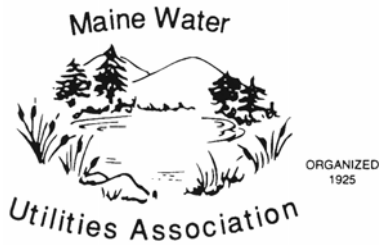


# MAINE



# WATER

# NEWS

November 2006

*A Publication of the Maine Water Utilities Association*

Number 130

## Send a Message

*Brian Tarbuck, President*

It's the day before Halloween. The elections will happen in about a week. I've often wondered why they don't have elections ON Halloween. Will it be a trick if this candidate gets elected or a treat? We could vote on the best costumed candidate separately from the election. Governor Baldacci's Yoda would win for sure.

There's a lot on the ballot this year. By the time you get this the "big decisions" will already have been made. We won't be going back and forth on the merits relative to the TABOR initiative. We'll know whether or not we need to hire lots of lawyers to figure out the repercussions, or hire lots of lawyers to figure out a different initiative that will really make government rein in spending.

Both Maine and the US Congress are poised for some changes in control of the legislature. Will there be a greater balance of power? Many believe that having a balance is a good thing. Others argue that with no one to oppose you, you can get things done. Balance is good whether it comes to my bicycle, my budget or my government.

The MWUA is already working on the next legislative session. We are partnering with the Maine Waste Water Control Association (MWWCA) to convince the "new" legislature in Maine that the \$1 of state money for \$5 of federal money in the SRF program is a good idea. Our sponsor, local Republican Representative Pat Flood, has agreed to put forth legislation to either get funding placed in the budgets of both the DEP and DHHS or add it as a separate, distinct voting bond item.

We are anticipating bipartisan support for his legislation because the money will benefit water and

wastewater rate payers who, it turns out, are bipartisan. You may be asked to contact your local elected officials. Don't be shy about it. They're normal folks and want to hear from other normal folks. LaCasse, you should probably have Jefferson call.

On a different note, committees throughout MWUA are in need of volunteers. It's not easy work, but it is rewarding. If you have a couple of people in your organization that you think should get out a bit and see some of their peers, contact Jeff at the MWUA office and get in the ring.

The Trade Show is coming again in February. If you haven't been in a while, mark February 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> on your calendar now. It's a good time to meet up with vendors and friends. Besides, where else do you get all you can eat donuts after a night of wooden nickels? Portland is a great city with excellent restaurants and bars for wining and dining. Ri-Ra's, Becky's Diner, DiMillo's... Good stuff. If you're a utility and you know of a great company that really should participate, give their names to Jeff and Becky and we'll drop them some information in the mail.

One last little thing. A little boy Tarbuck is on the way on or about March 15<sup>th</sup>. Yes, that's the Ides of March. Et tu Bruté? It'll be Kathy's and my first child and the terror of it all is starting to sink in. I will be in the market for lots of personal protective gear: gas masks, high pressure hoses, disinfection gear, hearing protection, the works. Words like "projectile vomiting" and "sleep deprivation" now have distinctly new meaning. We have not decided on a name, but we are open to corporate sponsorship. Kentucky Fried Tarbuck is my favorite so far, but Yahoo! and Google are in the running too.

Get involved, bring some friends to the trade show and hopefully we'll have a successful 2007 in the Maine Legislature.

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Maine Water Utilities Association  
Jeffrey L. McNelly, Editor  
P.O. Box P  
Waldoboro, Maine 04572-0917  
(207) 832-2263  
(207) 832-2265 FAX  
e-mail: [jmcnelly@mwua.org](mailto:jmcnelly@mwua.org)  
website: [www.mwua.org](http://www.mwua.org)

Material of interest to the water supply profession will be considered for publication. Copy deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> day of month preceding publication.

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*Bangor Water District*

## **BEP Receives In Stream Flow Update from Staff**

On October 5<sup>th</sup> the Maine Board of Environmental Protection received an update from staff on the progress of their In Stream Flow and Water Level Standards rulemaking. A number of issues of importance to the water supply profession were discussed.

