

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2021
Willsboro Water District
5 Farrell Rd
Willsboro, New York 12996
(Public Water Supply ID#1500299)

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, system name, 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 Steven Benway, Water Operator, at (518) 963-8668. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled town board meetings. The meetings are held the second Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in 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 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 drinking water source is surface water drawn from Lake Champlain. The main drinking water intake is a 14-inch pipe that extends 2,000 feet into Willsboro Bay. Water is pumped through four pressure diatomaceous earth filters. The water is disinfected with a sodium hypochlorite solution at the treatment plant. A corrosion control chemical (zinc orthophosphate) is also added to the water at the treatment plant to control the levels and lead and copper in the water delivered to our users. The facility is capable of pumping, filtering and disinfecting 650 gallons per minute during routine operations. Our system serves approximately 1,570 individuals through 470 service connections.

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 contaminants, gross alpha, nitrate, lead and copper, volatile organic contaminants, 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.

During 2021, we started to sample our drinking water for the per- and polyfluorinated compounds PFOA and PFOS and 1,4-dioxane on a quarterly basis. We collected samples during all 4 quarters of 2021 for PFOS and PFOA and the results indicated that there were very low levels of PFOS present in our water. The levels were detectable, but less than the reporting limit. Some unregulated perfluorinated compounds were also detected at low levels and are included on the table on the next page. 1,4-dioxane samples were collected during all 4 quarters of 2021, and the results were below the detection limit. We will collect PFOA, PFOS and 1,4-dioxane samples again in 2022.

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 (518) 891-1800.

Table of Detected Contaminants

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit	Likely Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants							
Turbidity ¹	No	7/2/2021	0.437	NTU	n/a	<5 NTU (TT)	Soil Runoff
Turbidity ¹	No	2021	100%	NTU	n/a	100% of samples < 1.0 NTU (TT)	Soil Runoff
Inorganic Contaminants							
Lead	No	2020	0.0037 ² ND-0.0273 ³	mg/L	0	0.015 (AL)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Copper	No	2020	0.28 ² 0.046-0.28 ³	mg/L	1.3	1.3 (AL)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Chloride	No	2019	18	mg/L	n/a	250 (MCL)	Naturally occurring or indicative of road salt contamination
Zinc	No	2019	0.063	mg/L	n/a	5 (MCL)	Naturally occurring; mining wastes
Sodium	No	2019	13	mg/L	n/a	See note 6	Naturally occurring; Road salt; Water softeners; Animal waste.
Nitrate	No	2021	0.21	mg/L	10	10 (MCL)	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits.
Barium	No	2021	ND	mg/L	2	2 (MCL)	Erosion of natural deposits.
Synthetic Organic Contaminants							
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)	No	2021	0.877- 1.41	ng/l	n/a	10 (MCL)	Released into the environment from widespread use in commercial and industrial applications.
Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS)	No	2021	0.402 – 4.7	ng/l	n/a	10 (MCL)	Released into the environment from widespread use in commercial and industrial applications.
Perfluorobutane Sulfonic Acid (PFBS)	No	2021	ND – 0.402	ng/l	n/a	n/a	Released into the environment from widespread use in commercial and industrial applications.
Perfluorohexanoic Acid (PFHXA)	No	2021	0.758 – 0.986	ng/l	n/a	n/a	Released into the environment from widespread use in commercial and industrial applications.
Perfluoroheptanoic Acid (PFHPA)	No	2021	0.677 – 0.877	ng/l	n/a	n/a	Released into the environment from widespread use in commercial and industrial applications.
Perfluorohexane Sulfonic Acid (PFHXS)	No	2021	0.621 – 0.903	ng/l	n/a	n/a	Released into the environment from widespread use in commercial and industrial applications.
Stage 2 Disinfection Byproducts							
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	No	2021	57.8 ⁴ 50.9 – 76.5 ⁵	ug/L	n/a	80(MCL)	By-products of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains measurable amounts of organic matter.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	No	2021	42.3 ⁴ 28.4 – 60.2 ⁵	ug/L	n/a	60(MCL)	By-products of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms.

Notes:

1 – Turbidity is a measure of the clarity of the water. We test it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. In 2020, our highest single turbidity measurement for the year occurred on 07/02/2021 (0.437 NTU). State regulations require that turbidity must not exceed 5 NTU and that 95% of the turbidity samples collected must measure below 1.0 NTU. All of the measurements collected last year were below 1.0 NTU.

2 - The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 10 sites tested in 2020. 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, 10 samples were collected at our water system and the 90th percentile value was the second highest value. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested. The action level for lead was exceeded at one location.

3- The level presented represents the range of the 10 samples collected in 2020.

4 – The value represents the highest Locational Running Annual Average of the quarterly samples collected.

5 – The values represent the range of the quarterly samples collected.

6 - 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.

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).

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

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?

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

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).

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 Willsboro Water District 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>.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

The NYS Dept. of Health completed a source water assessment for this system based on available information. The Lake Champlain watershed is exceptionally large and too big for a detailed evaluation in the SWAP. General drinking water concerns for public water supplies which use this source include: storm generated turbidity, eutrophication (excessive nutrients and algae) wastewater, toxic sediments, toxic algae and problems associated with exotic species (e.g. zebra mussels- intake clogging). The summary below is based on the analysis of the contaminant inventory compiled for the drainage area deemed most likely to impact drinking water quality at this PWS intake. This assessment found a slight to moderate susceptibility to contamination for this source of drinking water. Land cover and its associated activities within the assessment area does not increase the potential for contamination. While there are some facilities present, permitted discharges to groundwater do not likely represent an important threat to source water quality. There are no likely contamination threats associated with other discrete contaminant sources, even though some facilities were found in low densities. Additional sources of potential contamination include: septic systems.

The health department will use this information to direct future source water protection activities. These may include water quality monitoring, resource management, planning, and education programs.

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 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.

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.