

David Braley C.G.

Maine Drinking Water Program

Maine Well Drillers Commission

Maine Subsurface Wastewater Unit

Well & Septic System Permitting

- Private Water Supplies
- Public Water Supplies
- Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Systems

Each are regulated in very different ways

- Federal Regulations
- State Regulations
- Local Regulations

Private Drinking Water Wells

Pretty much unregulated - no State permit is required.

Well drillers are licensed and regulated by the Maine Well Drillers Commission.

New “drilled” wells must meet standards found in State regulations:

“Well Drillers and Pump Installers Rules”

144 CMR 232

Maine Well Drillers Commission

Well Drillers Commission

- Licenses Drillers and Pump Installers
- Establishes Construction Standards
- Establishes Required Setbacks - Septic Systems
- Establishes Abandonment Standards
- Investigates Complaints

A License Is Required

Everyone working on a drill rig must be licensed

- Master or Journeyman license is required
- Apprentice drillers can work as helpers
- Pump installation requires a separate license

Construction Standards

Casing Materials and Placement

- Steel .250 inches thick or schedule 40 or heavier
- NSF approved for drinking water
- 20 feet minimum and at least 10 feet into bedrock
- Terminates at least 8 inches above ground
- Cap to prevent material entering the well
- Well must not allow surface water or sediment in

Setback Requirements

Setbacks From Septic Systems:

- 100 feet for non-public and non-engineered
- Setbacks for public is deferred to DWP
- Setbacks can be reduced using one of two methods
 - Criteria in the Rules
 - Specialty Well Application to the Commission

Setback Reductions

Criteria in Rules Allowing Reductions:

- Property is small
- Other more dangerous sources of contamination
- Excessive slopes
- Permanent structures in the way
- Water bodies located nearby
- Lack of overburden makes trenching unreasonable

Mitigation

Reduced Setbacks Require Increased Casing:

- 90 feet = 40 feet of casing
- 80 feet = 55 feet of casing
- 70 feet = 70 feet of casing
- 60 feet = 90 feet of casing
- <60 feet = Commission Discretion

Septic Systems

- No Federal Laws or Regulations
- Comprehensive State Regulations
- *Administered and Enforced Locally*

Title 30-A §4214. Legislative intent

It is the intent of the Legislature that local jurisdictions have primary responsibility for enforcing rules adopted by the department governing the installation and inspection of subsurface wastewater disposal systems. The adoption of rules by the department does not deny municipal authority under section 3001 to adopt more restrictive ordinances. [1999, c. 228, §5 (AMD).]

State Involvement

- We write the rules.
- Permits for Engineered Systems.
- Complicated Variances.
- Assist towns on request.
- Oversee town responsibilities.
 - Malfunctioning Systems
 - Must be addressed within 10 days
 - Can be extended to 30 days
 - Town may have to effect repairs/replacement









Public Water Supplies

- Regulated by the Federal “*Safe Drinking Water Act*”.
- State of Maine has “Primacy” for the Federal Law.
- Maine cannot be less restrictive than the Safe Drinking Water Act.



Types of PWS

- Community Systems
 - Water Districts and Departments
 - Mobile Home Parks
 - Condominiums
 - Nursing Homes



Types of PWS

- Non-Transient Non-Community Systems
 - Schools
 - Offices
 - Manufacturing Facilities
 - Anything with 25 or more employees

