

### CONSOLIDATED WATER DISTRICTS

NYS Routes 11 and 342, Calcium, NY  
(Public Water Supply ID# 2221206)

### INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, the Town of LeRay will be annually issuing a report describing the quality of your drinking water. The purpose of this report is to raise your understanding of drinking water and awareness of the need to protect our drinking water sources. We are proud to report that our system has not violated a maximum contaminant level in 2023. Recently the Town has consolidated the former water districts into one water district. This report provides an overview of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State standards.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water please contact the **Development Authority of the North Country at 661-3210**. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled town board meetings. The meetings are held on the second Thursday of every month, 7:00 PM at the Town Offices

### WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?

In general, the sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activities. Contaminants that may be present in source water include: microbial contaminants; inorganic contaminants; pesticides and herbicides; organic chemical contaminants; and radioactive contaminants. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the State and the EPA prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The State Health Department's and the FDA's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Our water source comes from 3 sources. The first is ground water from six wells. Two wells are located at the "A" Site Pump Station, Route 11 near Calcium. A third well is located at the Irving Place Pump Station, Route 342, a fourth well is located at the DOF Pump Station, Route 11, a fifth well added in 2009 (Carey Well Field) on Route 11 which is not currently in operation. And a sixth well added in 2017 (Ryor) is located off County Route 138. The water is chlorinated at each well site prior to distribution. The second source is the Black River. Water is produced by the City of Watertown and pumped to the Development Authority of the North Country's (DANC) Waterline. The Town of LeRay Water System is connected to this waterline by the Fire hall in Calcium. The third source is the Village of Black River Treatment Plant which is located in the Town of Rutland on NYS Rt. 3 the water is disinfected with sodium hypochlorite prior to distribution. Attached are copies of the Annual Water Quality Reports as supplied by the City of Watertown, the DANC Army Waterline and the Village of Black River.

## FACTS AND FIGURES

Our water system serves approximately 6,700 people through 1,700 service connections. The total amount of water produced in 2023 was 146 million gallons. The daily average of water treated and pumped into the distribution system was 401,365 gallons per day. Our highest single day was 496,468 gallons. The amount of water delivered to customers was 127.6 million gallons. This leaves 18.4 million gallons or 12.6 % unaccounted for. This unaccounted-for water can be attributed to flushing mains, leaks, and firefighting. In 2023 the average annual use was 75,052 gallons per connection. Water customers paid \$3.70 per 1,000 gallons of water and had an annual average cost of \$278.

## ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include: total coliform, Ecoli, inorganic compounds, nitrate, lead and copper, total trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids, radiological, and synthetic organic compounds. The table presented below depicts which compounds were detected in your drinking water. The State allows us to test for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old.

It should be noted that all drinking water, including bottled drinking water, might be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or the New York State Health Department at (315) 785-2277.

# INORGANIC CHEMICALS

## Table of Detected Contaminants

Contaminant	Site	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected Avg/Max (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Barium</b>	Ryor Asite Irving DOF	No	7/20/21	.032	mg/l	2.0	MCL= 2.0	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
			7/20/21	0.009				
			7/20/21	0.181				
			7/20/21	0.108				
<b>Fluoride</b>	Ryor Asite Irving DOF	No	7/20/21	0.052	mg/l	N/A	MCL= 2.2	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
			7/20/21	0.365				
			7/20/21	0.121				
			7/20/21	0.650				
<b>Lead</b>		No	8/15-9/25/23	3.3 <sup>1</sup> ND-14.4	ug/l	0	AL = 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Copper</b>		No	8/15-9/25/23	0.1456 <sup>2</sup> 0.0750-0.2452	mg/l	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
<b>Nickel</b>	Asite Irving DOF Ryor	No	7/20/21	4.9	ug/l			
			7/20/21	4.1				
			7/20/21	4.0				
			7/20/21	1.9				
<b>Nitrate</b>	Ryor A-site Irving DOF	No	6/12/23	1.7	mg/l	10.0	MCL=10.0	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks; sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
			6/12/23	0.78				
			6/12/23	0.62				
			6/12/23	0.30				
<b>Iron</b>	Irving	No	1/21/22	106	ug/l	N/A	MCL=300	Naturally Occurring
<b>Manganese</b>	DOF	No	1/21/22	1.8	ug/l	N/A	MCL=300	Naturally occurring; Indicative of landfill contamination.

