

WHAT'S ON TAP

The KKW Water District Newsletter

Vol. 3 No. 2

www.kkw.org

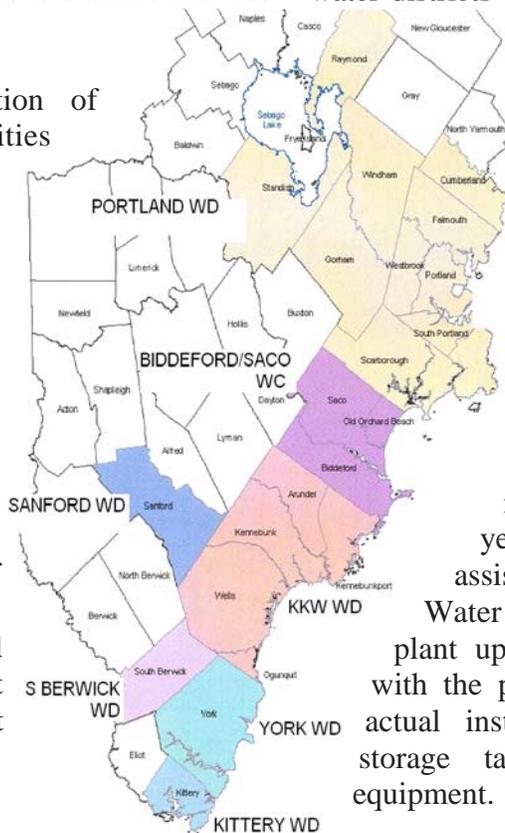
Summer 2005

Cooperation and Regionalization - It's here to stay

Norm Labbe, Superintendent

As reported in last winter's issue of *What's on Tap* and on our website (www.kkw.org), regional cooperation among water utilities is a theme that has arrived and is here to stay.

Earlier this spring, a coalition of southern Maine water utilities created and successfully lobbied for the passage of LD1162, "An Act To Permit The Establishment Of Regional Water Councils". This new law will allow any two or more water utilities to form a non-profit corporation that may study issues of common interest such as, customer growth and long-term water supply. It may also provide a variety of centralized services such as accounting, billing and purchasing. In addition, it would be able to accept contributions and grants.



A group of local utilities which, in addition to us, includes Biddeford/Saco Water Company and the water districts of Kittery, Portland, Sanford, South Berwick and York, is already drafting by-laws for its new organization, called the *Southern Maine Regional Water Council*. We hope to have the organization up and running by August in time to be eligible for a potential federal grant aimed at conducting a comprehensive regional water supply study.

Local utilities have already been cooperating on a number of initiatives. The most recent, but not yet publicized project has been the assistance we provided to the York Water District in a significant treatment plant upgrade project. Our staff assisted with the project's design and performed the actual installation of all of the chemical storage tanks, pumps, piping and feed equipment. This saved York Water District

(continued on page 5)

Beneath the Surface - Project Update

Don Gobeil, Technical Services Director

In a continuation of a development pattern that has existed for the past several years, the District finds itself in the midst of another busy year in 2005.

When we discuss what's happening 'Beneath the Surface', we're really talking about two separate processes. The first involves our commitment to replace and upgrade our existing distribution system and the second involves the expansion of our system

by way of new housing developments, condominium projects and commercial and industrial expansion.

The District's replacement and upgrade program is largely financed through our existing rate structure along with the System Development Charge that we assess all new customers. In this way, new customers share some of the burden of financing

(continued on page 5)

2004 Water Quality Report

INTRODUCTION

This annual report has been prepared by the Kennebunk, Kennebunkport & Wells Water District to give you, the consumer, a brief update on the quality of your drinking water. **The District vigilantly monitors and safeguards its water supplies and is proud to report that it did not exceed any maximum contaminant level or violate any water quality standard at any time during 2004.** Highly qualified, certified Filtration Plant and Distribution personnel are committed to providing our customers with drinking water that surpasses state and federal standards for safety and quality.

WATER SOURCE

The District's primary source of drinking water is Branch Brook. The brook, for the most part, is the town line between Kennebunk and Wells and originates in the town of Sanford.

Protection of the Branch Brook watershed remains a top priority. The District continues to purchase property and acquire conservation easements within the watershed as opportunities arise. You can help too. If you witness suspicious activity near Branch Brook or in its watershed, please report it immediately by calling the Filtration Plant Manager Bill Snyder at 985-2362 or notifying the appropriate Police Department (Kennebunk - 985-6121, Wells - 646-9354, Sanford - 324-9170).

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT

The Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) is an initiative started by the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments. The underlying intent of SWAP is to characterize a source of supply watershed and generate awareness of potential contamination threats. The overall risk rating assigned to the Branch Brook supply was low. Future development and soil erosion were identified as potential low to moderate risks. Assessment results are available at public water suppliers, town offices and the DWP. For more information on the SWAP, you may contact the DWP at telephone (207) 287-2070.