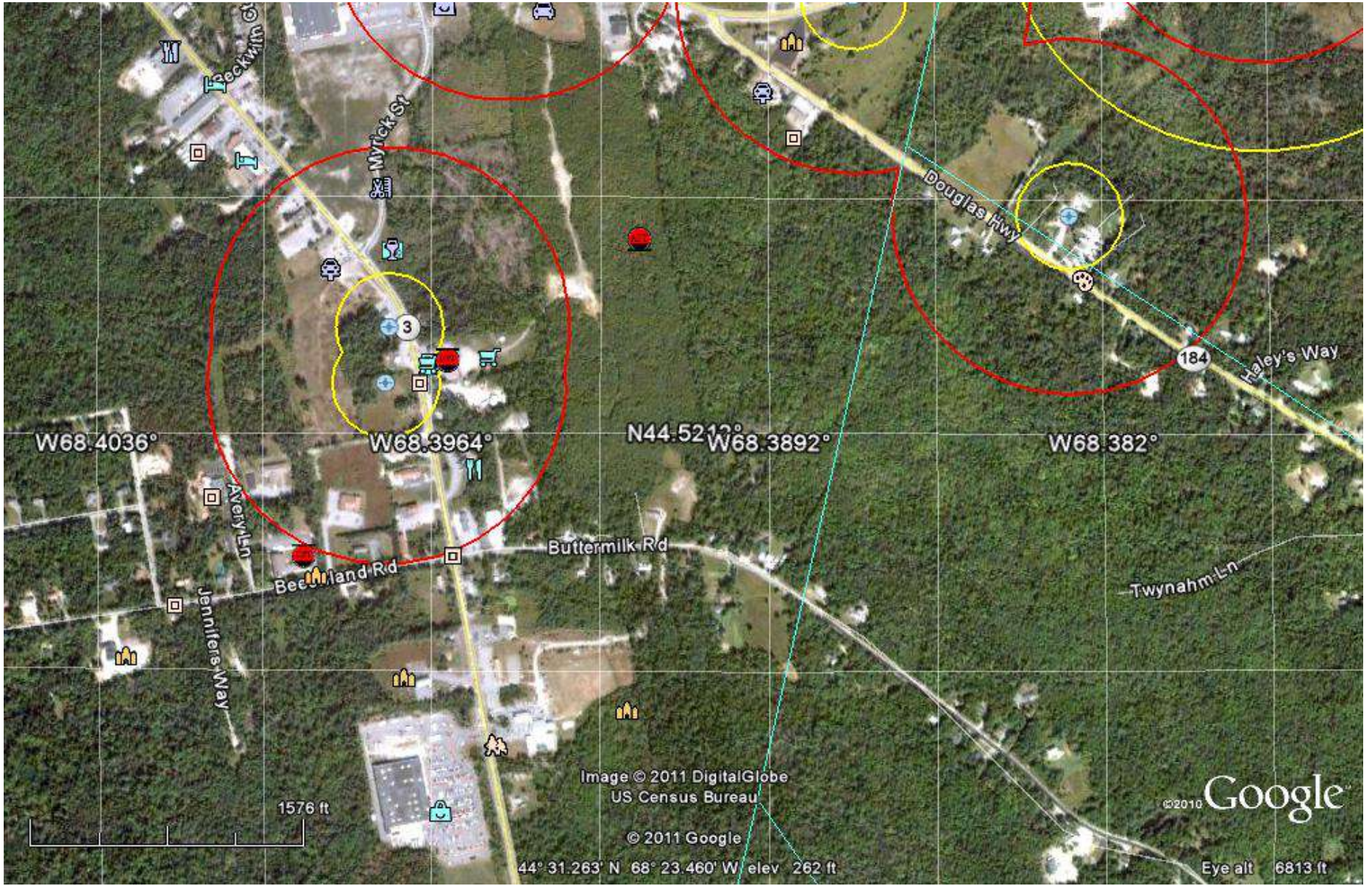
Types of PWS

- Transient Non-Community Systems
 - Restaurants
 - Convenience Stores
 - Campgrounds
 - Boys and Girls Camps
 - Ski Resorts

- Every aspect of a PWS must be approved by the Drinking Water Program:
 - Source
 - Distribution System
 - Treatment
 - Chemical Additions
 - Testing
 - Source Protection Measures

Compliance

- Regular Testing
- Treatment Systems as Required
- Annual Reports to Consumers
- Inspected on a Regular Basis