1. The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 20 sites tested. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the percent of a distribution that is equal to or below it. The 90<sup>th</sup> percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the lead values detected at your water system. In this case 20 samples were collected at your water system and the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value was the eighteenth highest value (3.3 ug/l). The action level for lead was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.
2. The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 20 sites tested. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the percent of a distribution that is equal to or below it. The 90<sup>th</sup> percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the copper values detected at your water system. In this case 20 samples were collected at your water system and the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value was the eighteenth highest value (0.1456 mg/l). The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

## SYNTHETIC ORGANIC COMPOUNDS

Table of Detected Contaminants								
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Site	Date of Sample	Results	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Dibromochloropropane (DBCP)</b> (1,2-Dibromo-3-Chloropropane)	No	A site	9/13/22	23.0	ng/l	0	MCL = 200	Runoff/leaching from soil fumigant used on soybeans, cotton, pineapples, and orchards

## DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS

Table of Detected Contaminants							
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected Avg/Max (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Haloacetic Acid (HAA5'S)</b>	No	2023/ quarterly	20.3 <sup>1</sup> (4.4-24.0)	ug/l	N/A	MCL= 60	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
<b>Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs – chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane, and bromoform)</b>	No	2023/ quarterly	46.5 <sup>1</sup> (30.1-62.7)	ug/l	N/A	MCL = 80	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.

1. This level represents the highest locational running average calculated from the data collected.

## RADIOLOGICAL

**Table of Detected Contaminants**

Contaminant	Site	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected Avg/Max (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Gross Alpha Activity</b> (including radium – 226 but excluding radon and uranium)	Ryor DOF	No	2/13/19 9/20/23	0.190 1.96	pCi/L <sup>3</sup>	0	MCL=15 <sup>4</sup>	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Radium – 226</b>	Ryor DOF	No	2/13/19 9/20/23	0.060 0.824	pCi/L	0	5 <sup>4</sup>	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Radium – 228</b>	Ryor DOF	No	2/13/19 9/20/23	0.517 0.900	pCi/L	0	5 <sup>4</sup>	Erosion of natural deposits

3. Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) – Picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.
4. A MCL violation occurs when the annual composite of four quarter samples or the average of the analysis of four quarterly samples exceeds the MCL.

## Additional Detected Analytes

**Table of Detected Contaminants**

Contaminant	Site	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected Avg/Max (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Perfluorobutane-sulfonic Acid (PFBS)<sup>5</sup></b>	DOF	No	5/10/23	0.0000087	mg/l	N/A	MCL= .05	Released into the environment from widespread use in commercial and industrial applications.
<b>Lithium</b>	DOF Irving Asite DOF Irving Asite	No	5/10/23 5/10/23 5/10/23 11/21/23 11/21/23 11/21/23	41.4 12.3 16.6 50 13 22	ug/l	N/A	N/A	Naturally occurring

5. Due to the Emerging Contaminant regulation, sampling of PFOA and PFOS is required. Due to a detection of (PFOA or PFOS), additional sampling required all analytics within the method be reported, in accordance with Footnote 3 of Table 9C, Subpart 5-1. This expanded analysis detected Perfluorobutanesulfonic Acid (PFBS).

## DEFINITIONS

### **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):**

The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible.

### **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):**

The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

### **Action Level (AL):**

The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements, which a water system must follow.

**Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water

### **Non-Detects (ND):**

Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

### **Milligrams per liter (mg/l):**

Corresponds to one part of liquid in one million parts of liquid (parts per million - ppm).

### **Micrograms per liter (ug/l):**

Corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid (parts per billion - ppb).

### **Picocuries per liter (pCi/L):**

A measure of the radioactivity in water.

### **Nanograms per liter (ng/l):**

Corresponds to one part of liquid to one trillion parts of liquid (parts per trillion - ppt).

## WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

As you can see by the table, our system had no MCL violations in 2023. We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected below the level allowed by the State.

## IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?

We constantly test for various contaminants in the water supply to comply with regulatory requirements. This past year, we completed all the mandatory tests set forth by the state without a problem.

## DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?

Although our drinking water met or exceeded state and federal regulations, some people may be more vulnerable to disease causing microorganisms or pathogens in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice from their health care provider about their drinking water. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium, Giardia and other microbial pathogens are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

## WHY SAVE WATER AND HOW TO AVOID WASTING IT?

Although our system has an adequate amount of water to meet present and future demands, there are a number of reasons why it is important to conserve water:

- Saving water saves energy and some of the costs associated with both of these necessities of life;
- Saving water reduces the cost of energy required to pump water and the need to construct costly new wells, pumping systems and water towers; and
- Saving water lessens the strain on the water system during a dry spell or drought, helping to avoid severe water use restrictions so that essential firefighting needs are met.

You can play a role in conserving water by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using, and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water.

### **Conservation tips include:**

- Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So, get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it up and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank, watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from one of these otherwise invisible toilet leaks. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.

## SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

The NYS DOH has evaluated this public water systems (PWS's) susceptibility to contamination under the Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP), and their findings are summarized in the paragraphs below. It is important to stress that these assessments were created using available information and only estimate the potential for source water contamination. Elevated susceptibility ratings do not mean



that source water contamination has or will occur for this PWS. This PWS provides treatment and regular monitoring to ensure the water delivered to consumers meets all applicable standards.

The source water assessment has rated these wells as having a medium-high susceptibility to microbials, nitrates, herbicides/pesticides, minerals, and industrial solvents. These ratings are due primarily to potential agricultural practices, the close proximity of permitted discharge facilities (industrial/commercial facilities that discharge wastewater into the environment and are regulated by the State) and associated industrial activity in the assessment area. In addition, the wells draw from fractured bedrock and the overlying soils may not provide adequate protection from potential contamination.

The New York State Department of Health will use this information to direct future source water protection activities. A copy of the assessment can be obtained by contacting the supplier of water.

## **CLOSING**

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family with quality drinking water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments may be necessary in order to address these improvements. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future. Please call our office at 661-3210 if you have questions.

*Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2023*  
*Development Authority of the North Country Watertown to Fort Drum Waterline*  
*P1482 St. Lawrence Avenue & 4<sup>th</sup> Street*  
*(Public Water Supply ID#2230013)*

## **INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State regulations, the Development Authority of the North Country will be annually issuing a report describing the quality of your drinking water. The purpose of this report is to raise your understanding of drinking water and awareness of the need to protect our drinking water sources. Last year, we conducted tests for total coliform, Total Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids. We detected Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM's) and Haloacetic Acids and the results were lower than the maximum allowable level set by the state.

This report provides an overview of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State standards. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, please contact **The Development Authority of the North Country, at 315- 661-3210**. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. We would be happy to discuss any drinking water issues with you in person. If you want to learn more, please contact our office.

## **WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?**

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and groundwater wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activities. Contaminants that may be present in source water include microbial contaminants; inorganic contaminants; pesticides and herbicides; organic chemical contaminants; and radioactive contaminants. In order to ensure the tap water is safe to drink, NYS and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribe regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The NYS Department of Health (DOH) and the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) have established regulatory limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection as tap water for public health.

Our water system serves Fort Drum and several water districts in the Towns of Pamela, LeRay and Champion. Our water source is the Black River. Attached is a copy of the Annual Water Quality Report as supplied by the City of Watertown. The water is pumped from the City of Watertown's clearwell using one of three 75 horsepower centrifugal pumps through 20-inch ductile iron pipeline and 24 inch HDPE pipeline to Fort Drum. These pumps are located in Booster Pump Station #1, located on Route 3 near the City's Water Filtration Plant. The water is pumped to a 750,000 gallon ground storage tank located on Fort Drum.

## **ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?**

In accordance with New York State requirements, we routinely test your drinking water for contaminants. These contaminants include: Total Coliform, Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) and Haloacetic Acids (HAA5). The table presented below depicts the most recent values for the contaminants that were detected in the drinking water supply. It should be noted that all drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or the New York State Health Department at 785-2277.

## TABLE OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Average Level Detected (Range)	Unit of Measure	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Disinfection Byproducts</b>							
Haloacetic Acids (Haa5'S)	No	2023/ quarterly	41.5 <sup>1</sup> (10.7-57.2)	ug/l	N/A	MCL=60	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM's chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane, and bromoform)	No	2023/ quarterly	49.0 <sup>1</sup> (8.4-62.2)	ug/l	N/A	MCL=80	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.
Notes <sup>1</sup> This level represents the highest locational running average calculated from the data collected.							

### **DEFINITIONS:**

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**Milligrams per liter (mg/l):** Corresponds to one part of liquid in one million parts of liquid (parts per million - ppm).

