! Members of the public are cordially invited to attend meetings of the Brownville Board of Selectmen, which are normally held the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month (unless otherwise posted) at the Brownville Town Office located at 27 Church Street in Brownville. Information is also available on the web at [www.trcmaine.org](http://www.trcmaine.org).