Safer Drinking Water for Maine Families

A Report to the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing

August 2019

In 2017, the Legislature transferred $500,000 to MaineHousing to address contaminated private drinking water wells. The funds were to be distributed “to increase the affordability of water treatment filtration systems for households with contaminated private drinking water wells” with incomes at or below 120% of the area median. The primary targets were wells with arsenic but other contaminants were covered. Maine Housing was required to report by January 1, 2019 on the number of wells treated.

The program status at July 31, 2019 is:

- Total inquiries: 226
- Total applications: 88
- Total jobs completed: 70
- Total jobs in process: 9
- Total applications under review: 7
- Total applications denied: 2
- Total funds received: $500,000
- Less outreach and marketing: $50,000
- Less direct treatment costs: $282,842
- Less MH administration (15%) $42,576
- Balance available: $123,582

MaineHousing is satisfied with the program and is pleased to be able to make a difference in the lives of Maine people. For more information, please contact Peter Merrill at pmerrill@mainehousing.org.

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1 LD 1263 – Resolve, To Increase the Affordability of Safe Drinking Water for Maine Families; PL 2017, Chapter 28.
2 Microorganisms, disinfectants, disinfection by-products, inorganic chemicals, organic chemicals or radionuclides exceeding the maximum contaminant levels for public water systems established by 40 CFR Part 141.