**Micrograms per liter (ug/l):** Corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid (parts per billion - ppb).

**Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements, which a water system must follow.

**Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**Non Applicable (N/A):** Does not apply.

### **WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?**

As you can see by the table, our system had no violations. We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected below the level allowed by the State.

### **IS MY WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?**

During 2023, our system was in compliance with applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements.

### **DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?**

Although our drinking water met or exceeded state and federal regulations, some people may be more vulnerable to disease causing microorganisms or pathogens in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants,

people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice from their health care provider about their drinking water. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium, Giardia and other microbial pathogens are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

## **INFORMATION ON FLUORIDE ADDITION**

Our system is one of the many drinking water systems in New York State that provides drinking water with a controlled, low level of fluoride for consumer dental health protection. Fluoride is added to your water by the City of Watertown and before it is delivered to us. According to the United States Centers for Disease Control, fluoride is very effective in preventing cavities when present in drinking water at an optimal concentration of 0.7 mg/l (milligrams per liter). To ensure that the fluoride supplement in your water provides optimal dental protection, the State Department of Health requires that the City of Watertown monitor fluoride levels on a daily basis. During 2023 none of the monitoring results showed fluoride at levels that approach the 2.2 mg/l MCL for fluoride.

## **WHY SAVE WATER AND HOW TO AVOID WASTING IT?**

The Development Authority's system has an adequate amount of water to meet present and future water demand. However, there are a number of reasons why it is important to conserve water:

- Saving water saves energy and some of the costs associated with both of these necessities of life.
- Saving water reduces the cost of treating and operating the water system.
- Saving water lessens the strain on the water system during a dry spell or drought, helping to avoid severe water use restrictions so that essential firefighting needs are met.

You can play a role in conserving water by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using, and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water, conservation tips include:

- Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks; just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons per day. Fix it up and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth.
- Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank, watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in your bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons per day from one of these otherwise invisible toilet leaks. Fix it and you save 30,000 gallons a year.
- ♦ Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank, watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from one of these otherwise invisible toilet leaks. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.
- ♦ Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water using appliances, then check the meter after 15 minutes, if it moved, you have a leak.

## **CLOSING**

Thank you for allowing the Development Authority of the North Country to provide you with quality drinking water again this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply improvements need to be made that will benefit all of our customers. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments may be necessary in order to address these improvements. We ask that all customers help to protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

# City of Watertown 2023 Annual Water Quality Report

## Spanish (Español)

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua beber. Tradúscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

## Is my water safe?

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies. Last year, we conducted tests for over 80 contaminants. We only detected 12 of those contaminants and found only 1 at a level higher than the EPA allows. As we informed you at the time, our water temporarily exceeded drinking water standards. (For more information see the section labeled Violations at the end of the report.)

## Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

## Where does my water come from?

In general, the sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human

activities. Contaminants that may be present in source water include: microbial contaminants; inorganic contaminants; pesticides and herbicides; organic chemical contaminants; and radioactive contaminants. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the State and the EPA prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The State Health Department's and the FDA's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Our water source is the Black River, a surface water source, which originates in the Adirondack Mountains and runs through the center of the City and westerly to Black River Bay. During 2023 our system did not experience any restriction of our water source. Flows in the Black River are regulated by the Hudson-Black River Regulating District and are controlled by a series of hydro-electric power dams stretching from its headwaters in the Adirondacks to its mouth in Lake Ontario. If the City of Watertown's 15 million gallon per day Water Treatment Plant were running at full capacity, it would need only 2.3% of the minimum flow of the Black River. The water is treated within modern facilities prior to distribution. The water filtration building and main pumping station were reconstructed in 1987-1991. Liquid Alum and a nonionic polymer are added to the water to coagulate and settle out dirt and organic matter through a dosing station upstream of the water plant. The settled water is then pumped to the process complex at 1707 Huntington Street. Polyaluminum chloride and nonionic or cationic polymer are added prior to filtering. Carbon may be added to combat taste and odor. The filtered water is disinfected with chlorine to kill bacteria, viruses, and other microorganisms. The water is then treated with soda ash to increase alkalinity, sodium silicate for corrosion control and with fluoride to help fight tooth decay. The finished potable water is pumped to the City's distribution system and through the Development Authority of the North Country's line to the Towns of Champion, LeRay, and Pamela.

