

November 17, 2022

Samaqannihkuk Well
153 County Road (Rt 190)
Perry, ME 04667
Tribal Fee Land

Approved as a Public Water Source
Maine Drinking Water Program
PWSID# 0092758

The purpose of this publication is to provide information about the quality of the water at the Samaqannihkuk Well.¹ The tribe has been working over the past two plus years to find a reliable source of clean drinking water for the community.

2006: The previous land owner had the well drilled for use by farm house tenant. The well was drilled by Lord's Well Drilling. At that time the water flow rate was estimated at 30 gallons per minute (gpm).

2017: The tribe purchased the land where the well is located.

July 2020: The tribe hired an experienced well pump contractor to run a flow capacity test on the well. At that time the well was rated to produce 20+ gpm comfortably. The contractor also collected water samples and sent them to Northeast Laboratory Services (an accredited lab by the State of Maine DHHS, Maine CDC). Water was analyzed and the certified lab report showed that the water was safe to drink.² This first water test was good news, it gave the tribal government good cause to develop the well as a public water supply.

September 2020: The tribe filed an application with the Maine Drinking Water Program to permit the well as a Public Water Supply. In the application Ed Bassett was designated principal operator and William Longfellow as backup for the well water system.

July 2021: Wabanaki Public Health Program provided funding for the construction of a brick pump house to be built on top of the well head. The pump house provides automated water delivery to the two outside faucets for public drinking water use.

¹ Paper written by Ed Bassett

² Certified lab report showed that the water meets acceptable EPA limits. Lab reports are kept on file with the tribe and are sent to the State of Maine Drinking Water Program.

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Spring 2022: In order to get approval as a public water source from the Maine CDC Drinking Water Program (DWP) the tribe was required to test the well water again, this new round of testing was for a wide range of contaminants including the presence of PFAS. Almost 200 different water tests were done on the water. With the assistance from the Maine Rural Water Association additional water samples were collected for analysis. A&L Labs was contracted to do the analysis. All testing except arsenic passed state requirements. Since the arsenic levels were slightly elevated the Maine DWP required that an arsenic removal filter needs to be installed on the water system. This arsenic removal filter would remove arsenic from the water.

July 2022: Tribe hired water quality experts to install an arsenic removal system. After installation a new water sample was taken and sent to the lab for analysis. The new arsenic removal system was successful. The water was certified by the lab as arsenic free (no trace of arsenic detected).

July 2022: Maine Drinking Water Program Inspector Scott Whitney came to do a formal inspection of the Samaqannihkuk well water system. **The well system passed inspection and was deemed safe for drinking!**

August 12, 2022: The Maine Drinking Water Program inspector issued a written approval letter granting approval to use the well as a public water supply. The water quality at Samaqannihkuk meets applicable state and federal standards as a public water supply. (see approval letter dated 8-12-22 from State of Maine, “Final System Approval for Well HD 1 serving Samaqannihkuk; PWSID# ME0092758”).³

October 28, 2022: Opening Day for the well water. Well faucets were opened to the public.

3 Public water systems in Maine are required to take monthly or quarterly water samples and have a certified lab conduct analysis for bacteria contaminants. The Samaqannihkuk well water has been tested each month since August and has passed each monthly test.

For more info see brochure of Maine drinking water rules at:
<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/environmental-health/dwp/wrt/documents/TNCguide.pdf>