WATER MONITORING/REPORTING

To comply with State and Federal drinking water regulations, we annually perform over 10,000 tests on your drinking water. Although not required, we conduct an additional 15,000 tests to ensure that the highest quality water is produced and distributed. We also constantly monitor the Treatment Plant, booster stations and water reservoirs with continuous on-line instruments. If you would like more information relating to water quality tests, contact Bill Snyder or Mel

Leedberg at (207) 985-2362. The chart on page 4, indicating 2004 test results, excludes 72 individual parameters that tested below detection levels. The definitions and abbreviations that follow the chart are provided to give a clearer understanding of the results.

TREATMENT PROCESS

Water from Branch Brook flows into our Filtration Plant where multiple processes are used to remove particles and microorganisms. The first process is COAGULATION, where chemicals (primarily food-grade alum) are added to destabilize the particles causing an attraction to each other. Then FLOCCULATION occurs in mixing chambers where the destabilized particles combine into larger particles called floc. After this, CLARIFICATION occurs in the settling basins where the floc particles are settled out. Chlorine is then introduced for PRIMARY DISINFECTION. The FILTRATION process follows where clarified water passes through sand filters to remove any remaining floc particles. Finished water chemistry is then optimized for CORROSION CONTROL, FLUORIDATION, and SECONDARY DISINFECTION prior to being pumped into our distribution system where 200 miles of water mains and 7 storage tanks distribute water to the District's 11,400 customers.

HEALTH INFORMATION

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain trace amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. 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 for infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. For more information about contaminants and potential health effects and EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants, contact U.S.E.P.A. Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or the Maine Drinking Water Program (207-287-2070).

BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEETINGS

The Board of Trustees typically meets at 3 pm on the 4th Wednesday (Jan.– Oct.) and the 3rd Wednesday (Nov. & Dec.) at the District Office at 92 Main St., Kennebunk.

2004 Test Summary

		Monitored Parameter	Major Source(s)	MCLG	MCL	District Results
Primary Drinking Water Standards	Distribution System	Total Coliform Bacteria	Naturally present in the environment.	0 cfu / month	1 positive sample/month	0 cfu
		Trihalomethanes	By-product of drinking water chlorination.	0 ppb	80 ppb	26 ppb
		Haloacetic Acids	By-product of drinking water chlorination.	0 ppb	60 ppb	25 ppb
		Lead	Corrosion of household plumbing.	0 ppb	Action Level = 15 ppb	12 ppb
		Copper	Corrosion of household plumbing.	1.3 ppm	Action Level = 1.3 ppm	0.8 ppm
		Fluoride	Natural occurrence from deposits. Water additive which promotes dental health. Optimal dose per State DWP Guidelines is 1.20 mg/L.	4 ppm	4 ppm	1.17 ppm Ave. 1.28 ppm Max.
		Barium	Drilling wastes, metal refineries, natural deposits.	2 ppm	2 ppm	0.0053 ppm
	Treated Source Water	Mercury	Air deposition from industry, runoff, crops.	2 ppb	2 ppb	<0.2 ppb
		Nitrite	Fertilizer, septic leaching, natural deposits	1 ppm	1 ppm	<0.01 ppm
		Nitrate	Fertilizer, septic leaching, natural deposits	10 ppm	10 ppm	0.24 ppm
		Turbidity	Soil and organic matter runoff.	n/a	0.3 NTU in 95% of samples	0% Above 0.3
		VOCs	Contact District for information. Testing conducted in 2003.			None Detected
		Herbicides	Testing waiver to all of the contaminants by Maine Drinking Water Program.			Waiver
		Pesticides	Analytical screen to be performed in 2005.			-----

Notes

- 1) Total Coliform Bacteria: Reported as the highest monthly number of positive samples, for water systems that take <40 samples per month.
- 2) Lead/Copper: Action levels are measured at consumer's faucet. 90% of the tests must be equal to or below the action level (1.3 ppm).

Definitions

AL - Action level - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment and other requirements which a water system must follow (e.g., lead, copper action levels).

MCL - Maximum contaminant level - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

MCLG - Maximum contamination level goal - the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

ntu - nephelometric turbidity units

pos - positive samples

ppm - parts per million

ppb - parts per billion

RAA - Running Annual Average - The average of all monthly or quarterly samples for the last year at all sample locations.

Treatment technique - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Turbidity - This is a measurement of water clarity. It is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration process. Excessive turbidity levels can cause problems with water disinfection. 0.2 ntu was the highest measure of turbidity for the calendar year. Average finished water turbidity was less than 0.1 ntu. 100% of the samples taken were below the maximum level (0.3 ntu) for the treatment technique used. Therefore, your finished drinking water is clear and safe to drink.