During 2023 the City Water Treatment Plant produced 2,538,807,000 gallons of water. The amount of water that was metered by the City was 1,459,189,000 gallons. The difference of 1,079,618,000 gallons or 42.5% was attributed to leaks, flushing and fires.

#### Water Rates:

##### Quarterly Meter Rate

Usage Rate \$/1,000 cubic feet(7,480 gallons)

First 1,200 cubic feet (8,976 gallons) \$40.93

Over 1,200 cubic feet (8,976 gallons) \$27.66

##### Monthly Meter Rate

Usage Rate \$/1,000 cubic feet(7,480 gallons)

First 400 cubic feet (2,992 gallons) \$40.93

Over 400 cubic feet (2,992 gallons) \$27.66

#### **Source water assessment and its availability**

The NYSDOH has evaluated this PWS's (public water supply's) susceptibility to contamination under the Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP), and their findings are summarized in the paragraph below. It is important to stress that these assessments were created using available information and only estimate the potential for source water contamination. Elevated susceptibility ratings do not mean that source water contamination has or will occur for this PWS. This PWS provides treatment and regular monitoring to ensure the water delivered to consumers meets all applicable standards.

Overall, this water supply is most susceptible to microbial contaminants, primarily from pasture and permitted discharges within the watershed. Sediment and turbidity associated with mining operations is also a concern, and transportation routes also have a potential to contribute various contaminants. A copy of the assessment can be obtained by contacting the supplier of water.

### **Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?**

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses; organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

### **How can I get involved?**

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, please contact Vicky L. Murphy, Superintendent of Water, at (315) 785-7757. We want you to be informed

about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled City Council meetings. Significant items of agenda are normally printed in the Watertown Daily Times a few days prior to the meeting. The meetings are on the first and third Mondays of the month at 7:00 pm in the City Council chambers located on the third floor of City Hall, 245 Washington Street, Watertown, New York. Notices of Public Hearings are always printed in the newspaper prior to the meeting under ¿Legal Notices¿ in the classified section.

## **Water Conservation Tips**

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference - try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers - a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
- Visit [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense) for more information.

## **Source Water Protection Tips**

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:



- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides - they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community, or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with your local government or water supplier. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste - Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

## **Other Information**

Where do TTHM's and HAA5's come from?

By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs and HAA5's are formed when source water contains organic matter.

Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

### **Loss of System Pressure**

Due to a transmission main break on October 18, 2023, the City distribution system suffered a loss of pressure for approximately 14 hours. During this time the City was under several public notices with the initial mandatory conserve water notice issued on October 19, 2023. Four hours later the conserve water notice was elevated to a boil water notice. The boil water notice was lifted on October 23, 2023 following an intensive bacterial sampling of the distribution system. All bacterial samples collected were negative for the presence of coliform bacteria allowing the boil water notice to be lifted.

## **Results of Cryptosporidium monitoring**

Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the U.S. Although filtration removes cryptosporidium, the most commonly-used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. Our monitoring indicates the presence of these organisms in our source water and/or finished water. Current test methods do not allow us to determine if the

organisms are dead or if they are capable of causing disease. Ingestion of cryptosporidium may cause cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immuno-compromised people are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illness. We encourage immuno-compromised individuals to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. Cryptosporidium must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water.

### **Results of voluntary monitoring**

#### 2023 Average Finished Water Quality Parameters

Iron 0.039 mg/l

Manganese 0.016 mg/l

Conductivity 236.83 us/cm

Calcium Hardness 67.6 mg/l

Silicate(Corrosion Inhibitor) 12 mg/l

Alkalinity 49.03 mg/l

### **Additional Information for Lead**

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The City of Watertown is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

### **Total Organic Carbon (TOC) Explanation**

Total Organic Carbon (TOC) occurs naturally in water and from land-based activities. TOC's are a concern because they react with the disinfectant chlorine to produce disinfection by products within the distribution system.