Uncertainty concerning legal liability and the enforcement aspects of having the rule under the Clean Water Act continues to be the major concern for water users; Land and Water Quality Bureau Director Andrew Fisk repeated his assertion that housing these rules under the CWA framework will provide a shield of protection for water users.

Fisk noted that comments which have been submitted have convinced the DEP that the Public Utilities Commission needs to be an active participant in the process, due to the cost implications of the rule. On a related note, Board Chair Matt Scott raised the concerns of cost impact which had been brought forth in testimony by the Office of the Public Advocate. Also, it seemed that the Board learned that day – for the first time – that the PUC had been petitioned to open an inquiry into the economic impact of the proposed rule. Fisk also stated that legislation would be submitted to allow them to issue water withdrawal certificates in agreement with the Drinking Water Program and the PUC.

The Board's Executive Analyst summarized, very well, the quandary that the proposed rule would create for water systems. She noted that the rule is basically untenable for systems.

DEP Commissioner David Littell stated that there is no intent to impact public water system's current activity. Their concern is with future use.

It is anticipated that the DEP will submit a rule to the Board for them to provisionally adopt at their November 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## **Activity Evident on SRF Front**

There are a number of ongoing efforts to secure the required matching funds which Maine needs to obtain the Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund capitalization grants for 2007. For the lack of \$3 million in state matching funds, there is \$15 million sitting at EPA's Region One offices that could be used for water and wastewater improvements and activities in Maine.

There are many similarities (and a few differences) between the Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Fund programs. MWUA representatives have recently been meeting with Maine Wastewater Control Association officials in an effort to collaborate on strategy and process, aimed at removing the roadblocks.

One potential avenue is to have at least the Drinking Water Fund match be included as a component of the Department of Health and Human Services supplemental budget. However it was learned recently that there will be not be a supplemental budget for the Department this year.

There are plans to submit a stand alone bond issue which will include the required match for the water and wastewater grants for 2008 and 2009 and to also secure the 2007 match retroactively. In addition to the bond issue, there will be an effort to include the match amounts for

the drinking water and wastewater grants in the biennial budgets for DHHS and DEP, respectively.

There are other ways to fund the match. It could be included in the Governor's budget. On the drinking water side, interest which has accrued in the revolving fund could provide a one time match. Another possibility is to simply obtain a general obligation bond to provide the match. These last two options were proposed as one time solutions for the 2005 match, the last time negotiations between decisions makers in Augusta fell apart. Unfortunately, the Governor's office would not allow the Program to implement either of those actions.

The association will continue to be diligent in attempting to secure the match, with an emphasis on replacing the current encumbrances with long term sustainable solutions.

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### Revised Fluoride Rules Adopted

Revisions to the Rules Relating to Fluoridation of Public Water Systems have been finalized by the Maine Drinking Water Program. They have an effective date of October 17, 2006.

The most significant changes effect monitoring requirements. Daily monitoring can be accomplished via the use of grab samples, in-line analysis or theoretical calculations. Previously, system operators were required to analyze a daily grab sample.

One sample per month must be analyzed by a laboratory certified for fluoride analysis. If that sample is found to be below the optimum level of 1.0 milligram per liter, weekly analyses must be performed by a certified laboratory weekly, for the next calendar month.

### EPA Finalizes Ground Water Rule

EPA finalized the long awaited Ground Water Rule in October of 2006. The purpose of the rule is to provide for increased protection against microbial pathogens in public water systems that use ground water sources. EPA is particularly concerned about ground water systems that are susceptible to fecal contamination. The GWR will apply to public water systems that serve ground water and also any system that mixes surface and ground water if the ground water is added directly to the distribution system and provided to consumers without treatment.