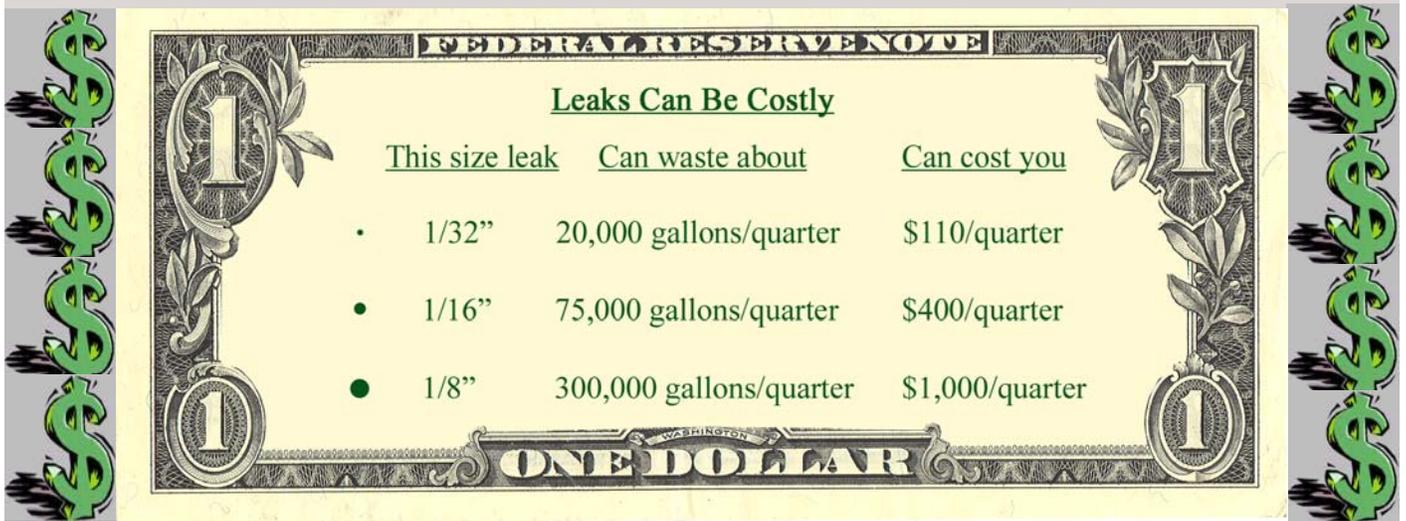
Variance or Waiver - Statement of U.S. EPA permission not to meet an MCL, testing requirement or a treatment technique under certain conditions (e.g. waiver to Phase II/V testing).

Synthetic Organics Waiver - In 2001, due to the District's efforts to protect the water supply, it was granted a "Synthetic Organics Waiver" (Phase II/V) from January 1, 2002 to December 31, 2004. The State of Maine Drinking Water Program grants a waiver only upon a finding that "it will not result in an unreasonable risk to health."

Water Conservation

Even though we had a wet Spring, conservation is still **critically** important, especially during the summer months when water usage is maximized. Warm weather visitors, swimming pools and lawn irrigation can nearly triple our average daily demand, stretching our water supply capacity to the limit.

Check for leaks, in particular, leaking toilets, which could cost you hundreds of dollars within a few months. Water conservation kits, which include toilet detection tablets, are available at our office for only \$1.00 each.



<u>Leaks Can Be Costly</u>		
<u>This size leak</u>	<u>Can waste about</u>	<u>Can cost you</u>
• 1/32"	20,000 gallons/quarter	\$110/quarter
• 1/16"	75,000 gallons/quarter	\$400/quarter
• 1/8"	300,000 gallons/quarter	\$1,000/quarter

Helpful Summer Watering Tips



Mulching your gardens will help retain moisture. It will also cut down on evaporation.

Help reduce our peak weekend demand by watering your lawn or garden during the week, in the early morning between 4:00 and 7:00.



If you have an automatic irrigation system, sensing devices which will shut sprinklers off during rain periods can be purchased. It is better to water your lawn for three hours one or two days a week than for an hour every day.

Raise the lawnmower blade to at least 3". A higher cut encourages grass roots to grow deeper, shades the root system and holds soil moisture better than a closely-cut lawn.

Cooperation and Regionalization (continued from page 1)

thousands of dollars, while also reducing our operating cost by “farming out” some of our in-house talent. We have also recently (2002) signed a unique mutual aid interconnection agreement with York Water District and have renegotiated the key terms of an existing interconnection agreement with the Biddeford & Saco Water Company.

Our new southern Maine collaborative will soon be looking into long-term water supply and will be investigating ways of enhancing mutual aid, avoiding duplication and utilizing cost-sharing opportunities in order to save our (your) financial resources while looking for ways to improve the services provided to you and to all of the region's water utility customers.