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## **Water Quality Data Table**

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
<b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfection By-Products</b>								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	34.1	15.6	38.1	2023	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	82.8	19.9	81.5	2023	Yes	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains organic matter.
Total Organic Carbon (% Removal)	NA	TT	NA	NA	NA	2023	No	Naturally present in the environment
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Barium (ppm)	2	2	.008	NA	NA	2022	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	.82	.59	1.2	2023	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth;
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>								
Turbidity (NTU)	NA	0.3	100	NA	NA	2023	No	Soil runoff
100% of the samples were below the TT value of .3. A value less than 95% constitutes a TT violation. The highest single measurement was .22. Any measurement in excess of 1 is a violation unless otherwise approved by the state.								
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>								

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L)	0	5	.88	NA	NA	2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source	
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	.27	2022	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	1.8	2022	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	

#### Violations and Exceedances

##### TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes]

Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. The City was in violation of the Stage II Disinfection By Product rule during the first quarter of 2023. In response to the violation, the City installed automatic hydrant flusher at sites to flush water daily to reduce water age, concluded pilot testing activated carbon to remove DBP contaminants, in the design phase for plant upgrades to address DBP contaminants and full time use of sodium permanganate to reduced the amount of chlorine added to the water.

## Additional Monitoring

As part of an on-going evaluation program the EPA has required us to monitor some additional contaminants/chemicals. Information collected through the monitoring of these contaminants/chemicals will help to ensure that future decisions on drinking water standards are based on sound science.

Name	Reported Level	Range	
		Low	High
HAA6Br (ug/L)	2.95	2.36	3.9
HAA9 (ug/L)	44.99	22.9	75
manganese (ug/L)	21.7	13.7	34.1

<b>Unit Descriptions</b>	
<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
ug/L	ug/L : Number of micrograms of substance in one liter of water
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
pCi/L	pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
NTU	NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

<b>Important Drinking Water Definitions</b>	
<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
MCLG	MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
MCL	MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection level goal. The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
MRDL	MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level. The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

**For more information please contact:**

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Address: 1707 Huntington St  
Watertown, NY 13601  
Phone: 315-785-7845

*Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2023*  
*Village of Black River*  
*107 Jefferson Place., Black River, 13612*  
*(Public Water Supply ID#NY2202331)*

**INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State regulations, the **Village of Black River**, will be annually issuing a report describing the quality of your drinking water. The purpose of this report is to raise your understanding of drinking water and awareness of the need to protect our drinking water sources. Last year, your tap water met all State drinking water health standards. We are proud to report that our system did not violate a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard. This report provides an overview of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State standards.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, please contact **Leslie Williams, Superintendent of Public Works, at (315) 773-5721**. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled village board meetings. **The meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at 6:00 pm at the Karl J. Vebber Municipal Building, 107 Jefferson Place Black River, NY 13612.**

**WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?**

In general, the sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activities. Contaminants that may be present in source water include: microbial contaminants; inorganic contaminants; pesticides and herbicides; organic chemical contaminants; and radioactive contaminants. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the State and the EPA prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The State Health Department and the FDA's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Our water system serves a population of 2300 through 1100 metered service connections. Our water source consists of three (3) springs and two (2) drilled wells, one within the village, one located south of the village. These sources are considered groundwater sources. The water is disinfected with an ultraviolet light source and sodium hypochlorite solution prior to entering the distribution system. Any water not consumed by our customers is then stored in an 800,000 gallon pre-stressed concrete storage tank.

**SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT STATEMENT**

The New York State Department of Health has completed a source water assessment for this system, based on available information. Possible and actual threats to this drinking water source were evaluated the state source water assessment includes a susceptibility rating based on the risk posed by each potential source of contamination and how easily contaminants can move through the subsurface to the wells. **The susceptibility rating is an estimate of the potential for contamination of the source water, it does not mean that the water delivered to consumers is or will become contaminated.**

The source water assessment has rated these wells as having a medium-very high susceptibility to microbial, nitrates, herbicides/pesticides, petroleum products, solvents, industrial organics, metals and minerals. These ratings are due primarily to the close proximity of potential contamination sources and the main source drawing from an unconfined aquifer surrounding agricultural, commercial/industrial, and residential activities. An unconfined aquifer is a shallow, underground water body whose overlying soils may offer limited protection from potential contamination sources.

The New York State Department of Health will use this information to direct future source water protection activities. A copy of the assessment can be obtained by contacting the supplier of water.

### **ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?**

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include: total coliform, inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, and synthetic organic compounds. The table presented below depicts which compounds were detected in your drinking water. The State allows us to test for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old.