The final requirements set forth a targeted, risk-based strategy which addresses risks through an approach that relies on four major components:

- Periodic sanitary surveys of systems that require the evaluation of eight critical elements of a public water system and the identification of significant deficiencies (e.g., a well located near a leaking septic system);
- Triggered source water monitoring when a system (that does not already treat drinking water to remove 99.99 percent (4-log) of viruses) identifies a positive sample during its Total Coliform Rule monitoring and assessment monitoring (at the option of the state) targeted at high-risk systems;
- Corrective action is required for any system with a significant deficiency or source water fecal contamination; and
- Compliance monitoring to ensure that treatment technology installed to treat drinking water reliably achieves 99.99 percent (4-log) inactivation or removal of viruses.

Additional information can be found at:

[www.epa.gov/safewater/disinfection/gwr/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/disinfection/gwr/index.html).



## Bangor Water District Hires General Manager

Bangor Water District has announced that Kathy Moriarty has been selected as its new General Manager. She will assume the position on November 21, 2006.

Moriarty is currently the District's Assistant General Manager and Director of Water Quality. In addition to her fifteen years of commitment to public health and to the District, she possesses excellent management, communication and collaborative problem-solving skills, exemplary personal integrity, and a clear vision for the future of the Bangor Water District.

A search committee, consisting of four current trustees, one former trustee and the district's current general manager, selected Moriarty from among a field of 36 applicants. The candidates, including personnel from water utilities, the consulting engineering field and other related disciplines, represented 14 states and 2 foreign countries.

## Old Town Water District Hires Superintendent

Frank S. Kearney, Sr., has been appointed Old Town Water District's new Superintendent. "The District's Board of Trustees selected Kearney based on a number of qualifications including his experience as the former Superintendent of the Mars Hill Water District," stated Old Town Board Chair, Stanton McGowen.

While employed at Mars Hill, Kearney coordinated several street water and sewer reconstruction projects, including a 1.5 mile stretch of U.S. Route 1. He has considerable knowledge in the application process of federal and state municipal utility funding sources.

"Currently, we are on a quest to expand our water production capacity," said McGowen, "Kearney has headed such projects in his prior employment."

A native of Aroostook County, Kearney has served as Chairman of the Maine Seed Potato Board and as a member of the Mars Hill Town Council, Fire Department, and School Board.

## Engineering Technician Position Available at KKW

The Kennebunk, Kennebunkport & Wells Water District is seeking an Engineering Technician to perform a wide variety of duties including producing manual and CADD plans, maintenance of engineering and construction records, GIS support and development and water main construction estimating, scheduling and coordination. Position involves frequent communication with customers, contractors, developers and others, and will require a demonstrated knowledge of construction engineering within a water utility setting. A copy of the

job description can be found on their website at [www.kkw.org](http://www.kkw.org).

Interested applicants should forward a résumé with a letter of interest to: Norm Labbe, Superintendent, Kennebunk, Kennebunkport & Wells Water District, P.O. Box 88, Kennebunk, ME 04043 or via fax at Fax: (207) 985-3102 or Email: [crouds@kkw.org](mailto:crouds@kkw.org).

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## November Operator Forum Set for Caribou

The Education & Operations Committee's Operator Forum focusing on meter change out and backflow installation is being held November 16<sup>th</sup> in Caribou. 3 Training Contact Hours will be issued for attendance.

Registration forms are available by calling the MWUA office at (207) 832-2263 and are also available online at: [www.mwua.org/calendar.htm](http://www.mwua.org/calendar.htm).

## Distribution System O & M Class Scheduled

"How to Successfully Operate and Maintain Your Distribution System" will be offered at three different locations in December. The first session will take place on December 5<sup>th</sup> in Caribou. The second session will be held on December 6<sup>th</sup> at the Comfort Inn located in Belfast and the third session will take place on December 7<sup>th</sup> at the Portland Water District.

To register for the training call New England Water Works Association at (508) 893-7979.

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## EPA Establishes Guide to Disposing of Drinking Water Treatment Plant Waste

A new guide to help drinking water treatment plants properly dispose of their solid waste by-products is now available from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The eight-page guide gives step-by-step recommendations on identifying whether solid waste is hazardous, determining the regulatory status (based on size) of a treatment plant that produces waste, and waste disposal options. It also provides EPA references and websites to learn more about federal regulations regarding solid waste disposal under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

To view the guide, which is titled: A System's Guide to the Identification and Disposal of Hazardous and Non Hazardous Water treatment Plant Residuals visit: [www.epa.gov/safewater/arsenic/pdfs/guide\\_arsenic\\_disposalhazardous-nonhazardous.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/arsenic/pdfs/guide_arsenic_disposalhazardous-nonhazardous.pdf).