W68.4036°

W68.3964°

N44.5213°

W68.3892°

W68.382°

1576 ft

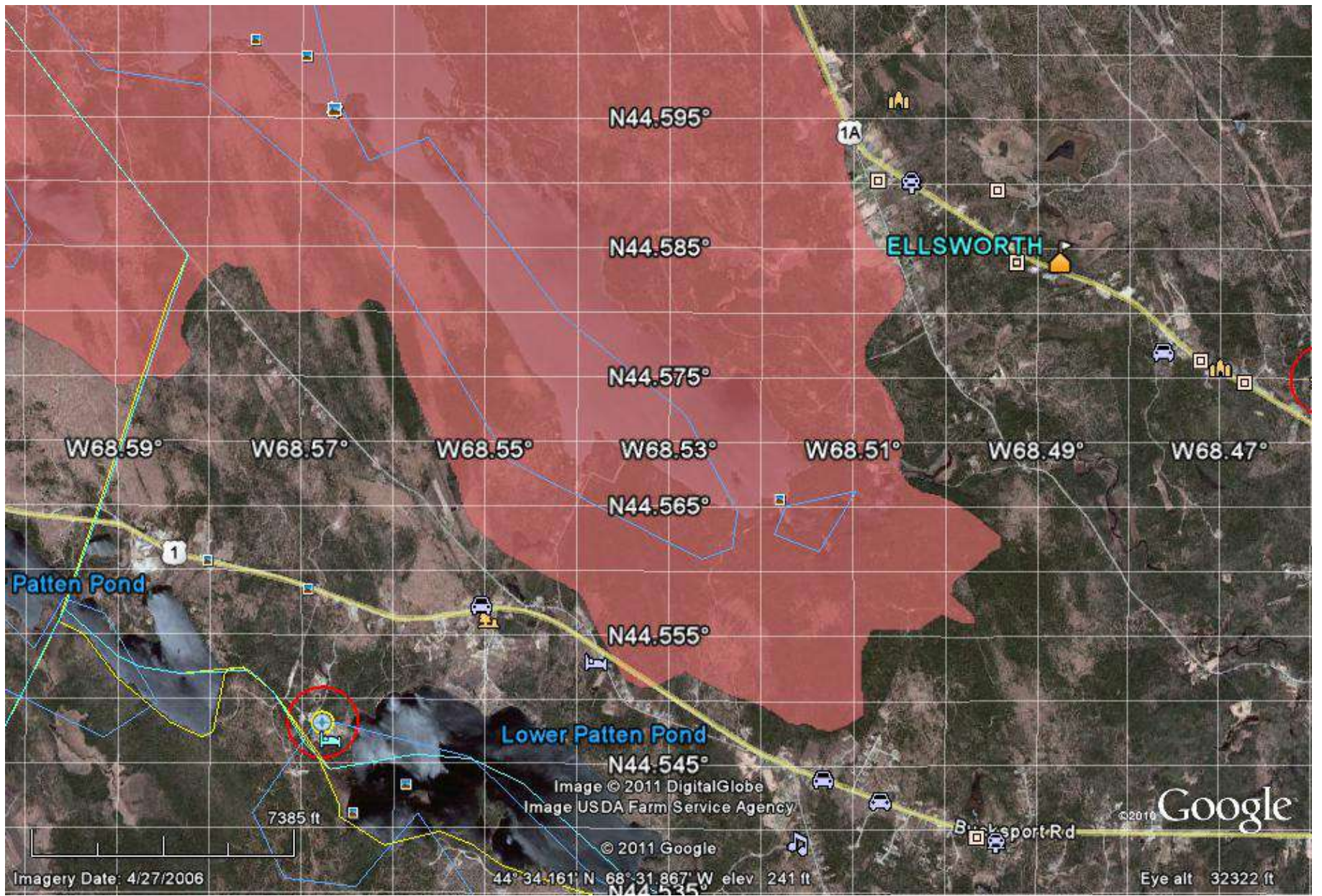
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US Census Bureau

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44° 31.263' N 68° 23.460' W elev 262 ft

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Eye alt 6813 ft











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