It should be noted that all drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. **More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or the New York State Department of Health, Watertown District Office (315) 785-2277.**

**Table of Detected Contaminants**

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Avg/Max) (Range)	Unit Measure-ment	MCG/L	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>							
radium 226	No	#9/5/17 * 6//23	0.992 .122	pCi/L	N/A	5 pCi/L	Decay of natural and manmade deposits
radium 228	No	#9/5/17 *6/23	.0908 .658	pCi/L	N/A	5pCi/L	
Gross Alpha	No	#9/5/17 *6/23	2.88 1.62	pCi/L	N/A	15pCi/L	
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Lead (3)	No	8/10/23	6.3 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile	ug/l	0	15/ug/l	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits.
Copper (2)	No	8/10/23	.266	mg/l	1300	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits; leaching of wood preservatives.
Barium	No	8/23/18 8/31/18	.0726# .0395*	mg/l	2000	2000	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	No	8/31/18	0.211# 0.595*	mg/l	N/A	2.2	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate as (N)	No	8/05/23	.90# ND*	mg/l	10	10	Run-off from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; erosion of natural deposits.
Cyanide	No	8/31/18	0.005# 0.005*	mg/l	0.2	0.2 mg/l	Discharge from steel/metal factories; Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories.
<b>Disinfection By-products</b>							
Chlorine Residual	No	Daily	1.25 (1.0 – 1.5)# 1.0 (.08 – 1.3)*	mg/l	N/A	4.0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM's)	No	8/7/23	40.8	ug/l	0	80-120	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Halooacetic Acids (HAA5)	No	8/7/23	7.9	ug/l	N/A	70-130	By-product of drinking water disinfection.



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**Notes:**

# - Route 3 source

\* - Maple St. source

2 – The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 10 sites tested. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the percent of a distribution that is equal to or below it. The 90<sup>th</sup> percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the copper values detected at your water system. In this case, 10 samples were collected at your water system and the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value was the .14mg/l sample value. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

3 – The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 10 samples collected. The action level for lead was exceeded at none of the ten (10) sites tested.

**Definitions:**

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

**Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**Non-Detects (ND):** Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU):** A measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**Milligrams per liter (mg/l):** Corresponds to one part of liquid in one million parts of liquid (parts per million - ppm).

**Micrograms per liter (ug/l):** Corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid (parts per billion - ppb).

**Nanograms per liter (ng/l):** Corresponds to one part of liquid to one trillion parts of liquid (parts per trillion - ppt).

**Picograms per liter (pg/l):** Corresponds to one part per of liquid to one quadrillion parts of liquid (parts per quadrillion – ppq).

**Picocuries per liter (pCi/L):** A measure of the radioactivity in water.

**Millirems per year (mrem/yr):** A measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

**Million Fibers per Liter (MFL):** A measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

On 12/13/23 and 12/13/23 samples from both NYS Rt. And Maple St. pump stations were tested for Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) Perflurobufanesulfonic Acid (PFHxA) and Dioxane there was no detection found. On 8/7/23 samples were collected and tested for asbestos. There was no detection found.

**WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?**

As you can see by the table, our system had no violations. We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected below the level allowed by the State.

## **IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?**

During 2023, our system was in compliance with applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements.

## **DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?**

Although our drinking water met or exceeded state and federal regulations, some people may be more vulnerable to disease causing microorganisms or pathogens in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice from their health care provider about their drinking water. **EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium, Giardia and other microbial pathogens are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).**

## **WHY SAVE WATER AND HOW TO AVOID WASTING IT?**

Although our system has an adequate amount of water to meet present and future demands, there are a number of reasons why it is important to conserve water:

- ◆ Saving water saves energy and some of the costs associated with both of these necessities of life;
- ◆ Saving water reduces the cost of energy required to pump water and the need to construct costly new wells, pumping systems and water towers.
- ◆ Saving water lessens the strain on the water system during a dry spell or drought, helping to avoid severe water use restrictions so that essential firefighting needs are met.

You can play a role in conserving water by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using, and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Conservation tips include:

- ◆ Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- ◆ Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- ◆ Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it up and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- ◆ Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank, watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. You may also pick up a pack of toilet tablets at the Village Office. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from one of these otherwise invisible toilet leaks. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.

## **WATER USE DESCRIPTION**

During 2023, the Village of Black River produced 68,519,000 gallons. The Town of Rutland District #1 purchased 19,770,000 gallons. The Town of LeRay District #4 purchased 6,273,000 gallons and the Village of Black River used 42,476,000 gallons.

## **CLOSING**

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family with quality drinking water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments may be necessary in order to address these improvements. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community. **Please call our office if you have questions at (315) 773-5721.**