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the SRF program for 2007. With lack of available funding, only a fraction of that is predicted to be available.

**Auburn Water District to Host December Meeting**

The December 14<sup>th</sup> bimonthly meeting will be held at the Martindale Country Club in Auburn. The technical session will include a discussion of Auburn's and Lewiston's efforts to comply with the LT2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule and the Stage 2 Disinfection/Disinfection Byproducts Rule, plus a presentation on a recently completed stormwater management project completed on the property of the Central Maine Community College, which is proximate to their source water intake.

In addition, the meeting will feature annual committee reports, a Lewiston-Auburn system update and a discussion of strategy for the 123<sup>rd</sup> Maine Legislature.




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**The Talk of the Town was Tabor in Bingham**

The rain didn't dampen the discussion on Tabor and LD 1 at the October bimonthly meeting held at North Country Rivers in Bingham. Mike Starn, of the Maine Municipal Association presented MMA's concerns with TABOR and provided comments on LD 1.

Unfortunately, the association received notice that the scheduled proponent of Tabor would not be joining the discussion after committing to do so earlier. Norm Labbe and Brian Tarbuck helped out by providing an overview of the proponent's side.

David Parent provided an update on DEP's proposed Chapter 587, In-Stream Flow and Water Level Standards. The association will continue to follow the rule and will again be calling on its members to be actively involved in these discussions and deliberations.

Also of urgency is the lack of SRF funding for the 2007 construction season. The Drinking Water Program has received nearly \$28 million dollars in requests from




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**Lost and Found...**  
*Brian Tarbuck*

Whether you like it or not, the world is now using computers to do just about everything. Computers, you'll recall, were going to make our lives easier. With 300 million people in the United States alone, why is it that we're busier than ever? Maybe it's the computers.

Our organization has plenty of computers. SCADA computers (7 of them), document servers (three), internet server (one), billing server (one), and something like 30 desktop and laptop computers. One of the jobs I get to do is keep these things running which isn't so hard; we've got SCADA computers that have been on 24/7 for over 7 years. The hard part is finding stuff that people have lost.

"Can you find that file on that thing we did a couple of years ago at the pond?" It's like talking to the Mafia. "Rememba dat time we did da ting with da guy at dat place?" Little more detail would help. Trustees' minutes are common. "When did we talk about such and such?" So, like anyone faced with these sorts of obstacles, I turn to Google for help.

The wickid smaht people at Google have a product that you can download for free called "Google

Desktop". This application searches your local hard drive and indexes everything on it. In my case, I need to know what's going on at the plant server, document servers, external hard drives etc. So it can index that stuff too, by asking it to search mapped drives. You can do this too provided you have proper access privileges. Now when I can't find something, I type in key words into Google desktop and seconds later, I have a list of stuff. We use Outlook here and it will look through all of the files on Outlook too. Can't find an email to Becky Martins? Type in "becky martins" into your Google desktop and an instant later, you'll have lots of options to choose from.

There are disclaimers and stuff that say that Google doesn't harvest your digital data and email it to Osama Bin Laden which is nice. So far as I can tell it's safe on networks, at home, etc. The new Windows Vista is alleged to have similar technology for searching, but why bother when Google will do it for free?

I should point out that you can search on folders by right clicking them and choosing find or search, but that takes forever and you have to look at individual folders, not groups of them at once. Just not as efficient as the Google Desktop option.

So if you're computer challenged, give this a whirl. It will save you time and help you organize your digital life with little effort.

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**February Meeting Offers Much in Way of  
Training, Product Updates, Networking**

It's time to set aside February 4<sup>th</sup> to the 6<sup>th</sup> for the 2007 February Meeting and Trade Show. A Sunday evening kickoff will once again feature the Super Bowl on the big screen in the lounge of the Holiday Inn by the Bay. Here's hoping that the right team is in the game.

