

A & L LABORATORY INC.

EXPLANATION SHEET

1. This water sample is **SATISFACTORY FOR DRINKING** based on the results of the parameters tested. All the parameters are within the limits recommended by the State of Maine Environmental Health and Testing Laboratory for drinking water.

2. This water is considered **UNSATISFACTORY FOR DRINKING** due to the presence of Coliform and/or E.coli Bacteria. Do not drink the water until you have followed the enclosed chlorination procedures and have retested your well.

3. This water is considered **UNSATISFACTORY FOR DRINKING** due to the elevated levels of Nitrate and/or Nitrite. Do not drink this water until you have contacted a water treatment specialist.

4. This water is considered to be **UNSATISFACTORY FOR DRINKING** due to the elevated level of Lead. We advise that you do not drink this water until you have contacted a water treatment specialist.

5. **IRON**-This metal exceeds the limit recommended by the State of Maine Environmental Health and Testing Laboratory for drinking water. Iron is harmless to your health but can contribute to the odor and taste of your water. Excess iron can cause yellow to orange staining on your bathroom fixtures.

6. **MANGANESE**- This metal exceeds the limit recommended by the State of Maine Environmental Health and Testing Laboratory for drinking water. Manganese is harmless to your health but can contribute to the odor and taste of your water. Excess manganese can cause gray to black staining on your bathroom fixtures and clothes.

7. **COPPER**- This metal exceeds the limit recommended by the State of Maine Environmental Health and Testing Laboratory for drinking water. Copper is harmless to your health and generally occurs from corrosion of household copper pipes. Copper can cause bluish-green staining on your bathroom fixtures.

8. **CHLORIDE and/or SODIUM** - This mineral exceeds the limit recommended by the State of Maine Environmental Health and Testing Laboratory for drinking water. Excess chloride in the water may be due to road salt, seawater, malfunctioning water softening unit, or a “perched” water table.

9. This water sample is **UNSATISFACTORY FOR DRINKING** due to the elevated level of Arsenic. Do not drink this water until you have contacted a water treatment specialist. See the reverse side of this sheet for a more detailed explanation of arsenic..

WHAT IS ARSENIC?

Arsenic is a natural occurring element found in both bedrock and overburden and is commonly detected in groundwater. The type of rock that contains arsenic is known as arsenopyrite. In some areas, past use of arsenic in pesticides on blueberry, apple and potato crops may add to the water problem. Even pre-Civil War graveyards may be a source of arsenic as it was used as an embalming solution back then.

WHAT ARE THE GUIDELINES?

The original limit for arsenic was set in 1947. This limit was set at 0.050mg/L (50 parts- per- billion [ppb]). The EPA maximum contaminant level (MCL) was lowered from 0.050mg/L to 0.010mg/L effective February 22, 2002. This new limit was phased into public water systems over the past years and compliance was required of all public water systems by January 23, 2006. The Maine State Exposure Guideline (MEG) is set at 0.010mg/L for arsenic in drinking water. This guideline for water set by the state suggests that anything over 0.010mg/L may be potentially harmful to human health. For more information please visit the Environmental Protection Agency's arsenic website at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/arsenic/index.html> or contact the Maine State Toxicologist at 1-866-292-3474.

WHAT ARE THE HEALTH EFFECTS?

On average we consume 5 to 10 micrograms (μg) of arsenic everyday through the food we digest. Add to this the arsenic in the water that we drink and it begins to add up if the water contains high amounts of arsenic. For instance, the State of Maine recommends no more than 0.010 mg/L or 10 μg of arsenic per liter (quart) of drinking water. At this level one would add an additional 10 μg more of arsenic on top of the 5 to 10 they already ingest for every liter (quart) of water they drink. Increased intake of arsenic can intensify the chances of cancer development.

WHAT EFFECT DOES THIS HAVE ON THE HOMEOWNER?

An elevated arsenic level (in this case greater than 0.010mg/L) could affect the resale value of the house. One should approach this issue from a fiscal, as well as a physical point of view. The buyer should be made aware that if they do not deal with this arsenic issue before they buy the home then they will probably have to deal with it as sellers, when they eventually put the house on the market.

The seller should consider at least a POU (point of use) or under-the-sink RO (reverse-osmosis) unit to eliminate the arsenic from the drinking water supply at the kitchen faucet.

WHAT EFFECT DOES THIS HAVE ON REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS?

It is the responsibility of the real estate agent to become familiar with the arsenic issues in Maine. A better understanding provides for a more informative arbitration between buyer and seller. Arsenic in the well water should not be a "show stopper" as far as a house sale goes. The arsenic should be taken care of with the least amount of financial stress to the seller and the least amount of anguish to the buyer.

WHAT IS THE BOTTOM LINE?

It is the responsibility of the informed consumer to decide whether to drink this water as is or to treat it. There are various ways to treat the problem. We advise calling a water treatment specialist. For names and contact information of the qualified companies please visit our website at www.allaboratory.com.