

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2023
Town of Shawangunk – Hamlet of Wallkill Water District
Reservoir Road, Wallkill, NY 12589
Public Water Supply ID# 5503393

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, the Hamlet of Wallkill Water System 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 the Water Department, at 845 895-3001. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled board meetings. The meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM at the town hall.

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 number of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The State Health Departments 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 1500 people through 548 service connections. Our water source is one main groundwater well and 2 backup groundwater wells. In late winter 2014, the roof to the reservoir caved in due to high winds and a heavy snow load. The reservoir has been bypassed and new well pumps were installed so the water is now pumped directly to the 500,000-gallon storage tank, located on the property of Wallkill High School.

Cost of water residential - \$18.00 per 5,000 gal – 6.75 each additional 1,000 gal.

Cost of water commercial - \$35.00 per 5,000 gal – 9.50 each additional 1,000 gal.

The NYS DOH 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. While nitrates were detected in our water, 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 from natural sources.

The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. See section “Are there contaminants in our drinking water?” for a list of the contaminants that have been detected. The source water assessments provide resource managers with additional information for protecting source waters into the future.

As mentioned before, our water is derived from 1 drilled well. The source water assessment has rated this well as having a medium-high susceptibility to microbials; nitrates; industrial solvents; and other industrial contaminants. These ratings are due primarily to the fact that the well draws from an unconfined aquifer at a rate of greater than 100 gallons per minute, and the overlying soils do not provide adequate protection from potential contamination. Please note that, while the source water assessment rates our well as being susceptible to microbials, our water is disinfected to ensure that the finishes water delivered into your home meets the New York State drinking water standards for microbial contamination.

A copy of this assessment, including a map of the assessment area, can be obtained by contacting us, as noted in the report.

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, turbidity, inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, 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, 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 Ulster County Health Department at 845 338-7019.

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
<i>Inorganic Contaminants</i>							
Barium	No	10/17/23	<27.8	Mg/l	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Nickel	No	10/17/23	<11.1	Ug/l	N/a	100	Naturally occurring in low levels
Nitrate	No	4/11/23	1.04	Mg/l	10	MCL=10	Run off from fertilizer use Leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits

Lead	No	6/30/21 7/27/21	.0243 (3) ND – .0243	Mg/l	0	AL- 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper	No	6/30/21 7/27/21	.332 (2) .0224-.332	Mg/l	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; erosion of natural deposits
Manganese	No	5/5/21	0.0158	Ug/l	N/a	300	Naturally occurring
Sodium	No	3/14	10.3	Mg/l	0	** (see health effects)	Naturally occurring; road salt; water softeners.
Sulfate	No	3/14	25.2	Mg/l	N/a	250	Naturally occurring
Chloride	No	3/14	18.2	Mg/l	N/a	250	Naturally occurring
Zinc	No	5/5/21	0.0707	Mg/l	N/a	5	Naturally occurring
THM	No	8/16/23	12 (1.7-12)	Ug/l	80	N/a	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA	No	8/16/23	8.1 (1.1-4.7)	Ug/l	60	N/a	By-product of drinking water chlorination

<i>Synthetic Organic Contaminants including Pesticides and Herbicides</i>							
Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA)	No	6/20/23	1.12	ng/l	n/a	10	Released into the environment from widespread use is commercial and industrial applications
Perfluorobutanesulfonic Acid (PFBS)	No	6/20/23	ND	ng/l	n/a	n/a	Released into the environment from widespread use is commercial and industrial applications

Notes:

2 – The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 12 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 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the copper values detected at your water system. In this case, 12 samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value was .111 mg/l. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

3 – The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 12 samples collected, which was .003 mg/l. The action level for lead was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

** Water containing more than 20 mg/l of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on severely restricted sodium diets. Water containing more than 270 mg/l of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on moderately restricted sodium diets.

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.

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.

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

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.

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. Town of Shawangunk is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact the Town of Shawangunk.

DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?

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 good 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 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.

CLOSING

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family with quality drinking water this year. 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 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 845-888-5755.

Thank you from the Town of Shawangunk and H₂O Innovations!