

***Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2023***  
***Town of Hounsfield***  
***Water District #3***  
***(Public Water Supply ID NY2230115)***

**INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State regulations, Town of Hounsfield WD3, 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.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, please contact Mark Warneck, Town of Hounsfield Water Operator at (315) 456-8890. 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.

**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 237 people through 95 service connections and our water source is the Village of Sackets Harbor. Attached is a copy of the Village's annual water quality report. In addition, the Town checks chlorine residuals on a daily basis at different points in WD3.

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

As the State regulations require, the Village of Sackets Harbor routinely tests your drinking water for numerous contaminants which are summarized in their attached report. In addition, the Town tests for disinfection by-products and total coliform in WD3 and a summary of these results are presented below.

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 Watertown District Office of the New York State Department of Health at (315) 785-2277.**

<b>Table of Detected Contaminants</b>							
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Disinfection By-Products</b>							
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	No	2023	35.1 - 109 4th Qtr. LRAA  63.9	ug/l	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	No	2023	19.7 – 35.2 4th Qtr. LRAA  28.0	ug/l	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Total Coliform	No	monthly	ND	N/A	N/A		Naturally present in the environment

Notes:

**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.

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

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

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

**Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA):** Sample site specific quarterly average

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

During 2022, our system was in compliance with all 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).

### **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.

### **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. 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.