Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2023
Chautauqua Utility District
P. O. Box M, Chautauqua, NY 14722
Public Water Supply ID# NY0600381

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, the Chautauqua Utility District, annually issues 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 all 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 office, at 716-357-5865. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings that are held monthly.

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 system serves approximately 10,000 people during the summer months and as few as 200 during the winter months through 1300 service connections. Our water source is surface water drawn from Chautauqua Lake. The raw water is pumped from the lake. Potassium permanganate is pumped into the raw water intake to inhibit the growth of Zebra mussels. The water is pumped to the water treatment plant where the remainder of the process takes place. The continuation of the process is the coagulation and sedimentation of particles. The water flows through sand filters and sodium hypochlorite is added for disinfection prior to distribution.

The New York State Department of Health has evaluated this water supplies 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. It does not indicate that any contamination has or will occur. This water supply provides treatment and regular monitoring to ensure that the water that is delivered to consumers meets all applicable standards.

The assessment found an elevated susceptibility to contamination for this source of drinking water. The amount of pasture in the assessment area results in a medium potential for protozoa contamination. There is also a high density of sanitary wastewater discharges which results in elevated susceptibility for nearly all contaminant categories. Non-sanitary wastewater discharges may also contribute to contamination. In addition, it appears that the total amount of wastewater discharged to surface in this assessment area is high enough to considerably raise the potential for contamination (particularly for protozoa). There is also noteworthy contamination susceptibility associated with other discrete contamination sources, and these facility types include: Resource Conservation and Recovery Act sites, Toxic Release Inventory sites, Industrial hazardous Waste Sites and landfills.

ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include: Haloacetic acids, total coliform, turbidity, inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, and synthetic organic compounds including pesticides and herbicides. 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 Chautauqua County Health Department at 716-753-4481.

On August 26, 2020, Public Water Supplies in New York State were required to begin monitoring for Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). These substances include Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), Perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), and 1,4-Dioxane. To this date, we have not had any detections of these contaminants and will continue to monitor for them in 2024.

Table of Detected Contaminants

Contaminant	Violation	Date of Sample	Level Detected	Unit Measure-ment	Regulatory Limit (MCL/AL)	MCLG	Likely Source of Contamination
MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS							
Turbidity (1)	No	12/20/23, 10/4/23	0.21	NTU	TT=<1.0 NTU	N/A	Soil Run-off
Turbidity (1)	No	Daily 2023	100% < 0.3	NTU	TT=95% of samples <0.3NTU	N/A	Soil Run-off
Distribution Turbidity (2)	No	November 2023	0.80	NTU	MCL>5NTU	N/A	Soil Run-off
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS							
Lead (3)	No	9/22/21	7.1; Range 2.1-22.2	ug/l	15 (AL)	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural Deposits
Copper(4)	No	9/22/21	0.353; Range= 0.157-0.726	mg/l	1.3(AL)	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Barium	No	2/1/23	0.0163	mg/l	2.0(MCL)	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion or natural deposits
STAGE 2 DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS (Wastewater Treatment Plant)							
Total Haloacetic Acids	No	Quarterly (2023)	Avg.=27.73 Range= 21.4 – 36.5	ug/l	60(MCL)	N/A	By-products of drinking water chlorination.
Total Trihalomethanes	No	Quarterly (2023)	Avg.=46.2 Range= 38 – 54.45	ug/l	80(MCL)	N/A	By-products of drinking water chlorination. TTHM's are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.
STAGE 2 DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS (Turner Community Center)							
Total Haloacetic Acids	No	Quarterly (2023)	Avg.= 28.85 Range= 16.7—36.6	ug/l	60(MCL)	N/A	By-products of drinking water chlorination.
Total Trihalomethanes	No	Quarterly (2023)	Avg.=47.24 Range= 41 – 55.6	ug/l	80(MCL)	N/A	By-products of drinking water chlorination. TTHM's are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.
DISINFECTANT							
Chlorine Residual	No	Daily (2023)	Avg.=1.72 Range= 0.58 – 3.08	mg/l	4.0(MCL)	N/A	Water additive used to control microbes.

Notes:

1-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. Our highest turbidity measurements for the year occurred on 10/4/23 and 12/20/23 (0.21 NTU). State regulations require that turbidity must always be less than or equal to 1.0 NTU. The regulations require that 95% of the turbidity samples collected have measurements below 0.3 NTU.

2-Distribution Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water found in the distribution system. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants. Our highest average monthly distribution turbidity measurement detected during the year (0.80 NTU) occurred in November 2023. This value is below the State's maximum contaminant level (5 NTU).

3-The level presented represents the 90th 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 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the lead values detected in your water system. In this case, 20 samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value was calculated to be 7.1 ug/l. The action level for lead was exceeded at 2 of the 20 sampling locations.

4-The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 20 samples collected. The 90th percentile for copper was calculated to be 0.353 mg/l. The action level for copper was not exceeded in any of the 20 sampling locations.

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).

WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

As you can see by the table, our system had no violations. It should be noted, that other contaminants have been detected at our water system; however, these contaminants were detected below the New York State requirements. Lead and copper were detected within the system, and 2 of 20 samples collected were found exceeding the action level for lead, however the 90th percentile for Lead and Copper did not exceed any action levels. We are required to present the following information on Lead in drinking water:

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. Chautauqua Utility 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 Chautauqua Utility District at 716-357-5865. 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*.

IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?

During 2023, our system was in compliance with applicable State drinking water monitoring and reporting requirements, but not operating requirements. We failed to submit an updated emergency response plan to the NYS DOH within the required time frame. This does not pose a threat to the quality of our water supply.

We will continue to improve our water treatment facilities so as to provide the highest of quality drinking water possible.

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).

INFORMATION FOR NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING RESIDENTS

Spanish

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua beber. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

French

Ce rapport contient des informations importantes sur votre eau potable. Traduisez-le ou parlez en avec quelqu'un qui le comprend bien.

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 fire fighting 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.

CLOSING

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