

Bottled Water, Bulk Water and Spring Water

Maine DHHS DWP Laws and
Regulations

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Bulk Water Transport

- Must meet four criteria
 - Not be a threat to public health, safety, or welfare
 - Not naturally available at the location to which it's transported
 - Failure to authorize creates a substantial hardship
 - Not have an undue adverse impact on waters of the state, either alone or in combination with other withdrawals

Review Agencies

- Maine DEP: environmental impact
- Maine Geological Survey: hydrologic effects
- Maine Public Utilities Commission: influence on existing public water supplies
- DWP coordinates review, recommends to Commissioner of DHHS for approval or denial.

Safe Drinking Water Act

- Water quality
- Product labeling
- Facility design
- Hydrogeologic evaluation
- Protection of Public Health and Safety



Spring Water

- Federal Food and Drug Administration definition of Spring Water incorporated into Maine Bottled Water Regulations
- Water withdrawn must show a hydrogeologic and geochemical connection to an identified spring.
- Withdrawal may not cause the spring to cease flowing

Coordination

- Joint scoping meetings with applicants, LURC, DEP, MGS and DWP staff.
- Coordinated permit review for bulk transport, LURC, and “spring water” designation.
- Resources of all agencies are stretched thin by the current level of activity.
- Ongoing review of groundwater regulations

