**Title: Maine CDC Drinking Water Program and Maine Department of Environmental Protection Collaboration Efforts**

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**Departments/Programs Involved:** Maine CDC Drinking Water Program and Maine Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Remediation and Waste Management (BRWM), Maine Emergency Management Agency, Maine Rural Water Association, Bureau of Land and Water Quality, Department of Economic Development, USDA Rural Development, and Maine Municipal Bond Bank, and the Board of Licensure of Water System Operators

**Actions/Results:** The Maine CDC Drinking Water Program and the Department of Environmental Protection collaborate in a variety of areas in which the work done by one department intersects or impacts the other department. The following summary lists the majority of these areas:

* **Response, Clean-up and Prevention of Contamination Events Affecting Groundwater and Surface Water**
  + For more than 15 years, the Drinking Water Program (DWP) and the Bureau of Remediation and Waste Management (BRWM) work together, following a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding any contamination of water sources serving public water systems. This MOU ensures that the agencies work closely together in response to contamination and cleanup efforts to mitigate environmental impacts, while maintaining the integrity of the drinking water supplies, to protect public health. DWP and BRWM meet quarterly to discuss recent spill response events and strategize on how to improve inter-department communication and transfer of information during events that affect public water systems.
  + DWP and DEP, working with Maine Emergency Management Agency, and Maine Rural Water Association, held training exercises in Berwick (2015) and Topsham (2016) to review emergency response communication in hypothetical chemical releases to the Salmon Falls River and Androscoggin River, respectively.
  + A representative from the DEP BRWM served on the review team for a DWP contract to perform Source Water Vulnerability Assessments for Maine’s 10 public water systems using direct river intakes and 30 systems with riverbank wells.
  + The DEP and DWP are participating in Workgroup meetings for an EPA-sponsored project by Nuka Research and Planning Group, LLC to develop Geographic Response Plans for the Penobscot and Kennebec Rivers. The most recent meeting included selection of five (5) sites on each River based on a prioritization method that gave strong consideration to the locations of public water system intakes and riverbank wells.
* **Water Quality Monitoring and Improvement for Lakes, Ponds, and Rivers Used as Public Water System Sources**
  + The DWP works with the Bureau of Land and Water Quality to review applications for aquatic algaecide used in public water sources. Through the discharge permit process lake water quality is accessed by DEP while DWP maintains the need to assure protection of public health.
  + The DWP serves as a review agency for applications submitted to the DEP for water withdrawal certificates under DEP’s Chapter 587 Flow and Level Rules.
  + The DWP formed a workgroup to address cyanotoxins in public drinking water supplies, working with biologists from the Water Quality Bureau, in order to share data on cyanobacteria bloom observations and toxin analysis on Maine’s lakes and ponds that serve as public water system supplies.
  + The Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Unit within the DWP works closely with the Land Resources and Water Quality Bureaus to address issues related to malfunctioning or improperly designed subsurface wastewater disposal systems, as well as the replacement of over board discharges in the coastal zone which may cause the closure of certain fisheries.
  + The Drinking Water Program shares a Google Earth website with DEP for the delivery of information regarding public water system sources and potential sources of contamination.
  + For source water protection efforts, the DWP works with the Division of Environmental Assessment (Lakes) in the Water Quality Bureau, concerning protection of public water system surface water supplies. This collaboration allows Maine’s lakes’ water quality to be reviewed, to assure that they are held to the highest levels of protection from point and non-point sources of contamination and nutrient influences. This partnership helps public water systems match federal grants for watershed improvements.
  + DWP serves on the DEP’s Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force to represent drinking water sources. This function assists public water systems in protection from invasive organisms and reaction to discovered populations of invasive species. Milfoil is the primary species of concern, but other invasive organisms also upset a drinking water source placing water quality at risk.
* **General Regulatory Collaboration**
  + DWP and DEP have collaborated for many years in the regulatory process, when proposals from either agency might impact the regulated community of the other agency. The agencies have worked diligently to assure the environmental protection measures address the needs of the public water systems.
  + Through collaborative efforts, DEP and DWP participated in the Salmon Falls Source Water Collaborative, recipient of the 2012 U.S. Water Prize. This inter-state effort helps protect public water system drinking water supplies in a threatened river system and involves local watershed and community groups to foster development approaches to protect forests, reduce pollution and champion smarter development approaches.
  + The DWP has worked directly with the DEP on hazardous waste issues identified during sanitary survey inspections of public water systems, particularly municipal systems. An example is the DWP working with all public water systems that fluoridate, to identify that the SPADNS reagent testing method generated a “hazardous waste”. This work resulted in the company that makes and supplies the SPADNS reagent to reformulate the reagent so that its use no longer results in a hazardous waste.
  + The DWP has worked directly with the DEP and key stakeholders to develop a process for managing the radionuclide treatment residuals per state and federal requirements. Specifically, the process developed was employed several times to evaluate treatment systems required for Uranium removal.
  + The Maine Laboratory Certification Program within the Maine CDC Drinking Water Program is responsible for establishing guidelines, certifying, and assessing laboratories that report compliance data to DHHS and the DEP. Laboratory Certification works regularly with the Water Quality and Remediation & Waste Management Bureaus. Laboratory Certification provides technical assistance, answers questions, updates the database with new methods that are requested by DEP personnel, and responds to complaints regarding laboratory data issues. Under statute both DHHS and the DEP are responsible to promulgate the rules relating to laboratory certification.
* **State Revolving Fund**
  + DWP and DEP staff involved with the State Revolving Fund (SRF) meet regularly with representatives from the Department of Economic Development, USDA. Rural Development, and Maine Municipal Bond Bank to review and discuss construction project loan and grant applications.
  + DWP and DEP staff involved with the SRF frequently meet regularly to review and discuss current and pending federal SRF program requirements and changes with the goal of coordinating and simplifying processes for utilities and consulting engineers CWSRF and DWSRF project funding.
  + DWP, DEP, and MMBB have coordinated training efforts on SRF funding opportunities for Trustees, superintendent, and operators.
* **Water and Wastewater Operator Training**
  + DWP and DEP staff jointly participate in training programs sponsored by the Joint Environmental Training Coordinating Committee (JETCC)
  + DWP and DEP staff communicates on training needs for water and wastewater operators to assure a uniform approval process of training approved by DEP and The Board of Licensure of Water System Operators.

**Federal/state guidance/tools/funding:**

* [Maine DEP’s Chapter 587 Flow and Level Rules](http://www.maine.gov/dep/water/swup/587qa.htm)
* [Laboratory Certification Rules](http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/environmental-health/dwp/professionals/labCert.shtml)
* CWSRF and DWSRF project funding