Planning by the Program Committee, in concert with the New England Water Works Association, has resulted in four excellent training sessions on Monday.

The two sessions developed by the Program Committee will wrap at noontime, while the NEWWA sessions will continue in the afternoon. As in the past, after lunch there will be four concurrent sessions which will address specific needs of water system personnel.

The MWUA sessions are titled *Water System Master Planning* and *Water Main Locating - Theory and Practice*. The NEWWA classes will feature *UV Disinfection* and a *Pumps and Pumping Overview*.

The Monday afternoon breakout programs will include a discussion of *Using Technology for Water Works Efficiency*, a review of the recently enacted *Groundwater Rule*, a *Trustees Session*, and a forum which considers *Class 52 Pipe Alternatives*.

Once again, the Monday Show Preview will feature food, drink and door prize drawings at the Cumberland County Civic Center.

On Tuesday morning, at 8:00 AM, the Trade Show exhibits will open. Tuesday will be a busy day, with technical modules dealing with customer information systems, membrane filtration and hydrant repair and maintenance. There will be a complimentary Exhibitors Luncheon from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM.

Plan now, for what promises to be an informative and enjoyable conference.

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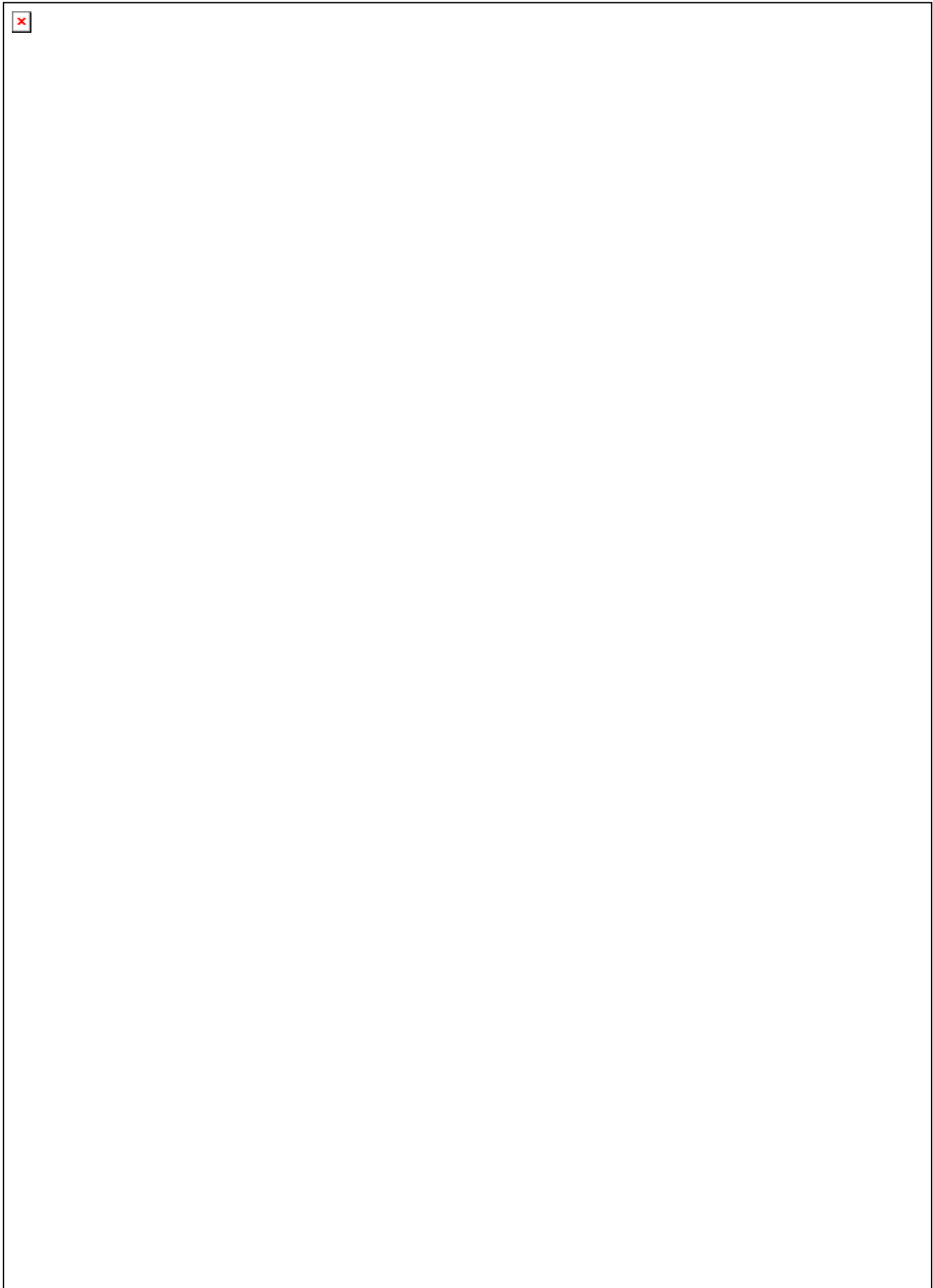
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### PUC Opens Inquiry on DEP Rulemaking

