

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2023
Southside Water District
Town of Oneonta
P.O. Box A
West Oneonta NY 13861
Public Water Supply ID#3810454

INTRODUCTION

To comply with state regulations, the Town of Oneonta Southside Water District (including the Woodland District as of fall 2023) annually issues a report describing the quality of your drinking water. The purpose is to raise your 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 has never violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality statement. 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 James Hurtubise, Water Operator, at the District Office 607-432-4581, Monday through Friday from 8:00AM to 4:30PM. 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 the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30PM in the Town Hall, 3966 State Highway 23 in West Oneonta.

WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?

In general, 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 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, 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 Departments and the FDA's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

The Southside water system (including the Woodland Water District) serves approximately 400 people through 367 service connections. This system was completed in the summer of 2023 and was connected to the Woodland Water District in August of 2023. The Woodland Water wells at end of Woodland Drive are back up wells and for emergency use only. Your new water source is groundwater drawn from two 150-foot deep drilled wells which are located at the end of Youngs Rd. in Fortin Park. The water is pumped from the wells, through a treatment process and then to the 500,000 gallon water tank for storage prior to distribution. The treatment process used is chlorination and pH adjustment to reduce the corrosive nature of the water.

WHAT IS OUR SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT?

The NYS DOH has completed a source water assessment for this system, based on available information. Possible and actual threats to the drinking water sources 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 the water delivered to consumers is, or will become contaminated. While nitrates (and other inorganic contaminants) 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 nitrate levels in our sources are slightly elevated in comparison with other sources in this area. See section "Are there contaminants in our drinking water?" for a list of the contaminants that have been detected.

As mentioned before, our water is derived from two drilled wells. The source water assessment has rated these wells as having a medium-high susceptibility to microbials and nitrates. These ratings are due primarily to the close proximity of permitted discharge facilities (industrial/commercial facilities that discharge wastewater into the environment and are regulated by the state and/or federal government), low intensity residential activities, and septic systems within the assessment area. In addition, the wells draw from an unconfined aquifer of unknown hydraulic conductivity. While the source water assessment rates our wells as being susceptible to microbials, please note that our water is disinfected to ensure that the finished water delivered into your home meets New York State's drinking water standards for microbial contamination. A copy of the assessment, including a map of the assessment area, can be obtained by contacting us, as noted.

ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?

As the state regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants, including total coliform, radiological contaminants, inorganic compounds, nitrate, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds and synthetic organic compounds. The attached table 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 Health Department at 28 Hill St., Suite 201, Oneonta, New York, (607) 432-3911.

Table of Detected Contaminants

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (range)	Unit Measurement	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	MCLG	Likely Source of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids (mono-, di-, and trichloroacetic acid, and mono- and dibromoacetic acid)	NO	7/27/23	4.4	ug/l	80	n/a	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs – chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane, and bromoform)	NO	7/27/23	1.6	ug/l	60	n/a	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when
Beta particle	NO	7/27/23	3.3	pCi/L	50	0	Decay of natural deposits and man-made emissions
Radium 226	NO	7/27/23	.73	pCi/L	5	0	Erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic	NO	12/21/23	1.3	Ug/L	10	n/a	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards. Runoff from glass and electronics production waste.
Nitrate				mg/L			runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Barium	NO	12/21/23	.0057	mg/L	2	2	discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.

Fluoride	NO	12/21/23	0.13	mg/L	2.2	n/a	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nickel	NO	12/21/23	0.6	ug/l	n/a	n/a	Erosion of natural deposits
Lead	NO	3/22/22 9/14/22	1 1	ug/L	AL = 15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper	NO	3/22/22 9/14/22	0.235 .473	mg/L	AL = 1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.

* During 2023 we collected and analyzed 5 samples for lead and copper. The level included in the table represents the 90th percentile of the samples collected. 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 values detected at your water system. The action level for lead and copper were not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

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 Oneonta, Southside Water District** 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 James Hurtubise, Water Operator, at the District Office (607) 432-4581. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

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.

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.

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.

WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

As you can see by the table, our system no violations. We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected; these contaminants were detected below the level allowed by the state. Additional testing and monitoring of detected contaminants will be performed to determine if the contaminant level will warrant additional treatment.

IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?

During 2022, our system was in compliance with applicable state drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements required. Additional testing and sampling will be done for the contaminants detected to determine if additional treatment is required.

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 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 or \$124.50 on your water bill.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Listen for unusual “noise” in your plumbing. A “running” toilet can make a rushing sound and a similar noise will carry from a leak in your service line or water main. Let us know if you suspect a problem in the water main.

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.