Beneath the Surface (continued from page 1)

the improvements that we must do to ensure that we can meet this increasing demand. All other new development that occurs is financed by the individual project developer. As a result, existing ratepayers do not shoulder any of the cost associated with the extension of our distribution system due to growth.

Between ‘in-house’ and ‘new’ projects, 2005 has so far been one of the busiest years we’ve seen. Projects keeping us busy in 2005 include:

Route One – Ogunquit: As we mentioned in our last newsletter, this District project involved replacing 2,800 feet of old 10-inch main with a 20-inch main. This outsourced project was the largest water main replacement project ever done by KKW, but was completed ahead of schedule and under budget.

Mile Road – Wells: This recently completed project involved replacing 400 feet of 12-inch water main as part of the larger DOT bridge replacement project.

Pier Road – Kennebunkport: This fall, the District will be replacing approximately 700 feet of

Did you know that...

- *The time you spend when calling for customer service could be cut in half if you have your account number readily available.*
- *Non-emergency service requires 24 hours of advance notice. These requests are best made through the District's main office at 985-3385 or through our website at www.kkw.org.*

10-inch main in the area known as Head of the Cove. This work will be done ahead of the Town’s anticipated rebuilding of the seawall along this section of Pier Road.

Privately-financed projects that have recently been completed or are in construction will add over 400 new seasonal cottage units and over 150 new condominium and single family housing units to our system. (For an ongoing list of this year’s privately financed projects, visit our website www.kkw.org, and look under ‘Project Updates’) When you add it all up, we believe no other utility in Maine is experiencing the amount and variety of growth that we are.



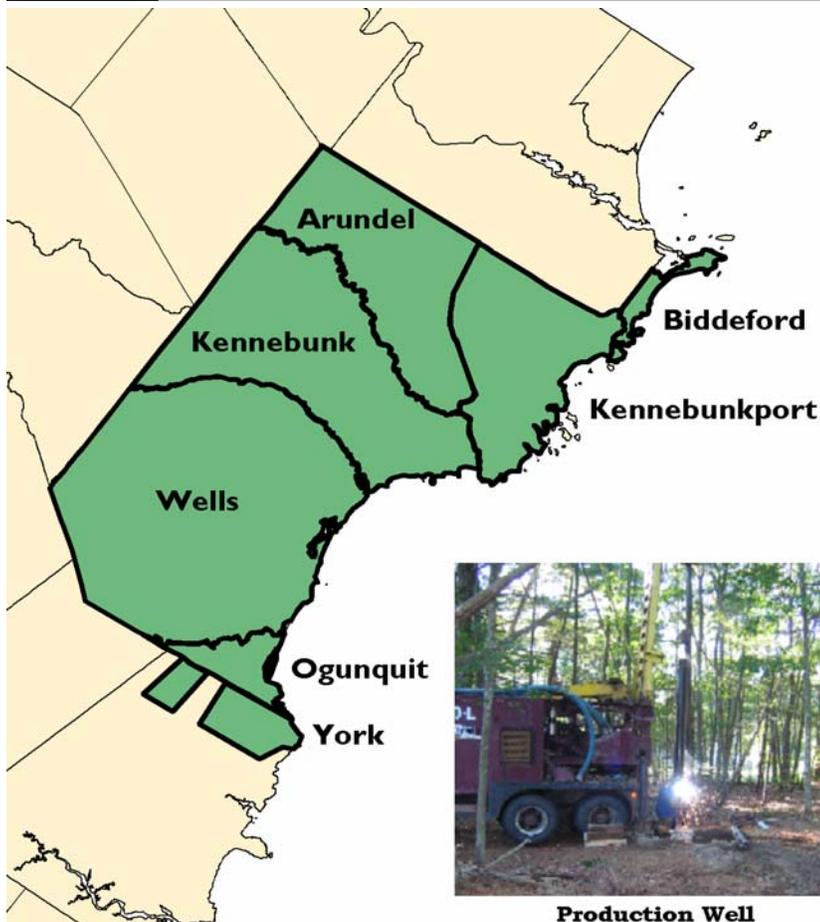
WARNING!!

Your garden hose may not be safe to drink from. There can be dangerously high levels of lead in water that sits in a hose for a while. Many garden hoses are made from polyvinyl chloride, which uses lead as a stabilizer. That lead can leach into the water. It is recommended that unless your garden hose is **specifically labeled** “drinking water safe”, you should avoid using it to quench your thirst. Keep in mind, this risk would also apply to your pets.

Kennebunk, Kennebunkport & Wells Water District
P.O. Box 88
Kennebunk, Maine 04043

PRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PORTLAND, ME
PERMIT NO. 7

Did you know that you can easily request several types of customer service on-line at www.kkw.org?



 **KKWWD Towns Served**



Mile Road Bridge, Wells



Production Well



20" Water Main, Ogunquit