In response to a petition filed by the Maine Rural Water Association, the Public Utilities Commission has initiated an inquiry into issues associated with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection's In Stream Flow and Water Level Standards rulemaking (see related page 2 article).

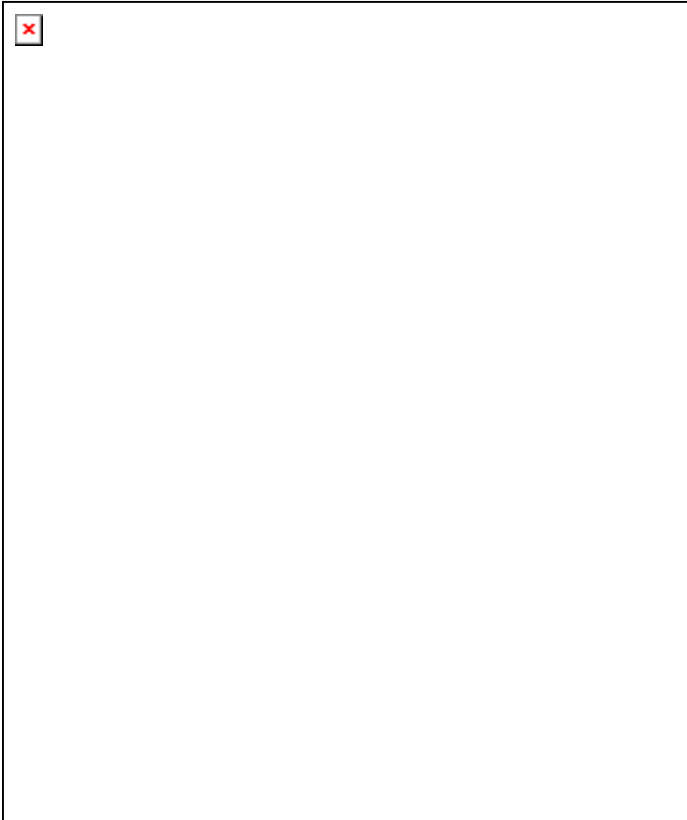
The petition requested that the Commission focus on a number of issues. In addition, a supporting letter submitted by Maine Water Utilities Association suggested that any inquiry or investigation include an assessment of the quality and safety of alternative supplies that might have to be tapped by water utilities should Chapter 587 short circuit their plans to utilize the unused capacity of exiting sources.

The Commission has indicated that the inquiry will focus on identifying and quantifying the fiscal impacts of the proposed rule on Maine water utilities and their customers. Comments must be filed by November 20, 2006.



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**A.E. Hodsdon**



**Maine Water Utilities Association  
December Meeting**

**December 14, 2006  
Martindale Country Club, Auburn**